

OCTOBER 2002

FINAL REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF  
REMOTE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
SAN DIEGO SECTOR  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**INSTALLATION OF REMOTE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS**  
**IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE**  
**U.S. BORDER PATROL, SAN DIEGO SECTOR**

**PROJECT HISTORY:** In 1993, the new primary border fence along a 14-mile stretch of border separating Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico from San Diego, California significantly enhanced the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) efforts to deter smuggling via motor vehicle and motorcycle drive-throughs. This reduction was the result of combining the deterrence factor of the primary fence and Operation Gatekeeper – a manpower intensive initiative designed to restore sovereignty of San Diego Sector's border region.

Currently, the Immigration and Naturalization service (INS) is planning for a Border Infrastructure System that starts at the Pacific Ocean and extends approximately 14-miles inland to a point east of Tin Can Hill (near the foothills of the San Ysidro Mountains.)

Completion of the enforcement zone, designed to detect, deter, and apprehend of illegal entrants, requires the use of the 19 Remote Video surveillance (RVS) systems in conjunction with the Border Infrastructure System. Six additional RVS systems outside the immediate Border Infrastructure System will also enhance the detection capabilities, and facilitate apprehension of illegal entrants, and provide a safer work environment for USBP agents, .

**PURPOSE AND NEED:** The USBP needs RVS equipment at specific strategic locations in the USBP San Diego Sector to facilitate the detection of smugglers and undocumented aliens (UDA). The primary purpose of the proposed action is to provide enhanced electronic, RVS capabilities for the USBP Chula Vista, Brown Field, El Cajon, and Imperial Beach USBP Stations. The USBP needs additional surveillance capability to more effectively control a larger area and improve enforcement and apprehension response time.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The Proposed Action is the installation, operation, and maintenance of 19 RVS systems within the footprint of the existing portions of San Diego Border Infrastructure System and 6 additional RVS systems outside of the footprint (Total = 25 RVS Systems.) No construction activities would be required in areas that have not been previously disturbed or developed.

Pole mounted RVS systems (20) would consist of multiple color cameras (low light and infrared) and transmitters to send the signals to the respective USBP Station. This equipment will be mounted approximately 60-80 feet above ground level. The RVS equipment is mounted on a rectangular or triangular platform that holds the microwave and antenna systems; cameras mounted on pan-and-tilt pedestals; and related control equipment.

Of the remaining 5 RVS systems, 3 would consist of similar equipment mounted on 3-legged steel towers. The remaining 2 systems would be retrofits on existing towers.

**ALTERNATIVES:** The No Action Alternative would preclude the installation and operation of the RVS systems. Under this alternative, illegal traffickers, UDAs, and potential terrorists may evade detection and apprehension. Also, additional agents would be necessary to provide an equal the surveillance capabilities afforded by the RVS systems.

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In addition, the safety risk to USBP agents would increase during nighttime operations by the delayed detection of illegal entrants. The effectiveness of the Border Infrastructure System would also decrease because of degraded electronic surveillance capabilities.

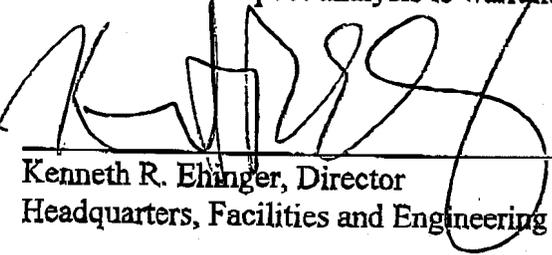
The Proposed Action will significantly reduce the illegal vehicle and foot traffic along the borders, protecting physical and biological resources. The RVS systems will also have indirect benefits to socioeconomic resources through a reduction in crime and associated social costs. The deployment of RVS systems will aid the USBP in apprehending UDAs, smugglers, and terrorists and will provide deterrence by their presence. The proposed action also results in a reduced enforcement footprint.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:** Of the 25 RVS systems, 19 would be installed within the footprint of the extant San Diego Border Infrastructure System. The 6 remaining RVS systems would be installed at previously disturbed sites outside of the Border Infrastructure System. Therefore, no significant adverse affects to the natural or human environment are expected upon implementation of the proposed action.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN MEASURES:** Environmental design measures will be implemented and supervised by the USBP manager of the RVS system in San Diego. These measures include:

1. Using standard construction procedures to minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation and control fugitive dust during construction.
2. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would also be used during construction to minimize or prevent erosion and soil loss.
3. On-site activities would be restricted to daylight hours on Monday through Saturday, except in emergency situations.
4. All construction equipment would possess properly working mufflers and be kept in a proper state of tune to reduce backfires.

**FINDING:** Based upon the results of the Environmental Assessment and the environmental design measures to be incorporated as part of the Proposed Action, it is concluded that the Proposed Action will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. No further environmental impact analysis is warranted.

  
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Kenneth R. Ehinger, Director  
Headquarters, Facilities and Engineering Division

10/9/02  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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FOR PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF  
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U.S. BORDER PATROL, SAN DIEGO SECTOR  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

**October 2002**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed action consists of installation, operation, and maintenance of 25 Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems near the U.S.-Mexican border within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) San Diego Sector, California. This EA analyzes the potential for significant adverse or beneficial impacts of the proposed action.
- PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The purpose of the proposed action is to provide enhanced electronic, RVS capabilities for the USBP Chula Vista, Brown Field, El Cajon, and Imperial Beach Stations along the southern border. The RVS components would facilitate the detection of illegal drug traffickers, undocumented aliens and terrorists that breach the primary fence and illegally enter the enforcement zone of the existing Border Infrastructure System, as well as, other locations outside this zone. Thus, the response time and apprehension success would be increased and safety risks for USBP agents would be reduced.
- PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:** The proposed action addresses the installation, operation, and maintenance of 25 RVS systems. The No Action Alternative would preclude the installation of the RVS systems, which would further reduce the efficiency and success of the USBP's efforts in counterdrug and alien interdictions and deterrence.
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** Of the 25 RVS systems, 19 would be installed within the footprint of the extant San Diego Border Infrastructure System. The six remaining RVS systems would be installed at previously disturbed sites outside of the Border Infrastructure System. Therefore, no significant adverse affects to the natural or human environment are expected upon implementation of the proposed action.
- CONCLUSIONS:** Based upon the results of the EA, it has been concluded that the proposed action would not have a significant adverse impact on the natural or human environment, and no further NEPA analysis (i.e., Environmental Impact Statement) is warranted.

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***SECTION 1.0***  
***INTRODUCTION***

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, of the proposed installation and operation of 25 Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems along or near the U.S.-Mexico Border in San Diego County, California. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) propose to install 19 RVS systems at specific locations within the footprint of the extant San Diego Border Infrastructure System and six RVS systems at other specific strategic locations to enhance its capabilities in detecting illegal entries into the United States. The use of the proposed RVS systems in conjunction with the other infrastructure would result in faster response time, which enhances the health and safety of the USBP agents and facilitate apprehensions, thereby creating deterrence. This EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (Title 40 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”), Parts 1500-1508), and 28 CFR Part 61, Appendix C, *Immigration and Naturalization Service Procedures Relating to the Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act*.

This EA is tiered from four previous documents:

- April 1997, *Final Revised EA for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Multi-tiered Pilot Fence Project (Phase IA & II), San Diego, California*. This EA was prepared to address the implementation of a multi-tiered system of fences along the U.S./Mexico border.
- August 1997, *Final EA for Area Lighting, Fencing, and Roadways at International Border, San Diego, California*. This EA summarized the environmental impacts associated with implementing a combined lighting, fencing, and roadway system along the U.S./Mexico border from Arnie’s Point (approximately seven miles east of the Pacific Ocean) to the San Ysidro Mountains.
- July 1998, *Revised Final EA for Construction of Barrier Systems Along a 1.6-Mile Corridor of the U.S./Mexico International Boundary (Spring Canyon)*. This EA presented and assessed the environmental impacts associated with proposed infrastructure improvements consistent with implementation of initial portions of the fence and road system.
- June 2001, *Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and Joint Task Force –Six (JTF-6) Activities*. This SPEIS addressed INS and Joint Task Force-Six (JTF-6) activities along the U.S.-Mexico Border.

The first three EAs were prepared for the initial portions of the San Diego Border Infrastructure System, which were completed as pilot projects for the overall 14-mile system. These three EAs also discussed the possibility of installing RVS systems. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently being finalized, which addresses the potential effects of the completion of the Border Infrastructure System (INS 2002). Thus far, nine miles of the 14-mile system have been completed. The location of 19 of 25 proposed RVS systems fall within these nine miles.

## **1.1 Background and History**

In 1993, the installation of a primary border fence along a 14-mile stretch of border separating Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico from San Diego, California significantly enhanced the USBP's efforts in deterring smuggling attempts via drive-through using motor vehicles and motorcycles. After construction of the primary fence was completed, the monthly frequency of drive-through attempts dropped into the single digit range and for extended time periods, the USBP experienced no drive-through attempts.

The reduction in drive-through attempts was the direct result of combining the deterrence factor of the primary fence and Operation Gatekeeper – a manpower intensive initiative meant to restore the sovereignty of San Diego Sector's border region. At Operation Gatekeeper's inception in October 1994, national USBP staffing levels were approximately 4,140 agents – 30% of which (1,272) were permanently stationed in the San Diego Sector. Although Operation Gatekeeper was very successful, it was extremely labor intensive and costly. It highlighted, however, the deterrence capability of combining infrastructure and operation strategies.

Currently, the INS is planning to complete a Border Infrastructure System that starts at the Pacific Ocean and extends approximately 14 miles inland, to a point just east of Tin Can Hill, near the foothills of the San Ysidro Mountains. The project corridor has been subdivided into six areas to facilitate discussions and project management. Approximately nine miles in Areas II, III, and IV of the infrastructure system have been completed or are currently under construction. These activities were completed as pilot

projects for the infrastructure system and were addressed in previous NEPA documents, described above.

The majority (19 of 25) of the RVS sites addressed in this EA are proposed for installation within the footprint of the Border Infrastructure System. The remaining six sites are proposed at locations outside of the 14-mile project corridor of the Border Infrastructure System but at existing and previously disturbed sites.

## **1.2 Regulatory Authority**

The mission of the INS includes the enforcement of the Immigrant Nationality Act (INA) and the performance of a uniformed, Federal law enforcement agency with authority delegated by the U.S. Attorney General. The primary sources of authority granted to officers of the INS are the INA, found in Title 8 of the United States Code (8 U.S.C.), and other statutes relating to the immigration and naturalization of aliens. The secondary sources of authority are administrative regulations implementing those statutes, primarily those found in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 C.F.R. Section 287), judicial decisions, and administrative decisions of the Board of Immigration Appeals. In addition, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 mandates INS to acquire and/or improve equipment and technology along the border, hire and train new agents for the border region, and develop effective border enforcement strategies.

Subject to constitutional limitations, INS officers may exercise the authority granted to them in the INA. The statutory provisions related to enforcement authority are found in Sections 287(a), 287(b), 287(c), and 287(e) [8 U.S.C. § 1357(a,b,c,e)]; Section 235(a) [8 U.S.C. § 1225]; Sections 274(b) and 274(c) [8 U.S.C. § 1324(b,c)]; Section 274(a) [8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)]; and Section 274(c) [8 U.S.C. § 1324(c)] of the INA. Other statutory sources of authority are Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C.), which has several provisions that specifically relate to enforcement of the immigration and nationality laws; Title 19 [19 U.S.C. § 1401(i)], relating to U.S. Customs Service cross-designation of INS officers; and Title 21 [21 U.S.C. § 878], relating to Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) cross-designation of INS officers.

### **1.3 Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the proposed RVS system is to facilitate the detection of illegal drug traffickers and undocumented aliens (UDA) without increasing the number of agents in the field. This additional surveillance capability would also allow the USBP to more effectively control a larger area and improve enforcement and apprehension response time. Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States, the anti-terrorism function of the INS is now an even more increased function of the USBP over what it has been in the past. This increased role requires more vigilance at the Ports-of-Entry (POE) and all areas along the borders. The San Diego Sector has identified the need to have such capabilities to effectively monitor large areas and thus allow flexibility in agent deployment.

RVS systems have become a powerful tool in the detection of UDAs and illegal drug traffickers. RVS systems have become one of the most effective enforcement technologies in the USBP arsenal because of their capability to monitor large areas with the use of limited personnel while having minimal impact on the environment.

The purpose and need for the use of the 19 RVS systems in conjunction with the Border Infrastructure System is to complete the development of an enforcement zone that will ensure absolute detection and apprehension of illegal entrants and create deterrence to illegal entries. The RVS systems outside the Border Infrastructure System also serve the purpose to provide a safe working environment for USBP agents, enhance detection capabilities, and facilitate apprehension of illegal entrants. These six sites are located in strategic locations that provide expansive areas of surveillance (in areas known for high illegal traffic) and/or provide relay capabilities for transmission of other RVS sites to USBP stations.

### **1.4 Applicable Environmental Statutes and Regulations**

This EA was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District for INS, in accordance with, but not limited to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA); Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended; the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological and

Historical Preservation Act (AHPA) of 1974, as amended; Executive Order (E.O.) No. 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"; E.O. No. 11988, "Floodplain Management"; E.O. No. 11990, "Protection of Wetlands"; E.O. No. 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites"; E.O. No. 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks"; and E.O. No. 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice." Table 1-1 summarizes the pertinent environmental requirements that guided the development of this EA.

**Table 1-1  
Applicable Environmental Statutes and Regulations**

| <b>Federal Statutes</b>                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974                                                                   |
| Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended                                                                                        |
| Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended                                                                                      |
| Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended                                                                               |
| Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1972                                                                                        |
| National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended                                                                   |
| National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended                                                                    |
| Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954                                                                    |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended                                                                           |
| Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1980                                                                                   |
| Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990                                                           |
| <b>Executive Orders, Memorandums, etc.</b>                                                                               |
| Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988) of 1977                                                                               |
| Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990) of 1977                                                                              |
| Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice to Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (E.O. 12898) of 1994 |
| Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks (E.O. 13045) of 1997                                              |
| Protection of Migratory Birds & Game Mammals (E.O. 11629) of 2001                                                        |
| Indian Sacred Sites (E.O. 13007) of 1996                                                                                 |
| Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (E.O. 13175) of 2000                                        |
| Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments (Presidential Memorandum) of 1994             |

## **1.5 Report Organization**

This EA is divided into nine major sections, including this chapter. Chapter 2 will describe the alternatives that were considered that would satisfy the stated purpose and need. Current environmental conditions within the project area and vicinity are presented in Chapter 3. The potential impacts, beneficial and adverse, of all alternatives

that are being considered are discussed in Chapter 4 including a discussion of the cumulative effects that have occurred and that are anticipated. Chapter 5 presents mitigation measures and plans to reduce, eliminate, or compensate for any adverse impacts to the human or natural environment. Chapter 6 discusses the public involvement measures that have been utilized throughout the preparation of this EA in soliciting, obtaining, and incorporating input from the general public and resource agencies. References that were used while preparing the EA, as cited in the text, are presented in Chapter 7. A list of acronyms used throughout this EA are provided in Chapter 8, while the list of persons responsible for preparing the EA is presented as Chapter 7.

Appendix A contains the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Forms. Appendix B includes photographs of existing conditions the RVS system sites. Comments and correspondence are included as Appendix C.

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***SECTION 2.0***  
***ALTERNATIVES***

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## **2.0 ALTERNATIVES**

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### **2.1 No Action Alternative**

The No Action Alternative would preclude the installation and operation of the RVS systems. Under this alternative, illegal traffickers, undocumented aliens and potential terrorists would be less likely to be immediately detected and, thus, apprehended. Additional agents would have to be deployed to provide equal level of surveillance capabilities afforded by the RVS system. In addition, the risk to USBP agents would be increased during night time operations by the lack or delayed detection of illegal entrants. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the extant portions of the Border Infrastructure System would be decreased by the lack of electronic surveillance capabilities.

### **2.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

The Proposed Action is the installation, operation and maintenance of 19 RVS systems within the footprint of the existing portions of San Diego Border Infrastructure System and six additional RVS systems outside of the footprint (Table 2-1). The standard design for pole mounted RVS (described later in Section 2.2.1) systems would be used for 19 RVS systems. The locations of these 19 RVS systems are shown in Figure 2-1. The remaining six RVS systems are described in the following paragraphs.

#### Tecate Peak

The location of Tecate Peak is shown in Figure 2-2. A 60-foot (ft) high 3-legged tower would be installed at this site. This site has an existing tower and is already disturbed (Appendix B, Photograph 1). Power would be supplied by solar panels with a propane generator as backup.

#### Otay Tower

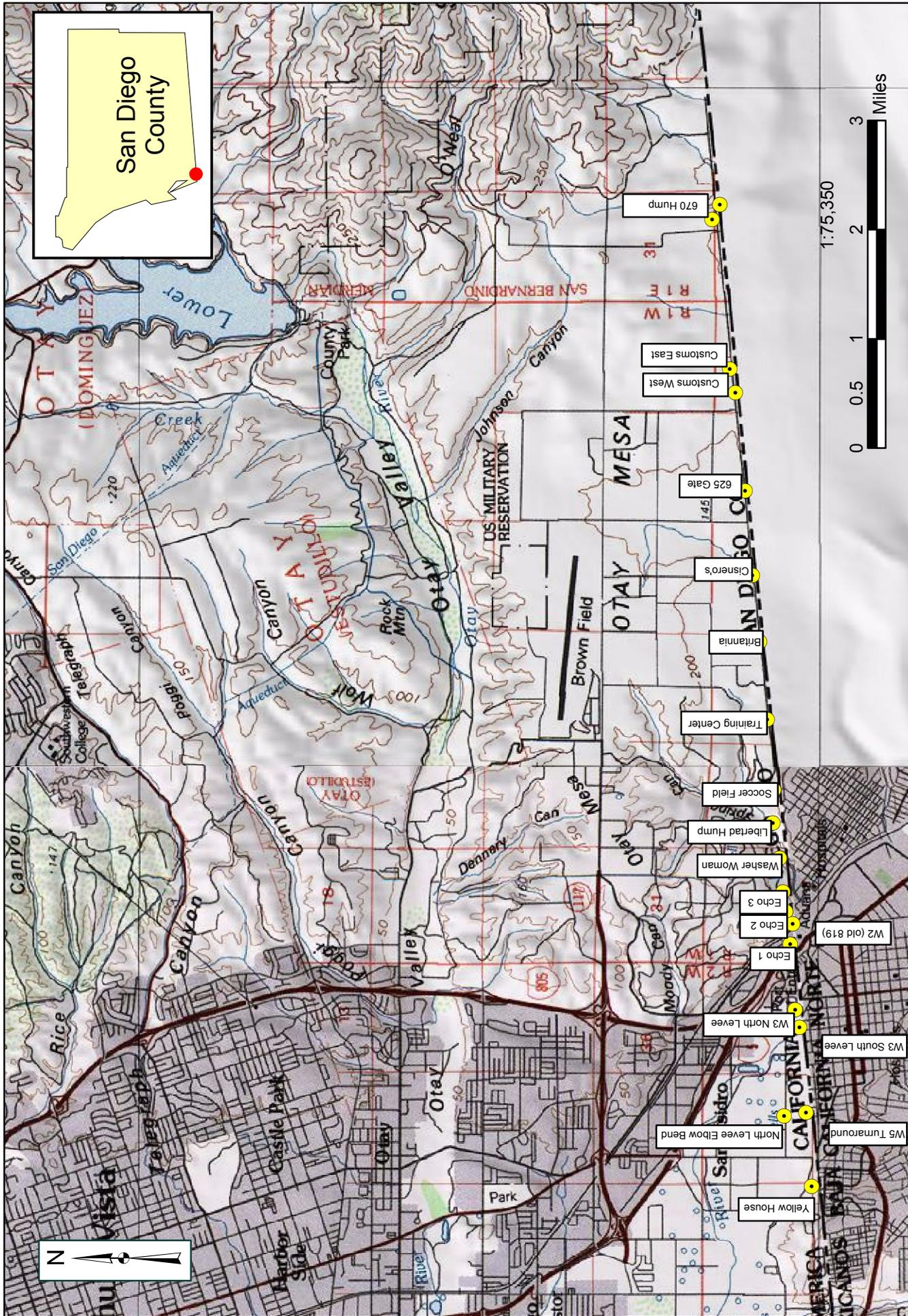
The Otay Tower site is shown in Figure 2-3. A single self-supporting, 180 ft high, 3-legged steel tower would replace the repeater tower at Otay Mountain. This tower would allow relays throughout the San Diego Sector. One large building would be constructed to replace the three existing equipment shelters. All construction would be within previously disturbed/developed areas (Appendix B, Photograph 3).

Table 2-1

List of Proposed RVS sites

| Site Name                                                         | Coordinates                    | APE*  | Power Supply                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>RVS systems within the San Diego Infrastructure footprint</b>  |                                |       |                                              |
| 670 Hump                                                          | 32-33-13.716N, -116-54-52.884W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Customs East                                                      | 32-33-03.024N, -116-56-14.208W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Customs West                                                      | 32-33-00.288N, -116-56-27.600W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| 625 Gate                                                          | 32-32-55.680N, -116-57-22.824W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Cisnero's                                                         | 32-32-52.188N, -116-58-10.560W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Britannia                                                         | 32-32-48.732N, -116-58-47.964W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Training Center                                                   | 32-32-45.132N, -116-59-31-884W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Soccer Field                                                      | 32-32-42.00N, -117-00-11.808W  | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Libertad Hump                                                     | 32-32-42.396N, -117-00-30.528W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Washer Woman                                                      | 32-32-39.120N, -117-00-50.400W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Echo-3                                                            | 32-32-37.428N, -117-01-09.404W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| Echo-2                                                            | 32-32-36.132N, -117-01-20.388W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| W-2 (Old 819)                                                     | 32-32-32.784N, -117-01-50.520W | 36    | Underground lines or existing overhead lines |
| Echo-1                                                            | 32-32-34.080N, -117-01-38.856W | 36    | Underground lines                            |
| W-3 (North Levee)                                                 | 32-32-31.668N, -117-02-15.828W | 36    | Underground lines or existing overhead lines |
| W-3 (South Levee)                                                 | 32-32-29.616N, -117-02-25.764W | 36    | Underground lines or existing overhead lines |
| W-5 Turnaround                                                    | 32-32-26.448N, -117-03-14.004W | 36    | Underground lines or existing overhead lines |
| North Levee Elbow Bend                                            | 32-32-36.924N, -117-03-15.948W | 36    | Underground lines or existing overhead lines |
| Yellow House                                                      | 32-32-23.676N, -117-03-55.512W | 36    | Underground lines or existing overhead lines |
| <b>RVS systems outside the San Diego Infrastructure footprint</b> |                                |       |                                              |
| Tecate Peak                                                       | 32-34-47.028N, -116-41-19.428W | 2,500 | Solar                                        |
| Otay Tower                                                        | 32-36-02.844N, -116-50-28.140W | 2,500 | Existing overhead lines                      |
| Arnie's Point                                                     | 32-32-47.688N, -117-00-14.796W | 2,900 | Underground lines                            |
| Old Sector Headquarters Tower                                     | 32-56-38.800N, -117-05-28.000W | --    | Existing lines from adjacent buildings       |
| IB Station                                                        | 32-33-58.570N, -117-16-02.680W | 36    | Existing overhead lines                      |
| Point Loma                                                        | 32-40-03.108N, -117-14-24.108W | --    | Existing line from adjacent building         |

\* Area of Potential Effect – in square feet



Source: USGS Topographic Maps  
 100,000 Digital Raster Graphics  
 UTM North American Datum 1927

Figure 2-1: Proposed Sites for Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Sites.

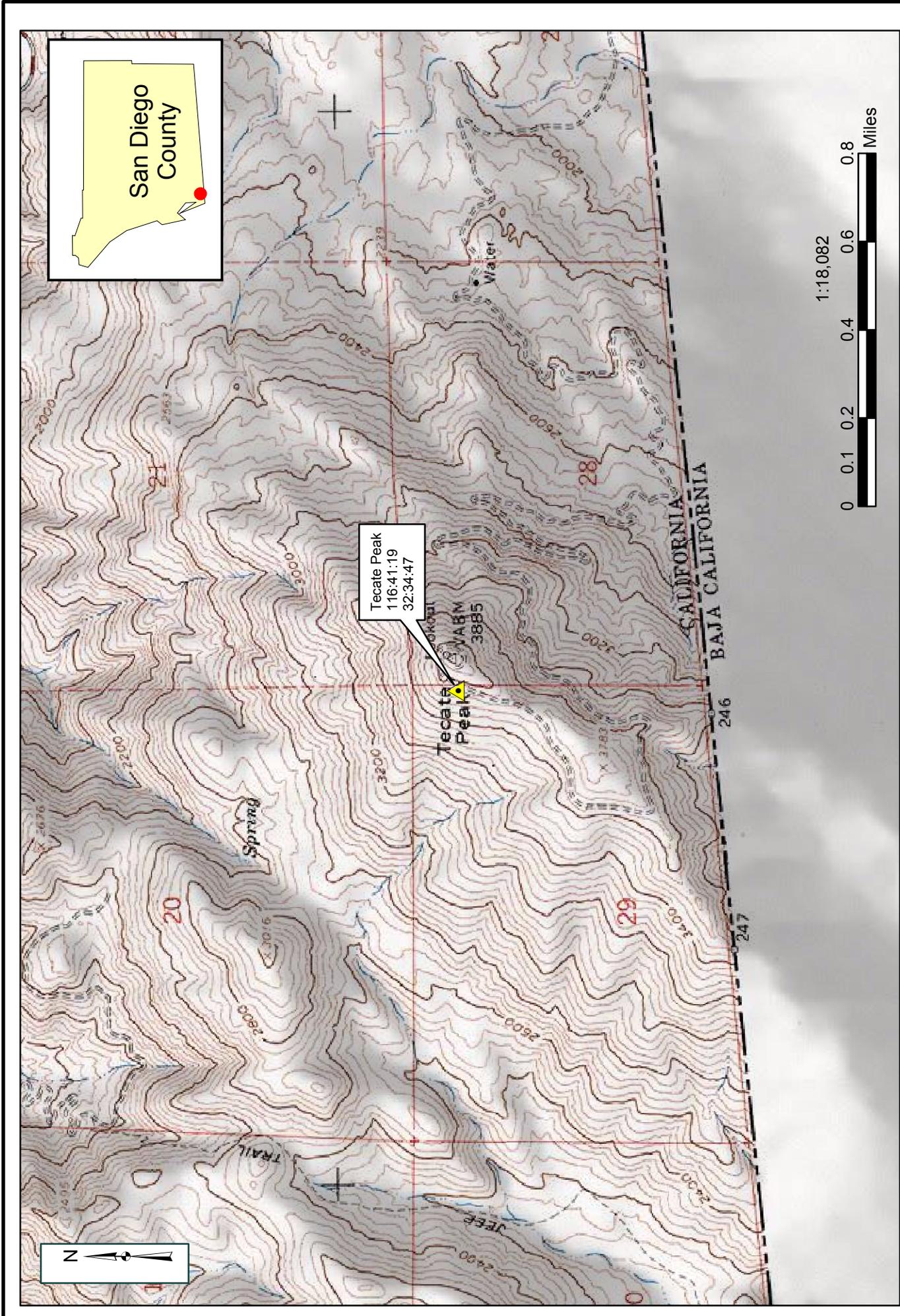


Figure 2-2: Proposed Sites for Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Site

Source: USGS Topographic Maps  
 7.5 Min Quadrangles 1:24000  
 UTM North American Datum 1927

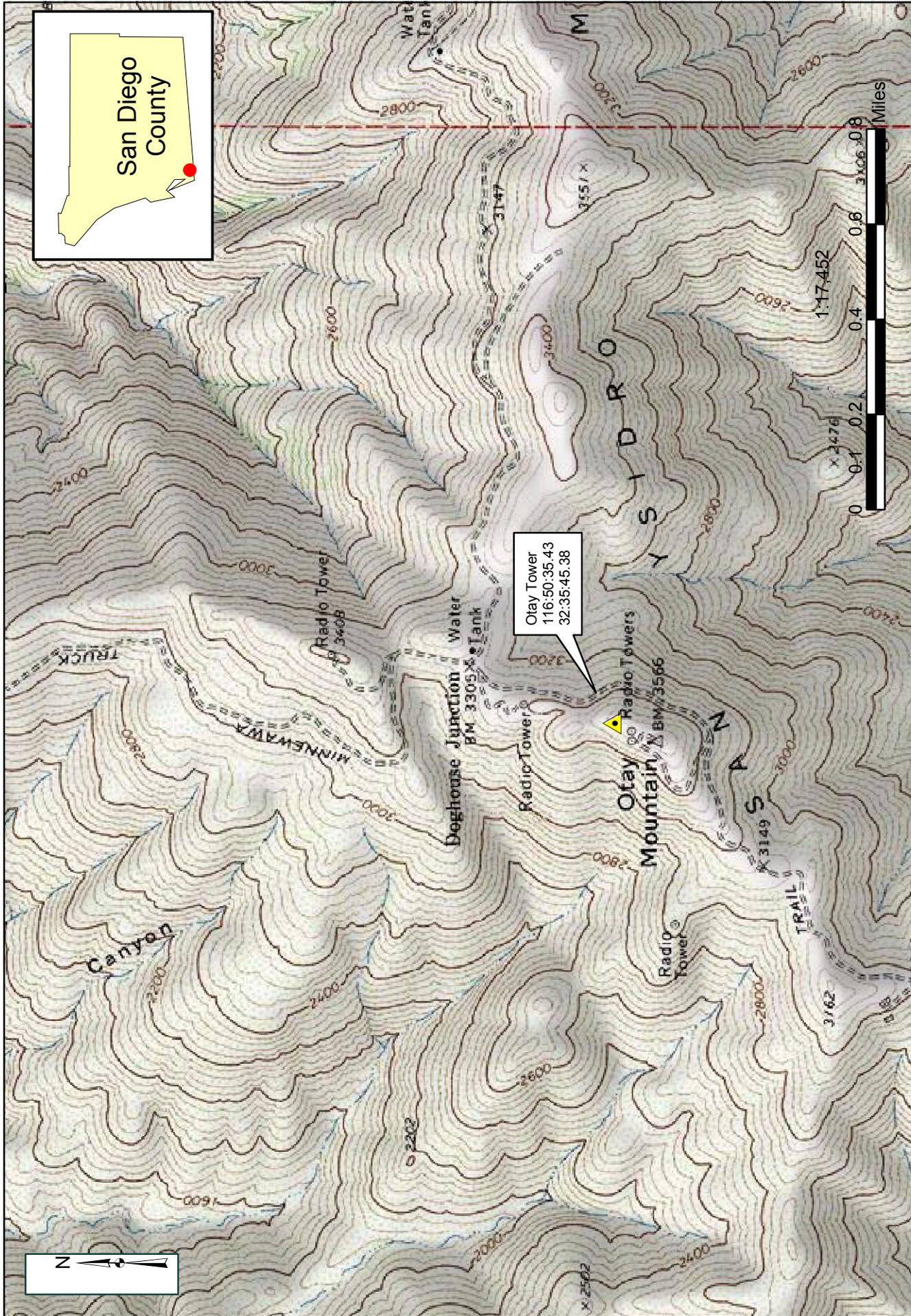


Figure 2-3: Proposed Sites for Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Site

Source: USGS Topographic Maps  
 7.5 Min Quadrangles 1:24000  
 UTM North American Datum 1927

### Arnie's Point

Figure 2-4 shows the location of this site. This location would serve as a repeater/relay transmission site and consist of a 100-ft high, 3-legged steel tower. A 20x20-ft equipment shelter would also be constructed at this location. Power would be supplied via an underground wire either perpendicular to the Border Infrastructure System, which is currently under construction, or following the base of Arnie's Point to the western edge and up the slope to the RVS site. This site is located approximately 210 ft north of the Border Infrastructure System and is currently being used as a staging area during construction of the Border Infrastructure System.

### Old Sector Headquarters Tower

The location of this site is shown in Figure 2-5. This site would serve as a camera and receiver site and consist of a 100-ft high, steel 3-legged tower. No additional ground disturbance would be required at this site.

### Imperial Beach (IB) Station

The IB Station site location is shown in Figure 2-6. The tower currently at IB Station would be replaced with a 60-ft monopole (Appendix B, Photograph 4). All construction would be within the existing tower footprint.

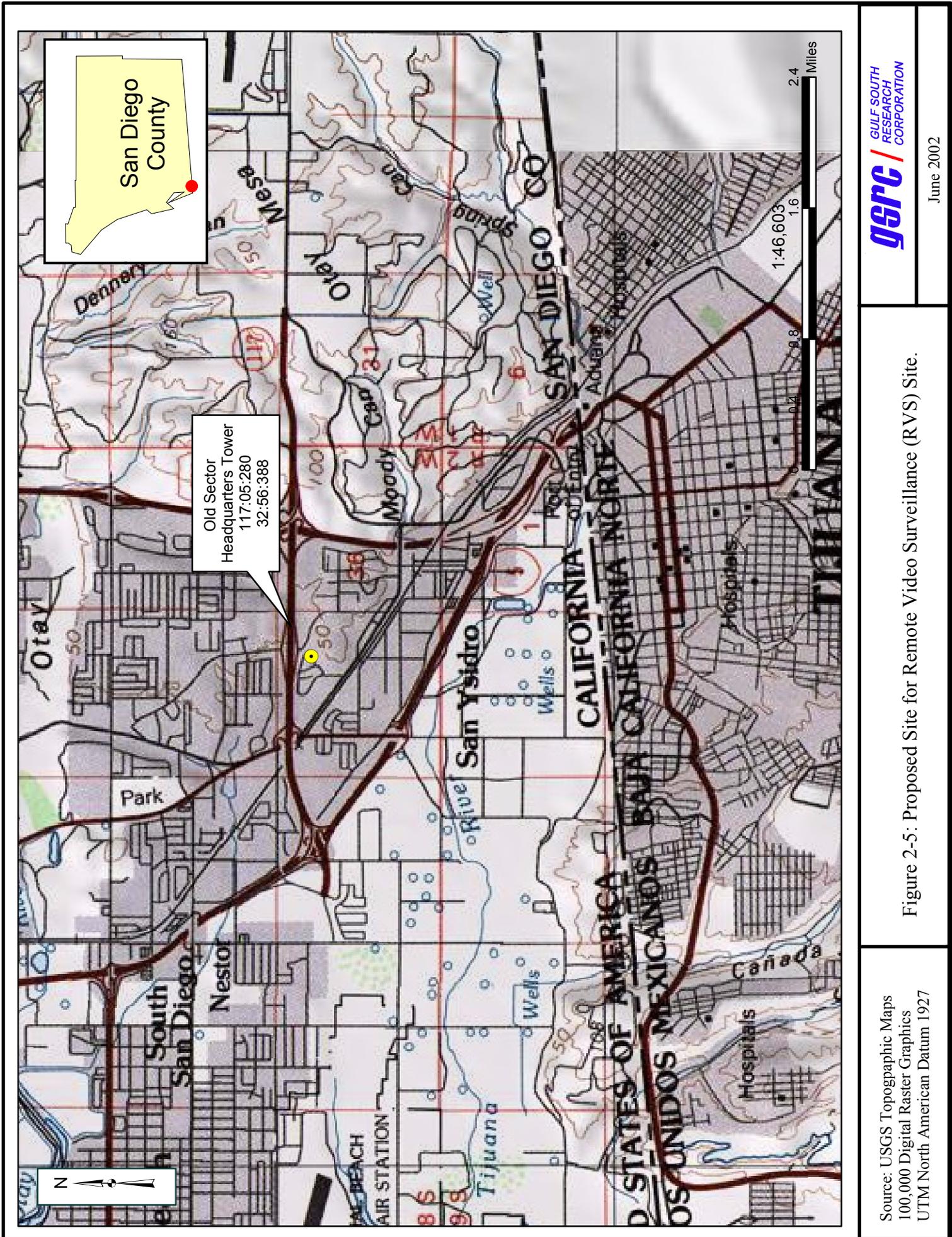
### Point Loma

The location of the Point Loma site is shown in Figure 2-7. This site is owned by the Navy. This site currently has a 3-legged steel tower (60-ft high) that was constructed by the Navy (Appendix B, Photograph 2). Power would be supplied from the existing adjacent buildings. The site is completely paved; an additional 5x5-ft equipment shelter would be constructed, but no additional ground disturbance is required.

## **2.2.1 Standard Design for Pole Mounted RVS Systems**

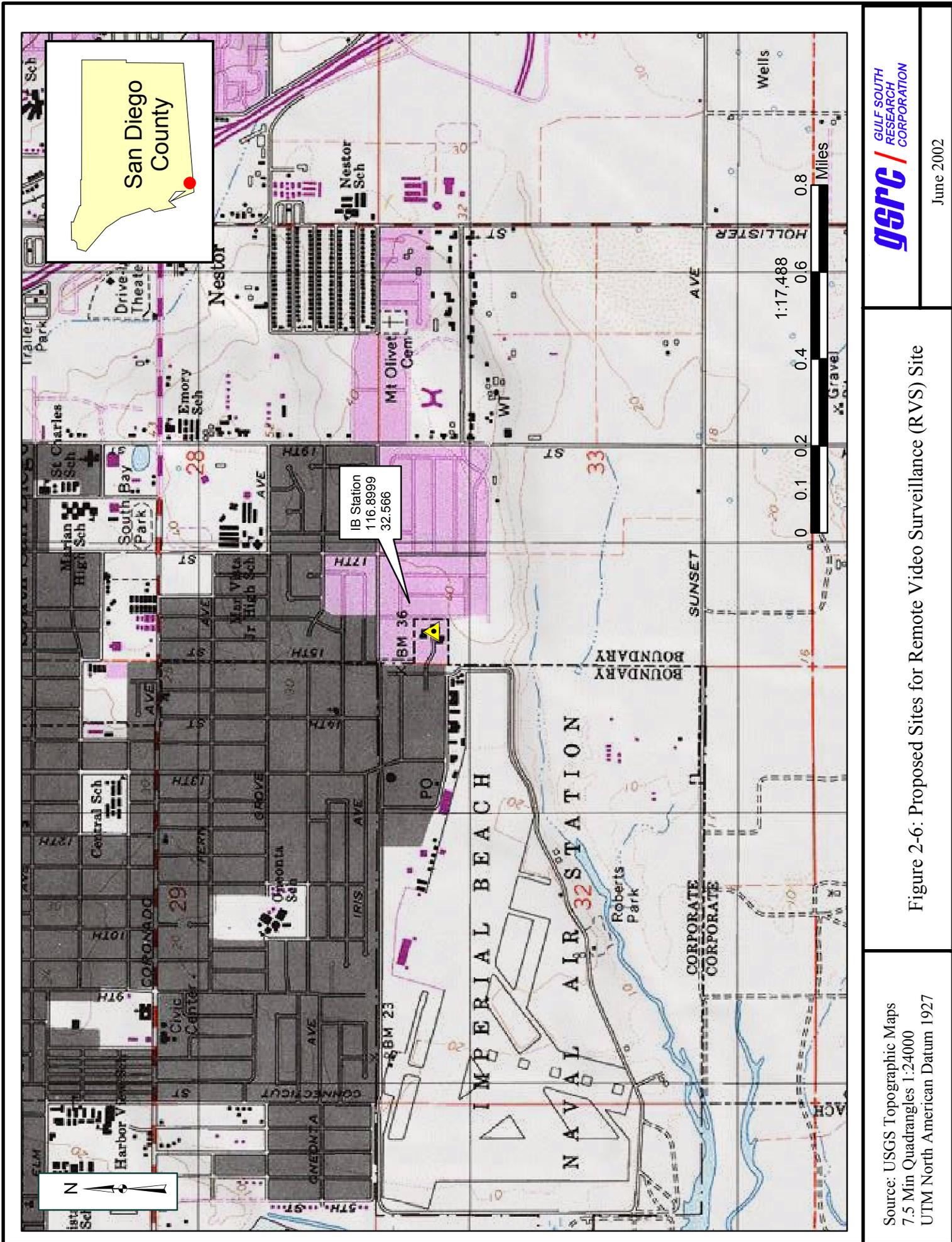
The standard design for pole mounted RVS systems would consist of multiple color cameras (low-light and infrared) and transmitters to send the signals back to the affected USBP Station. This equipment would be mounted approximately 60-80 feet above ground level, depending upon the local terrain and surrounding development. The RVS equipment is mounted on a rectangular or triangular platform that holds the microwave and antenna systems, cameras mounted on pan-and-tilt pedestals, and control equipment. The exact number and types of equipment depend on the number and types





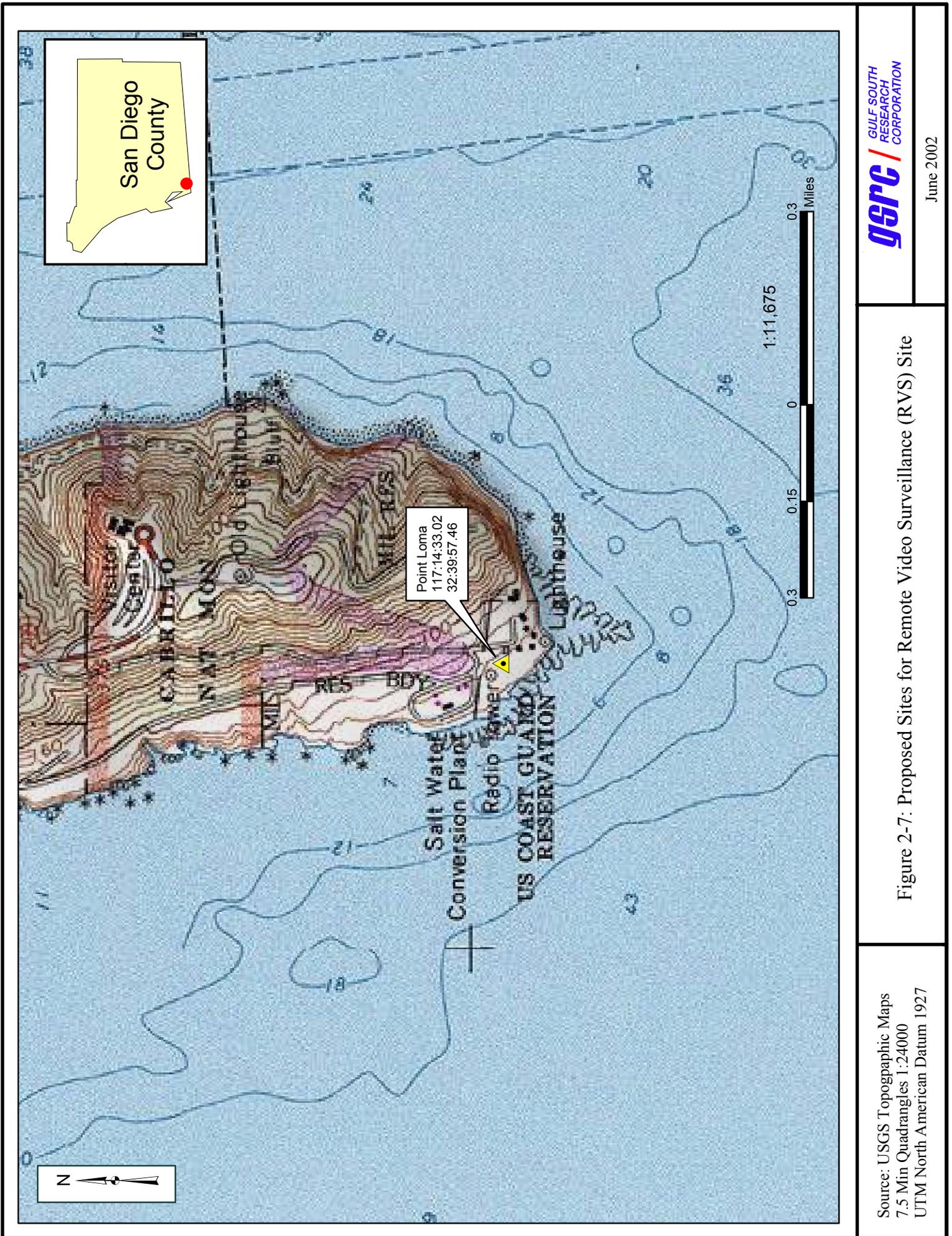
Source: USGS Topographic Maps  
 100,000 Digital Raster Graphics  
 UTM North American Datum 1927

Figure 2-5: Proposed Site for Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Site.



Source: USGS Topographic Maps  
 7.5 Min Quadrangles 1:24000  
 UTM North American Datum 1927

Figure 2-6: Proposed Sites for Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Site



Source: USGS Topographic Maps  
 7.5 Min Quadrangles 1:24000  
 UTM North American Datum 1927

Figure 2-7: Proposed Sites for Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Site

of cameras used, area to be monitored, illegal alien smuggler traffic, and other design variables. In addition, one or more small solid parabolic antennas are mounted on the platform railings or on a separate antenna mount. The platform would be mounted on steel poles that are three to four feet in diameter. Typical pole placement requires a foundation that is an approximately 4-ft diameter by 12-ft deep hole drilled by an auger, but the design is dependent upon subterranean characteristics determined by subsurface investigations. Concrete is placed in the hole and around the pole forming a foundation approximately 36 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>) (6X6 ft) at each site, to anchor the pole in the ground. Power to the RVS systems would be supplied via underground lines that have been installed as part of the Border Infrastructure System.

### 2.3 Summary

Two alternatives, the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative, will be carried forward for analysis. A summary matrix (Table 2-2) shows how each of the alternatives satisfy the purpose and need. Table 2-3 presents a summary matrix of the impacts from each of the alternatives and how they affect the environmental resources in the Region of Influence (ROI).

**Table 2-2. Alternative Matrix**

| <b>Requirements</b>               | <b>No Action</b> | <b>Proposed Action Alternative</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Deterrence of illegal aliens      |                  | ✓                                  |
| Ability to monitor a large area   |                  | ✓                                  |
| Improve USBP response time        |                  | ✓                                  |
| Enhance the safety of USBP agents |                  | ✓                                  |
| Reduce number of field agents     |                  | ✓                                  |

Table 2-3. Summary Matrix of Potential Impacts

| Affected Environment                   | No Action Alternative                                                                                                                                          | Proposed Action Alternative                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Land Use                               | No impacts.                                                                                                                                                    | No effect on current land use.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Soils and Prime Farmlands              | No direct impacts; indirect impacts would continue from illegal traffic and consequent enforcement activities.                                                 | A total of 8,620 ft <sup>2</sup> of previously disturbed soils would be permanently impacted.                                                                                                                          |
| Vegetation Communities                 | No direct impacts; illegal traffic would indirectly impact vegetation communities.                                                                             | A maximum of 8,620 ft <sup>2</sup> would be impacted. Vegetation is currently lacking due to past and on-going construction and activities, therefore, impacts to vegetation communities would be insignificant.       |
| Fish and Wildlife Resources            | No direct impacts; illegal traffic would continue to damage vegetation thereby causing synergistic impacts to wildlife.                                        | Due to the highly disturbed conditions, no wildlife habitat exists and, therefore, only limited numbers of a few wildlife species occur. Consequently, no significant impacts to wildlife populations are anticipated. |
| Unique and Sensitive Areas             | No direct impacts; illegal traffic would continue to damage unique and sensitive areas by causing accidental wildfires, creating trails, and discarding trash. | No adverse impacts. Beneficial impacts would occur at the Otay Tower site from the reduction of towers and buildings.                                                                                                  |
| Protected Species and Critical Habitat | No direct impacts; indirect impacts due to illegal traffic trampling habitat and threatened and endangered plant species.                                      | No direct adverse effects. Three sites are located within Quino checkerspot butterfly critical habitat; however, these sites are void of vegetation, including <i>Plantago erecta</i> .                                |
| Cultural Resources                     | No impacts.                                                                                                                                                    | No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated from the implementation of the proposed action alternative.                                                                                                           |
| Air Quality                            | No direct impacts; indirect impacts from additional patrol activities.                                                                                         | Short-term degradation in local air quality; impacts considered insignificant.                                                                                                                                         |
| Water Resources                        | No impacts.                                                                                                                                                    | Short-term impacts from construction run-off.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Socioeconomics                         | No direct impacts; indirect impacts form societal costs from illegal immigration and drug trafficking.                                                         | Indirect benefits from the effectiveness of the USBP in the reduction of illegal aliens and drug smugglers.                                                                                                            |

Table 2-3 continued

| <b>Affected Environment</b>                          | <b>No Action Alternative</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Proposed Action Alternative</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Environmental Justice and Protection of the Children | No direct impacts to environmental justice or protection of the children indirect impacts to protection of the children would result from illegal traffic and its associated criminal activity continuing to create a more unsafe environment for children. | No impacts in regard to environmental justice. Beneficial impacts to protection of the children from a reduction of illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and other crimes within the area creating a safer living environment for the children on both sides of the border. |
| Noise                                                | No direct impacts; indirect impacts would result from illegal foot traffic, and other illegal activity continuing and probably increase resulting in the need for additional patrols or aerial reconnaissance.                                              | A propane generator located at the Tecate Peak site has the potential to raise ambient noise levels when in use. However, the impacts are considered insignificant, due to the temporary use as a backup power supply.                                                        |
| Aesthetics                                           | No further direct impacts; indirect impacts would continue from increased footpaths and trash left behind by illegal entrants.                                                                                                                              | No further degradation of aesthetics would occur; beneficial impacts would occur at Otay Tower with the reduction of towers and buildings.                                                                                                                                    |

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***SECTION 3.0***  
***AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT***

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## **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

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Some of the information presented in this section was taken from the *Area Lighting, Fencing, and Roadways at International Border, San Diego, California* (INS 1997); *EA for Construction of Barrier Systems along a 1.6-Mile Corridor of the United States/Mexico International Boundary (Spring Canyon) in San Diego, California* (INS 1998); *Draft EIS for the Completion of the 14-mile Border Infrastructure System San Diego, California* (INS 2002) and is incorporated herein by reference, as allowed by NEPA and CEQ's regulations for implementing NEPA.

### **3.1 Land Use**

The land use where 19 of the RVS systems are proposed for installation is the Border Infrastructure System. Surrounding land use to the north of the infrastructure system is open, undeveloped lands and commercial light industrial warehouses. South of the project corridor lies the City of Tijuana, Mexico. More detailed information about the land use is presented in the NEPA documents described above in Section 1, and is incorporated herein by reference.

#### Tecate Peak

The Tecate Peak site is currently being used for communications and is owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Land surrounding the site is owned by the California Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

#### Otay Tower

This site is located on Otay Mountain, which is part of the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area and is owned by the BLM. The USBP currently has the site leased for communication towers.

#### Arnie's Point

The Arnie's Point site is owned by INS. It is located about 210 ft north of the Border Infrastructure System and is being used currently as a staging area for the construction of the Border Infrastructure System. Surrounding land is open, undeveloped land. Light

industrial and commercial developments are located about 0.5 mile to the east of the proposed site.

#### Old Sector Headquarters Tower

This site is owned by INS and is still in use by the USBP for maintenance and support facilities. Communication towers are located at the site. Surrounding land is residential and commercial development.

#### IB Station

The IB Station site tower is currently being used as a communication site. This site is located at the Imperial Beach USBP Station and is owned by INS.

#### Point Loma

Point Loma is owned by the U.S. Navy and is used for surveillance and communications. Access to the site is tightly controlled for security reasons. The Cabrillo National Monument, which is owned by the National Park Service (NPS), and the Pacific Ocean surrounds this site.

### **3.2 Soils and Prime Farmland**

Soils within the footprint of the San Diego Border Infrastructure System project corridor include Stockpen gravelly clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Stockpen gravelly clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes; Olivenhain cobbly loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes; Huerhuero loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes; Huerhuero loam 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded; Huerhuero loam, 9 to 15, eroded; Salinas clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Olivenhain cobbly loam, 9 to 30 percent slopes; Diabolo clay, 30 to 50 percent slopes; and Chino fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (USDA 1973). More detailed information about the soils within the project corridor is contained in the above-referenced NEPA documents, and incorporated herein by reference.

A Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form was completed and submitted to Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for the Tecate Peak, Otay Tower, Arnie's Point and IB Station sites. No prime farmlands were found on any of the sites (Appendix A).

### Tecate Peak

Tecate Peak soils consist of acid igneous rock land (USDA 1973). Large boulders and rock outcrops characterize this soil type. Runoff is rapid to very rapid and the erosion hazard is high to very high. This soil type is generally used as wildlife habitat and watershed protection.

### Otay Tower

Soils at this site included Metamorphic rock land and San Miguel-Exchequer rocky silt loams, 9 to 70 percent slopes on the western edge (USDA 1973). Runoff is rapid to very rapid and the erosion hazard is high to very high. Uses of this soil type include wildlife habitat and watershed.

### Arnie's Point

The soil at this site consists of Stockpen gravelly clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (USDA 1973). Runoff is very slow and the erosion hazard is slight. Uses of this soil type include truck crops, tomatoes, and flowers.

### Old Sector Headquarters Tower

Soil at this site consists of Huerhuero loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes (USDA 1973). Runoff is slow to medium, and the erosion hazard is slight to moderate. Uses of this soil type include range, irrigated truck crops, tomatoes, flowers, and small acreage housing developments.

### IB Station

The IB Station site soils consisted of Huerhuero-Urban land complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes (USDA 1973). The landscape has been altered through cut and fill operations. This soil association is used for homesites.

### Point Loma

Reiff fine sandy loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes is the soil found at the Point Loma site (USDA 1973). Runoff is slow to medium and erosion hazard is slight to moderate. This soil type is used for avocados, citrus, truck crops, tomatoes, flowers, and field crops.

### 3.3 Biological Resources

#### 3.3.1 Vegetation Communities

Vegetation within the footprint of the San Diego Border Infrastructure System project corridor consists of non-native grasslands; however, most of the area is depauperate due to the on-going construction and enforcement activities.

Predominate plant species that do occur include Italian ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* var. *multiflorum*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*).

##### Tecate Peak

Vegetation at the site is limited due to the existing communication towers. Surrounding vegetation includes needlegrass (*Achnatherum diegoense*), hoary leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus crassifolius*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), yucca (*Yucca whipplei*), mountain misery (*Chamaebatia foliolosa*), cryptantha (*Cryptantha* sp.), and manzanita (*Archostaphylos glandulosa*).

##### Otay Tower

This site's vegetation is also limited due to existing communication towers. Surrounding vegetation included sawtooth golden bush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), mountain misery and manzanita.

##### Arnie's Point

This site is void of vegetation. It is currently being used as a USBP staging site.

##### Old Sector Headquarters Tower

This site is void of vegetation due to development.

##### IB Station

This site consists of landscape vegetation and pavement.

##### Point Loma

The Point Loma is void of vegetation from development of the Navy communication facility.

### **3.3.2 Fish and Wildlife Resources**

As mentioned above, most of the habitat within the footprint of the San Diego Border Infrastructure System project corridor has been removed or disturbed. Therefore, wildlife populations would be limited and consist primarily of reptiles and amphibians, rodents, and transient birds. The NEPA documents prepared previously for the Border Infrastructure System contains more detailed description of the area's wildlife populations and are incorporated by reference.

No wildlife was observed at the six sites outside of the San Diego Border Infrastructure System footprint during field surveys conducted in May 2002. Due to the limited vegetation and disturbed nature of the RVS system sites limited wildlife habitat exists.

No permanent waterbodies are present at the any of the proposed RVS system sites that could support fish species and other aquatic organisms.

### **3.4 Unique and Sensitive Areas**

The Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Plan is a comprehensive habitat conservation-planning program that addresses multiple species habitat needs and the preservation of native vegetation communities for a 900 square mile area in southwestern San Diego County. In partnership with landowners, wildlife agencies and representatives from environmental groups and the development industry, participating jurisdictions and special districts cooperatively developed the MSCP Plan. The main goals of the MSCP are to preserve a network of habitat and open space, protect biodiversity and enhance the region's quality of life. Spring Canyon, which is located north of the Border Infrastructure System and west of Arnie's Point, has been identified as a core area of the MSCP.

Otay Mountain Wilderness Area is located approximately 15 miles southeast of San Diego. The Wilderness Area is owned and managed by BLM. It consists of 18,500 acres with elevations ranging from near sea level to over 3, 500 feet. The Wilderness Area is also home to the largest stand of tecate cypress (*Cupressus guadalupensis*) along with 37 other rare or endangered plant species. The Otay Mountain Truck Trail provides scenic views of the San Ysidro Mountains, San Diego Bay, and northern Baja California. The Otay Tower site is located within this wilderness area.

Cabrillo National Monument consists of 160 acres and is located at Point Loma. It is owned and operated by the NPS as an educational facility. It is also home of the Old Point Loma Lighthouse, which overlooks San Diego Bay.

### **3.5 Protected Species and Critical Habitat**

Detailed descriptions of the Federal and state threatened and endangered species that occur along the Border Infrastructure System project corridor are included in the NEPA documents referenced above. These descriptions, including the results of multi-seasonal surveys, are incorporated herein by reference. Briefly, no threatened or endangered species are located within the footprint of the San Diego Border Infrastructure System project corridor where the 19 of the RVS systems are proposed to be located. In addition, no threatened or endangered species are located at the six sites located outside of the San Diego Border Infrastructure System footprint. However, three sites (670 Hump, Tecate Peak and Otay Tower) are located within Quino checkerspot butterfly critical habitat (Figure 3-1). However, no habitat suitable to support the Quino checkerspot butterfly exists at any of these sites due to the past disturbances.

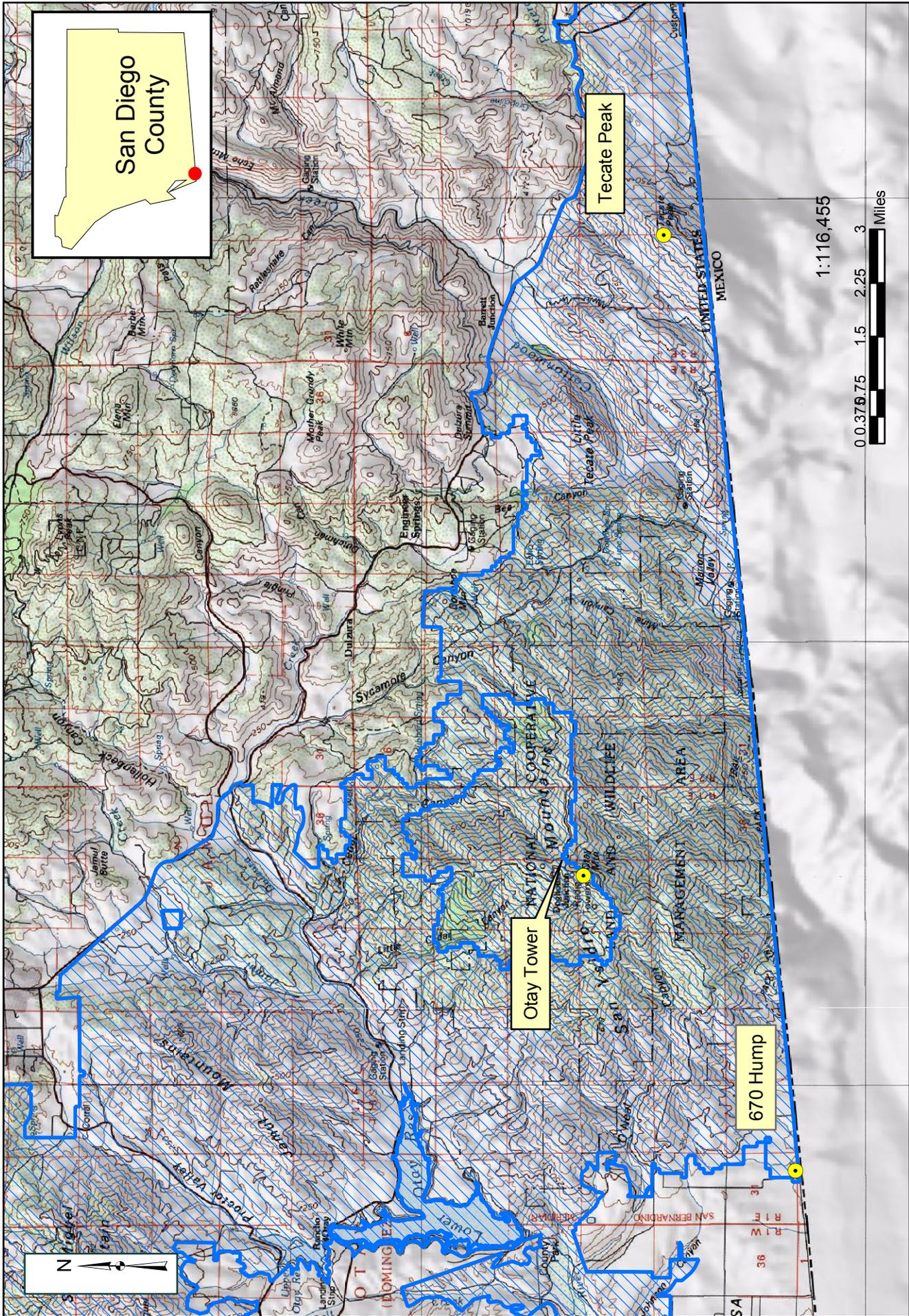
### **3.6 Cultural Resources**

#### **3.6.1 Cultural History**

Several summaries discuss the prehistory of San Diego County and provide a background for understanding the archeology of the general area in the vicinity of the project area. Moratto's (1984) review of the archeology of California contains important discussions of Southern California, including the San Diego area. Papers by Bull (1983, 1987), Carrico (1987), Gallegos (1987), and Warren (1985, 1987), as well as reports on projects in the region by Alter et al. (1992), Gallegos and Kyle (1992), Higgins et al. (1994), Kyle et al. (1996), Robbins-Wade and Schultz (1996), and Smith (1996), provide summaries of recent work and interpretations. For a complete cultural history of the San Diego area, see the aforementioned NEPA documents, which are incorporated here in by reference.

#### **3.6.2 Previous Investigations**

The previous cultural resources investigations within the area are summarized in the NEPA documents incorporated by reference.



Source: USGS Topographic Maps  
 100,000 Digital Raster Graphics  
 UTM North American Datum 1927

Figure 3-1: Proposed RVS Sites Located within the Critical Habitat Area of the Quino Checker-Spot Butterfly

### **3.6.3 Current Investigation**

Archaeological surveys were conducted during the week of 8 July 2002 at Tecate Peak, Otay Mountain, Arnie's Point and IB Station sites; the Old Sector Headquarters and Point Loma sites were not surveyed because they are completely developed and no historic structures would be affected. At each location a 500 ft x 500 ft area was surveyed. Field conditions were optimal with 80% visibility. The proposed locations were surveyed by walking non-overlapping straight transects spaced no more than 49 ft apart. A Global Positioning System (GPS) was available to obtain information on the location of cultural resources.

#### Tecate Peak

No previously recorded cultural resources are located within one mile the proposed tower site. A cultural resources survey was conducted within the area of potential effect (APE) for the Tecate Peak RVS tower. The results of this survey indicated no cultural resources are located within the APE. Consultation is underway with local Native American tribes on the status of Tecate Peak being a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and having religious and spiritual significance to local tribes.

#### Otay Tower

No previously recorded cultural resources are located within one mile of the proposed tower site. A cultural resources survey was conducted within the APE for the Otay Tower, which indicated no cultural resources are located within the APE.

#### Arnie's Point

Nineteen previously recorded prehistoric resources are located within one mile of the proposed Arnie's Point tower site. All the prehistoric sites lie outside the APE of the proposed tower and will not be impacted by tower construction. No historic resources are located within one mile of the proposed RVS tower. A cultural resources survey was conducted within the APE for the Arnie's Point RVS Tower. The area around the APE had been bladed and some areas were filled to make the ground surface level. The results of this survey indicated no cultural resources are located within the APE.

#### Old Sector Headquarters Tower

A cultural resource survey was not necessary at this site because the site is developed and paved. The Sector Headquarters was first established at this site in 1952.

However, the building has been renovated several times and is considered to have lost its original integrity. The tower at this site was constructed in 1985.

#### IB Station

The proposed area for the RVS tower at the Imperial Beach State is between two buildings with concrete sidewalks. Five prehistoric sites have been previously recorded within one mile of the proposed tower location but are located outside the APE and would not be impacted. No historic resources are located in the vicinity of the tower. As a result no cultural resources would be impacted by the placement of a tower at this location.

#### Point Loma

The Point Loma location was not surveyed since it was paved with asphalt. There were 19 previously recorded archaeological sites located within one mile of the project area but none are located within the APE and therefore would not be impacted. Historic resources within the area consist of the structures associated with the Point Loma Peninsula Shore Defenses District and the Cabrillo National Monument. It was determined that the camera tower proposed would not have a visual impact on these resources since the area already has a pre-existing tower which significantly affects the historic viewshed. The addition of the Point Loma RVS tower on this cultural landscape would therefore not cause any additional impacts to the historic viewshed.

#### **3.6.4 Tribal Concerns**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and defines procedures governing how Federal agencies statutory responsibilities. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) codified these compliance procedures as 36 CFR Part 800. Revisions to this these procedures emphasized consultation with Native American tribes as part of the Section 106 process. In particular, Sec. 800.2(c)(3) of the revised regulations states that Federal agencies are required to consult not only with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and/or the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), but also with relevant tribes that might claim cultural affinity in the area of the undertaking. Such consultations should occur on all Federal undertakings subject to Section 106 review, regardless of whether or not the undertaking is on tribal land. As a result, the tribes must be given a reasonable opportunity to identify their concerns,

advise on potential resources within the study area, including eligibility and provide input on project effects. The appropriate Native American tribes have been consulted and will continue to be consulted throughout the NEPA process for this project. All consultation letters and comments received from the affiliated tribes are included in Appendix C of this report.

### 3.7 Air Quality

San Diego County has been designated as a nonattainment area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) for ozone, with a classification of "serious" in both cases. In addition, San Diego County operates under a maintenance plan for carbon monoxide (CO), since a portion of San Diego County was previously a moderate CO nonattainment area. This former nonattainment area encompassed the western portion of the county. San Diego County has not violated the Federal standard since 1990; however, the state's 8-hour standard was violated once in downtown San Diego in 1990. San Diego County is also in nonattainment of state standards for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>). The attainment status of San Diego County with regard to both state and Federal standards is summarized in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1  
Air Quality Designations in the San Diego Air Basin**

| <b>Pollutant</b>                       | <b>Federal Designation</b>   | <b>State Designation</b> |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )                | Nonattainment (Serious)      | Nonattainment (Serious)  |
| Carbon Monoxide (CO)                   | Maintenance                  | Attainment               |
| Particulate matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) | Unclassified                 | Nonattainment            |
| Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )    | Attainment                   | Attainment               |
| Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )      | Attainment                   | Attainment               |
| Lead (Pb)                              | Attainment                   | Attainment               |
| Sulfates                               | <i>(No federal standard)</i> | Attainment               |
| Hydrogen Sulfide                       | <i>(No federal standard)</i> | Unclassified             |
| Visibility Reducing Particles          | <i>(No federal standard)</i> | Unclassified             |

Source: SDAPCD 1999

More detailed descriptions of the NAAQS/CAAQS programs monitoring systems, and the regions air quality are presented in the three NEPA documents identified previously in Section 1.0. These discussions are incorporated herein by reference.

## **3.8 Water Resources**

### **3.8.1 Surface Water**

The project corridor for the Border Infrastructure System (which includes 19 of the sites), and the RVS sites at Arnie's Point, Old Sector Headquarters Tower and IB Station are within the Tijuana River watershed and the Tijuana Valley Hydrologic Area of the Tijuana Hydrologic Unit (San Diego Basin Water Quality Control Plan 1994). The project sites are located in two sub-areas of the Tijuana Valley Hydrologic Area, the San Ysidro Hydrologic Sub-area (HSA) west of San Ysidro to the Pacific Ocean and the Water Tanks HSA east of San Ysidro. The Tecate Peak site is also located in the Tijuana Hydrologic Unit in the Tecate and Barrett areas (California Water Quality Control Board Region 9 San Diego [RWQCB9] 2002). The Otay Tower site is located at the divide of the Otay Hydrologic Unit and the Tijuana Hydrologic Unit (RWQCB9 2002). The Point Loma site is located in the Point Loma area of the Pueblo San Diego Hydrologic Unit. Several ephemeral streams and drainages traverse the area, but remain dry during the year except following storm events that can generate significant surface flow. The surface water resources were described in detail in the NEPA documents cited previously. This information is incorporated herein by reference.

### **3.8.2 Groundwater**

Groundwater in the lower Tijuana River valley occurs in three zones: (1) beneath the Nestor Terrace north of the valley, (2) in the alluvial soils underlying the Tijuana River valley, and (3) in the San Diego formation beneath the alluvium (Dudek & Associates, Inc 1994). The Tijuana River valley aquifer is recharged primarily by direct rainfall, subsurface inflow from adjacent areas, and intermittent flood flows. The aquifer system is a confined and unconfined alluvium aquifer consisting of interbedded lacustrine deposits of sand, gravel, silt, and clay. The groundwater resources were described in detail in the NEPA documents cited previously. This information is incorporated herein by reference.

The Tecate Peak and Otay Tower sites are located within the Campo/Cottonwood Creek aquifer. The aquifer was designated as a Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) by the EPA on 5 May 1993 under Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA defines a sole or principal source aquifer as "one which supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking

water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. These areas can have no alternative drinking water source(s) which could physically, legally, and economically supply all those who depend upon the aquifer for drinking water” (USEPA 2002).

### **3.8.3 Waters of the United States and Wetlands**

Waters of the U.S. and wetlands of the Border Infrastructure System were described in detail in the NEPA documents cited previously. This information is incorporated herein by reference. None of the 25 sites is located within or immediately adjacent to potential jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. and wetlands.

## **3.9 Socioeconomics**

The Region of Influence (ROI) for the proposed project is San Diego County, which is part of the San Diego Metropolitan Area. The majority of the project locations, 22 out of 25, lie within the South Bay sub-region as described by San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Tecate Peak, Otay Tower, and Point Loma towers are located in the Mountain Empire, Jamul, and Peninsula sub-regions, respectively. The area’s proximity to the U.S./Mexico border results in a marked impression on the demographic and economic characteristics. The population, employment, income and housing conditions of San Diego County, which encompasses all the sub-regions, were described in detail in the NEPA documents cited previously. This information is incorporated herein by reference.

### **3.9.1 Environmental Justice**

The fair treatment of all races has been assuming an increasingly prominent role in environmental legislation and implementation of environmental statutes. In February 1994, President Clinton signed EO 12898 titled, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*. This action requires all Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effect of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

Even though the ROI exhibits high minority populations the area itself is sparsely populated. The population within the area is not grouped into neighborhoods or

communities, only agricultural land holdings, industrial/commercial developments and public lands.

### **3.9.2 Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children**

Executive Order 13045 requires each Federal Agency “to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children; and “ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.” This Executive Order was prompted by the recognition that children, still undergoing physiological growth and development, are more sensitive to adverse environmental health and safety risks than adults. Due to the sparse population of the area, potential impacts to children are low.

### **3.10 Noise**

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound, which can be based either on objective effects (hearing loss, damage to structures, etc.) or subjective judgments (community annoyance). Sound is usually represented on a logarithmic scale with a unit called the decibel (dB). Sound on the decibel scale is referred to as a sound level. The threshold of human hearing is approximately 0 dB, and the threshold of discomfort or pain is around 120 dB.

Noise levels are computed over a 24-hour period and adjusted for nighttime annoyances to produce the day-night average sound level (DNL). DNL is the community noise metric recommended by the USEPA (USEPA 1972) and has been adopted by most Federal agencies (Federal Interagency Committee on Noise 1992).

### **3.11 Aesthetics**

Aesthetic resources consist of the natural and man-made landscape features that appear indigenous to the area and give a particular environment its visual characteristics. Aesthetic resources within and near the Border Infrastructure System footprint have already been degraded due to existing public and private development on both sides of the border.

### Tecate Peak

Aesthetics at Tecate Peak have been somewhat previously degraded due to existing communication towers. However, Tecate Peak provides an excellent view of Tecate, Mexico and the undisturbed areas around the site.

### Otay Tower

Aesthetics have been somewhat previously degraded at Otay Tower due to existing communication towers. However, the surrounding area is an undisturbed wilderness area. Expansive views toward the Pacific Ocean are provided at this site, as well as views of the surrounding wilderness area to the north, south and east.

### Arnie's Point

This site has previously degraded aesthetics due to the existing construction. However, the site provides an excellent view of Spring Canyon to the north and west.

### Old Sector Headquarters Tower

Aesthetics at this site have been degraded from previous development.

### IB Station

IB Station is located within the city limits of Imperial Beach. A communication tower is currently at the site. Aesthetics have been degraded by existing development and access to the site is restricted.

### Point Loma

This site is located on U.S. Navy lands. Communication towers already exist at the site. The aesthetics have been degraded by existing development and access to the site is restricted. Surrounding areas, however, offer expansive views of San Diego Harbor, the Pacific Ocean, and beaches to the north of Point Loma.

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***SECTION 4.0***  
***ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES***

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## **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

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### **4.1 Land Use**

#### **4.1.1 No Action Alternative**

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would not affect current land use in the project area.

#### **4.1.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would not affect current land use in the project area. Land use has already been changed from vacant, not graded land and open space reserves to the Border Infrastructure System and the six communication tower locations.

### **4.2 Soils and Prime Farmland**

#### **4.2.1 No Action Alternative**

The No Action Alternative would not allow the installation of the 25 RVS systems. Therefore, no direct impacts to soils would occur. However, the USBP would not be as effective in detecting and apprehending illegal entrants and foot traffic would continue at its current level and probably increase. The continuation of illegal traffic and consequent enforcement activities have the potential of adversely impacting soils in the project region.

#### **4.2.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

A total of 8,620 ft<sup>2</sup> [3 towers (50X50) + 20 poles (6X6) + 1 equipment shelter (20X20)] of soils would be impacted. The remaining two sites would not involve ground disturbances. All these soils have been disturbed previously by the past and on-going Border Infrastructure System construction and activities and the use as of the site communication towers. Thus, the impacts to soils by the Proposed Action Alternative would be minimal and insignificant.

## **4.3 Biological Resources**

### **4.3.1 Vegetation Communities**

#### **4.3.1.1 No Action Alternative**

The No Action Alternative would not allow the installation of the 25 RVS systems and the USBP would not be as effective in detecting and apprehending illegal entrants and foot traffic. Illegal activity along the borders would continue at its current level and probably increase. Therefore, illegal traffic would continue to adversely impact vegetation communities.

#### **4.3.1.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

Installation of the RVS towers would impact a maximum of 8,620 ft<sup>2</sup>. Very little, if any, vegetation would be damaged at the proposed locations, since vegetation is currently lacking due to past and on-going construction and activities associated with the Border Infrastructure System and the existing communication towers.

Due to the limited size of the area required for each system and the presence of similar habitat in the surrounding areas, impacts to vegetation communities would be insignificant. Once the RVS systems are installed, the operation and maintenance of the systems would have no effect on the vegetation within the project area.

### **4.3.2 Fish and Wildlife Resources**

#### **4.3.2.1 No Action Alternative**

Because of the urban development and past land uses that have occurred on both sides of the border, the project sites support limited wildlife populations. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no construction of RVS systems. As a result, the USBP would not be as effective in detecting and apprehending UDAs and illegal foot and vehicle traffic would continue at its current level and probably increase. This illegal traffic damages vegetation communities and thereby causes synergistic impacts to wildlife from the trampling of vegetation and wildfires.

#### **4.3.2.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

Due to the highly disturbed conditions within the footprint of the Border Infrastructure System and at the current communication tower locations, no habitat exists and,

therefore, only limited numbers of a few species of wildlife occur within the project areas. Consequently, no significant impacts to wildlife populations are anticipated. Some losses of individual specimens, particularly fossorial or sedentary species, might occur as a result of direct contact with construction equipment and vehicles.

Once the RVS towers are installed, the operation and maintenance of the systems would have no effect on the region's wildlife. No new overhead lines would be installed and no support (guyed) wires would be required.

#### **4.4 Unique or Sensitive Areas**

##### **4.4.1 No Action Alternative**

The No Action Alternative would not allow the installation of the 25 RVS systems. As a result the USBP would not be as effective in detecting and apprehending illegal entrants and foot traffic would continue at its current level and probably increase. This illegal traffic would continue to damage unique and sensitive areas by causing accidental wildfires, creating trails and discarding trash within these areas.

##### **4.4.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

MSCP lands surround the project sites along the Border Infrastructure System; however, RVS systems would not remove any lands designated for inclusion to the MSCP. These lands have already been disturbed and are in INS ownership, including the Arnie's Point site.

Although, Cabrillo National Monument surrounds the Point Loma site, the RVS system would be placed on an existing tower; therefore, no impacts to the sensitive resources would occur.

The Otay Tower site is located within the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area; however, the site is currently under lease from BLM by the USBP. Under the Proposed Action Alternative the three towers and buildings currently at this site would be reduced to one; therefore beneficial impacts would occur from this alternative.

## **4.5 Protected Species and Critical Habitat**

### **4.5.1 No Action Alternative**

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would not allow the construction of the RVS systems; therefore, no direct impacts to protected species would occur under this alternative. However, indirect impacts would occur from illegal traffic trampling vegetation and threatened and endangered plant species.

### **4.5.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

No direct adverse effects to threatened or endangered species would occur as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative. The 670 Hump, Tecate Peak, and Otay Tower sites are located within Quino checkerspot butterfly critical habitat. The 670 Hump site is located within the footprint of the Border Infrastructure System project corridor and has been previously disturbed by past and on-going construction and enforcement activities. Each of these sites are void of vegetation including the Quino checkerspot butterfly larvae host plant (*Plantago erecta*). No additional, suitable habitat would be removed by the installation of the RVS systems. Therefore, no impacts to Quino checkerspot butterfly or its critical habitat would occur.

Indirect benefits to the Quino checkerspot butterfly and its critical habitat would occur from the RVS installation and operation. With the more effective monitoring allowed by the RVS systems, there would be less UDA foot and vehicle traffic traversing through the Quino checkerspot butterfly critical habitat. In addition, USBP enforcement activities would be reduced and more confined to the border area.

## **4.6 Cultural Resources**

### **4.6.1 No Action Alternative**

No ground disturbing activities would occur if the No Action Alternative is implemented. Therefore, no direct effects to cultural resources would occur. Without the proposed RVS sites the USBP's effectiveness of stopping UDA traffic throughout the area would be reduced. UDA pedestrian and vehicle traffic through the area would continue and probably increase. This traffic has the potential to impact both known and unknown cultural resources in the area.

#### **4.6.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, 19 out of the 25 RVS sites would be located within the already disturbed portions of the Border Infrastructure System. No cultural resources were located during any of the surveys conducted for the proposed 25 RVS sites. As a result, no impacts to cultural resources area anticipated from implementation of the proposed alternative. Implementation of the proposed alternative would allow greater surveillance of the border and would decrease traffic of UDAs throughout the area. As a result, impacts from illegal pedestrian traffic to both known and unknown cultural resources would be reduced.

### **4.7 Air Quality**

#### **4.7.1 No Action Alternative**

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would cause no direct or indirect impacts to air quality. Without the RVS sites, however, additional patrol activities would be required, which could exacerbate fugitive dust emissions. The magnitude of these effects would depend upon several variables including number of vehicle trips, climatic conditions, and soil types.

#### **4.7.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

Construction activities would be limited to small, isolated locations during installation of the RVS equipment. The short duration of these activities (2 weeks each), the type of equipment used, and the good dispersion patterns of the region, indicate that air emissions would not be created that would adversely affect air quality. Maintenance vehicles driving to and from the RVS sites and the single backup propane generator located at Tecate Peak would be the only emission sources required by the operation and maintenance of the RVS towers. Maintenance is expected to be required no more than twice per year.

## **4.8 Water Resources**

### **4.8.1 Surface Water**

#### **4.8.1.1 No Action Alternative**

Since construction of RVS sites would not occur under this alternative, no effects to surface water would result.

#### **4.8.1.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

Short-term effects to surface water resources could occur during construction activities, primarily from erosion and sedimentation and the potential for accidental spills. Given the small area associated with the RVS sites, the distance from surface water channels, and the short duration required for construction, no significant effects from stormwater runoff would be expected.

Proper maintenance of construction equipment and best management practices during construction activities would minimize the possibility of accidental spills of fuels or lubricants that, if they occurred, could affect surface water quality. Operation and maintenance of the RVS systems would have no effect on the region's surface water.

### **4.8.2 Groundwater**

#### **4.8.2.1 No Action Alternative**

Since construction of RVS sites would not occur under this alternative, no effects to groundwater would result.

#### **4.8.2.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

No direct or indirect impacts to groundwater resources would be anticipated as a result of implementation of Proposed Action Alternative.

### **4.8.3 Waters of the U.S. and Wetlands**

#### **4.8.3.1 No Action Alternative**

The No Action Alternative would have no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, on either jurisdictional wetlands or Waters of the U.S.

#### **4.8.3.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

Installation of RVS systems would have no direct or indirect impacts, on Waters of the U.S., including wetlands. All RVS systems are located on high ground to provide more visibility of surrounding areas and thus are situated away from wetland areas.

### **4.9 Socioeconomics**

#### **4.9.1 No Action Alternative**

Socioeconomic resources would not be directly affected if the No Action Alternative were implemented. Indirect adverse effects would occur if illegal entrants were able to enter undetected. The current level of illegal immigration and drug trafficking through the area would continue, if not increase. The associated societal costs for this illegal activity would also increase. These societal costs include, but are not limited to, shoplifting, car theft, and breaking and entering with concomitant rise in insurance costs.

#### **4.9.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

The materials and labor required for the installation of the RVS systems would be obtained from sources outside the San Diego region. Therefore, no direct benefits would result from implementation of this alternative. The effectiveness of the USBP would be enhanced by the Proposed Action Alternative, thus adding to the reduction of illegal aliens and drug smugglers entering the region.

#### **4.9.3 Environmental Justice**

##### **4.9.3.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, the USBP's effectiveness would be reduced due to the decreased surveillance on the border, as opposed to the Proposed Action Alternative. The current level of illegal traffic in these areas would continued at their present levels and probably increase. As a result, indirect impacts resulting from the societal cost of such activities would rise for everyone within the project area including minority and low-income populations.

##### **4.9.3.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

The proposed action is in compliance with the intent of EO 12898 that addresses Environmental Justice. This order requires Federal agencies to identify and address

disproportionately high or adverse human health and environmental effects of Federal programs, policies, and activities on minority or low-income populations. Implementation of the proposed action would not displace any commercial or private structure or affect private lands; therefore, no effects regarding environmental justice would be incurred. As stated in Section 3.9.1, the locations of the proposed RVS sites are in remote areas where there is sparse population. The construction is limited and would not involve the use of large equipment. Furthermore, no displacement or adverse effects to neighborhood cohesion is anticipated to result from the implementation of the proposed action. The proposed action would provide a beneficial impact to all residents (regardless of income) due to the resulting increase in the USBP's ability to more effectively perform its duties. This would result in the reduction of illegal traffic and criminal activities within the project area.

#### **4.9.4 Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children**

##### **4.9.4.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, surveillance capabilities would not be enhanced since the RVS sites would not be installed. This alternative would further decrease the USBP efficiency in counter drug trafficking and illegal alien interdictions. As a result, the current level of illegal traffic and criminal activity within the area would remain the same, if not increase. This has the potential of creating an unsafe environment as opposed to the Proposed Action Alternative.

##### **4.9.4.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

The proposed action is in compliance with the intent of EO 13045 that addresses Protection of Children. Implementation of any of these alternatives would not result in disproportionately high or adverse environmental health or safety impacts to children. As stated in Section 3.9.2, the proposed locations of RVS towers are predominantly in remote areas away from residential areas where children will likely occur. Implementation of this alternative would result in a reduction of illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and other crimes within the area further making a safer environment for the children living there.

## **4.10 Noise**

### **4.10.1 No Action Alternative**

The No Action Alternative would not result in any increases or decreases in ambient noise levels. The current illegal foot traffic, and other illegal activity would continue and probably increase resulting in the need for additional patrols or aerial reconnaissance along the border, which would increase ambient noise levels.

### **4.10.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

The Proposed Action Alternative would result in construction noise during RVS system installation. Construction activities would increase noise levels temporarily at locations immediately adjacent to the RVS sites; however, there are no sensitive receptors within 0.5 miles of the sites. Noise levels created by construction equipment would vary greatly depending on factors such as the type of equipment, the specific model, the operation being performed, and the condition of the equipment. The equivalent sound level of the construction activity also depends on the fraction of time that the equipment is operated over the time period of the construction. Heavy equipment such as drill rigs and cement and dump trucks would cause temporary increases in noise levels during construction. RVS system installation generally requires less than one week.

The propane generator located at the Tecate Peak site would produce additional noise and raise the ambient noise levels slightly. However, since the propane generator would be used on an as-needed basis, the effects of noise would be minor, localized, and temporary.

## **4.11 Aesthetics**

### **4.11.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, further degradation of aesthetics would occur due to the trash left behind by undocumented aliens and increases in foot paths.

### **4.11.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no further degradation of aesthetics would occur due to the previously disturbed nature of the sites. The Otay Tower site would be

reduced from three towers and a building to one tower and an equipment shelter, thus improving aesthetics at the site.

#### **4.12 Operation and Maintenance Effects**

The RVS equipment would require very little maintenance activities. Any such activities would be mostly limited to technology-based maintenance, and therefore, would not have any significant adverse impacts to the natural or human environment. RVS systems transmit signals in line-of-sight between two given points. Unlike cellular and satellite systems, microwaves travel within a very narrow beam width and therefore would not be received by anything other than another RVS system. Frequencies by which RVS towers transmit signals are regulated and licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). All RVS systems would be in full compliance with FCC regulations and operate within frequencies assigned specifically to government agencies; therefore, local transmissions (i.e., television, radio, and cable) would not be affected by the transmission signals relayed between the RVS sites and the USBP control centers.

The cameras used by RVS systems are similar to those used in Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), stadiums, casinos, banks, and law enforcement agencies. No impacts to health or human safety would result from the proposed RVS systems. However, some indirect, beneficial impacts would occur as a result of the operation of the system. A reduction in illegal traffic would have synergistic socioeconomic benefits associated with insurance costs, property losses, law enforcement expenses, and other social costs (i.e., drug rehabilitation, medical expenses, and labor opportunities).

#### **4.13 Cumulative Impacts**

This section of the EA addresses the potential cumulative impacts associated with the implementation of the alternatives outlined in Chapter 2.0 and other projects/programs that are planned for the region. The following paragraphs present a general discussion regarding cumulative effects that would be expected, irrespective of the alternative selected.

The Council of Environmental Quality defines cumulative impacts as the incremental impact of multiple present and future actions with individually minor but collectively significant effects. Cumulative impact can be concisely defined as the total effect of multiple land uses and developments, including their interrelationships, on the environment.

#### **4.13.1 No Action Alternative**

INS is currently planning or has completed five projects in the region that may cause additional cumulative impacts to the environment. These are described in the following paragraphs.

The Jacumba Brush and Small Tree Thinning project is located near Jacumba, California. The proposed action involved hand-clearing brush within an 18-acre site along Boundary Creek. Approximately 16 acres of vegetation were cleared by hand. An EA was prepared and the proposed action was implemented in October 2001.

A Supplemental EA (SEA) for the construction of roads, portable lights, drainage structures, water wells, blasting, fencing and one scope site along the international border between Tecate and the Imperial County line in San Diego County, California is currently being prepared. The Supplemental EA will address the potential impacts of construction of new road segments (5.2 miles); the installation of 200-ft of bollard fencing, 15 blasting sites, two water wells, four drainage culverts and 30-50 portable lights within a 20-mile stretch along the U.S./Mexico international border. Assuming worst-case scenario the total acres permanently lost through road construction would be approximately 9.5 acres.

INS released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed construction of a Border Infrastructure System along the U.S./Mexico border within San Diego County. The EIS addresses the completion of the infrastructure system project within the remaining five miles of the 14-mile project. The Border Infrastructure System consists of several components including secondary and tertiary fences, patrol and maintenance roads, lights, and Integrated Surveillance and Intelligence System (ISIS) resources. Approximately nine miles of the 14-mile project have been completed or are currently under construction. These projects were addressed under separate

Environmental Assessments as pilot projects for the barrier system. When completed, the infrastructure system would impact approximately 300 acres, consisting of disturbed/developed lands, coastal sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub, coastal marshes, and grasslands.

A draft EA for the Tecate Truck Trail-Road Maintenance Project near Tecate, California was recently prepared. Approximately 1.1 miles of road with up to five turnouts would be constructed on the Puebla Tree Road. The Tecate Truck Trail would encompass approximately 9.6 miles of roadway and would involve up to 18 turnouts. The proposed construction activities would consist of grading road beds and filling with a compactable clean material, re-establishing ditch lines, cleaning culverts and silt catch basins. Approximately 26.3 acres consisting of existing gravel roads and previously disturbed areas, would be impacted.

In addition to the above-mentioned projects, there is a potential for other RVS sites to be installed in the next few years. Currently this number is estimated to be 110 sites for the San Diego Sector by the year 2011. A single RVS site is currently being planned at the I-8 checkpoint to facilitate monitoring of traffic and enhance UDA surveillance. Assuming a worst-case scenario the total area impacted for all these RVS sites would be approximately six acres.

#### **4.13.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

The proposed RVS system sites are nearly void of vegetation; thus the Proposed Action Alternative would not have significant cumulative impacts to either vegetation or wildlife. In fact, indirect beneficial effects to wildlife and vegetation within the area could occur due to the reduced numbers of USBP agents needed to monitor the same area and the reduction of illegal foot and vehicle traffic. Furthermore, 8,620 ft<sup>2</sup> is considered the worst-case scenario and most of the disturbance would occur within areas that are already heavily disturbed by on-going or past activities and development.

The proposed and on going actions described under the No Action Alternative would occur with or without implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative. Therefore, installation/operation of the 25 RVS systems would not have a significant cumulative effect on the natural or human environment.

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***SECTION 5.0***  
***ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN MEASURES***

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## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN MEASURES**

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This chapter describes environmental design measures that would be implemented as part of the Proposed Action to reduce or eliminate impacts from tower installation. Due to the limited nature of the Proposed Action, construction impacts are expected to be slight; therefore, mitigation measures are only described for those resources with potential for impacts.

### **5.1 Water Resources**

Standard construction procedures would be implemented to minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation during construction. All work would cease during heavy rains and would not resume until conditions are suitable for the movement of equipment and material. As a result of the tower installation techniques, significant impacts on soils in the proposed construction area would not be expected. Additionally, mitigation measures, such as a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, for stormwater runoff from construction activities would not be required for this project since the total area of disturbance is less than five acres.

### **5.2 Air Quality**

All construction equipment and vehicles would be required to be kept in good operating condition to minimize exhaust emissions. Standard construction practices would be used to control fugitive dust during the construction phases of the Proposed Action Alternative.

### **5.3 Biological Resources**

Mitigation measures would include Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction to minimize or prevent erosion and soil loss. RVS system sites have been selected to avoid all sensitive areas and resources.

## **5.4 Noise**

During the construction phase, noise impacts are anticipated at local human receptors. As required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), earplugs would be worn by employees working in environments with continuous noise levels of 8 hours per day above 90 dBA. Because of the increased noise sensitivity during quiet hours, time limits on on-site construction activities are warranted for use of heavy equipment. On-site activities should be restricted to daylight hours on Monday through Saturday, except in emergency situations. Additionally, all construction equipment would possess properly working mufflers and be kept in a proper state of tune to reduce backfires. Implementation of these measures would reduce the noise impact to an insignificant level.

## **5.5 Cultural Resources**

If additional cultural resources are discovered during construction, the California SHPO would be immediately notified and construction should be halted in the area.

The revised 36 CFR Part 800 has been broadened to emphasize more strongly the roles of tribes as consulting parties. According to Sec. 800.2(c)(3) of the revised regulations, Federal agencies are required to consult not only with the SHPO and/or the THPO, but also with relevant tribes that might claim cultural affinity in the area of the undertaking. Such consultation would take place on all Federal undertakings subject to Section 106 review, regardless of whether or not the undertaking is on tribal lands. Such consultation would take place at all levels of the Section 106 and NEPA compliance process with the tribal entities outlined in Section 3.6.4.

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***SECTION 6.0***  
***PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT***

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## **6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

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### **6.1 Agency Coordination**

This chapter discusses consultation and coordination that has and will occurred during preparation of the draft and final versions of this document. Formal and/or informal coordination has been conducted with the following agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)
- Native American Nations
- National Park Service (NPS)
- U.S. Navy
- California Resources Agency
- California Department of Parks and Recreation

### **6.2 Public Review**

The Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in local newspapers and the Draft EA was made available for public review for a period of 30 days. Proof of publication of the NOA for the Draft EA is included at the end of this section. No comments were received during the public review period. All correspondence sent or received during the preparation of this EA is included as Appendix C.

# Affidavit of Publication

GULF SOUTH RESEARCH CORP  
P.O. BOX 83564  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70884-3564  
ATTN: DONNA BANKSTON

## Affidavit of Publication of

Legal Classified Advertisement  
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Ordered by: DONNA BANKSTON

STATE OF CALIFORNIA} ss.  
County of San Diego}

The Undersigned, declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California: That....She is a resident of the County of San Diego. THAT....She is and at all times herein mentioned was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, and that .....She is not a party to, nor interested in the above entitled matter; that ....She is..... Chief Clerk for the publisher of .....

### The San Diego Union-Tribune

a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and which newspaper is published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character, and which newspaper at all the times herein mentioned had and still has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and which newspaper has been, established, printed and published at regular intervals in the said City of San Diego, County of San Diego, for a period exceeding one year next preceding the date of publication of the notice hereinafter referred to, and which newspaper is not devoted to nor published for the interests, entertainment or instruction of a particular class, profession, trade, calling, race, or denomination, or any number of same; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following date, to-wit: AUGUST 21, 2002

*Gwendolyn Watson*  
Chief Clerk for the Publisher

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

The public is invited to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Immigration and Naturalization Service's proposed installation, operation, and maintenance of 25 Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems within the San Diego Sector, California. The Draft EA will be available at the Chula Vista Library - 365 F Street Chula Vista, CA 91910, (619) 491-2000 and the San Diego Public Library - Central Location - 820 E St., San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 534-5000. It is also available for review and downloading from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District's Internet web page at the following url address:  
[www.usf.army.mil/ins/Pages/PublicReview.cfm](http://www.usf.army.mil/ins/Pages/PublicReview.cfm)

Send written comments to Mr. Charles McGregor, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Resources Branch, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 or call Mr. McGregor at (817) 885-1705. Written comments will be received until September 20, 2002.

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***SECTION 7.0***  
***REFERENCES***

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## 7.0 REFERENCES

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***SECTION 8.0***  
***LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS***

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## 8.0 LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

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|                 |                                                             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| ac              | acre                                                        |
| ACHP            | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation                   |
| AHPA            | Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act              |
| APE             | Area of Potential Effect                                    |
| ATM             | Automatic Teller Machines                                   |
| BIA             | Bureau of Indian Affairs                                    |
| BLM             | Bureau of Land Management                                   |
| BMPs            | Best Management Practices                                   |
| CAAQS           | California Ambient Air Quality Standards                    |
| CDFG            | California Department of Fish and Game                      |
| CEQ             | Council on Environmental Quality                            |
| CO              | carbon monoxide                                             |
| dB              | decibel                                                     |
| DNL             | day-night average sound level                               |
| E.O.            | Executive Order                                             |
| EA              | Environmental Assessment                                    |
| EIS             | Environmental Impact Statement                              |
| ESA             | Endangered Species Act                                      |
| FCC             | Federal Communications Commission                           |
| ft <sup>2</sup> | Square feet                                                 |
| HSA             | Hydrologic sub-area                                         |
| IB              | Imperial Beach                                              |
| IIRIRA          | Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act |
| INA             | Immigrant Nationality Act                                   |
| INS             | Immigration and Naturalization Service                      |
| ISIS            | Integrated Surveillance and Intelligence System             |
| JTF-6           | Joint Task Force - Six                                      |
| MSCP            | Multiple Species Conservation Program                       |
| NAAQS           | National Ambient Air Quality Standards                      |
| NEPA            | National Environmental Policy Act                           |
| NHPA            | National Historical Preservation Act                        |
| NO <sup>2</sup> | Nitrogen dioxide                                            |
| NOA             | Notice of Availability                                      |
| NPS             | National Park Service                                       |
| NRCS            | Natural Resource Conservation Service                       |
| O <sub>3</sub>  | Ozone                                                       |
| OSHA            | Occupation Safety and Health Administration                 |
| Pb              | lead                                                        |
| PM              | particulate matter                                          |
| ROI             | Region of Influence                                         |
| RVS             | Remote Video Surveillance                                   |
| RWQCB9          | Regional Water Quality Control Board Nine                   |
| SDAPCD          | San Diego Area Pollution Control Division                   |
| SEA             | Supplemental Environmental Assessment                       |
| SHPO            | State Historic Preservation Office                          |
| SO <sub>2</sub> | Sulfur Dioxide                                              |
| SSA             | sole source aquifer                                         |
| THPO            | Tribal Historic Preservation Officer                        |

|       |                                               |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| UDAs  | undocumented aliens                           |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                |
| USACE | United States Army Corps of Engineers         |
| USBP  | United States Border Patrol                   |
| USDA  | United States Department of Agriculture       |
| USEPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| USFS  | United States Forest Service                  |

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***SECTION 9.0***  
***LIST OF PREPARERS***

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## 9.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following people were primarily responsible for preparing this Environmental Assessment.

| NAME                 | ORGANIZATION                    | DISCIPLINE/<br>EXPERTISE           | EXPERIENCE                                                    | ROLE IN PREPARING EA                                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Charles McGregor     | USACE, Ft. Worth District       | Chemistry                          | 5 years technical review of NEPA documents                    | Technical manager, EA review and coordination          |
| Patience Patterson   | USACE, Ft. Worth District       | Archaeology                        | 25 years Professional Archaeologist/Cultural Resource Manager | Cultural resources manager, EA review and coordination |
| Chris Ingram         | Gulf South Research Corporation | Biology/Ecology                    | 22 years NEPA and related studies                             | EA preparation, field surveys and EA review            |
| Suna Knaus           | Gulf South Research Corporation | Forestry and Wildlife              | 14 years NEPA and related studies                             | EA review                                              |
| Sharon Newman        | Gulf South Research Corporation | GIS/Graphics                       | 7 years GIS analysis                                          | Graphics and GIS                                       |
| John Lindemuth       | Gulf South Research Corporation | Anthropology/Project Archaeologist | 8 years archaeological studies                                | Cultural resources and Socioeconomics                  |
| Donna Marie Bankston | Gulf South Research Corporation | Forest Management                  | 1 year NEPA and related studies                               | Agency coordination, field Surveys and EA preparation  |
| Kate Koske Roussel   | Gulf South Research Corporation | Forestry/Wildlife                  | 2 years in NEPA and related studies                           | Field surveys                                          |
| David Alford         | Gulf South Research Corporation | GIS                                | 2 years GIS experience                                        | GIS                                                    |

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***APPENDIX A  
FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORMS***

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United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
332 S. Juniper Street, Suite 110  
Escondido CA 92025  
760.745.2081 / 760.745.3210 fax

Donna Marie Bankston  
Gulf South Research Corporation  
7602 GSRI Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

June 26, 2002

Dear Ms. Bankston:

RE: Chula Vista RVS

Thank you for your request of June 26, 2002 for a Farmland Conversion Rating for the above project.

The area within the proposed facility does not contain Prime, Unique or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.

Enclosed is the completed AD-1006 form as requested. If we can be of further assistance please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason N. Jackson".

JASON N. JACKSON  
District Conservationist

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

# FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| <b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                         | 1. Date of Land Evaluation Request<br>June 25, 2002                  | 2. Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>                                                                      |         |           |
| 3. Name of Project<br>Chula Vista Remote Video Surveillance Systems                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         | 4. Federal Agency Involved<br>Immigration and Naturalization Service |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| 5. Proposed Land Use<br>Remote Video Surveillance Systems                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                         | 6. County and State<br>San Diego, California                         | 7. Type of Project:<br>Corridor <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |         |           |
| <b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                         | 1. Date Request Received by NRCS<br><u>6/26/02</u>                   | 2. Person Completing the NRCS parts of this form<br><u>JASON N. JACKSON</u>                        |         |           |
| 3. Does the site of corridor contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>(If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form) |                                                         | 4. Acres Irrigated                                                   | 5. Average Farm Size                                                                               |         |           |
| 3. Major Crop(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction<br>Acres: % | 8. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA<br>Acres: %                 |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| 9. Name of Land Evaluation System Used                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 10. Name of Local Site Assessment System                | 11. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS<br><u>6/26/02</u>          |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| <b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         | <b>Alternative Site Rating</b>                                       |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| 1. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                         | Site A                                                               | Site B                                                                                             | Site C  | Site D    |
| 1. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                         | 0.02066                                                              | 0.02066                                                                                            | 0.02984 | 0.0005739 |
| 2. Total Acres in Site                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                         | 0.02066                                                              | 0.02066                                                                                            | 0.02984 | 0.0005739 |
| <b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| 1. Total Acres Prime and Unique Farmland                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| 2. Total Acres Statewide and Local Important Farmland                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| 3. Percentage of Farmland in County or Local Govt. Unit to be Converted                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| 4. Percentage of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction with Same or Higher Relative Value                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| <b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| <b>Relative Value of Farmland to be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>                                                                                                                                                            |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| <b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor or Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 659.9(b &amp; c))</b>                                                                                                   |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                         | Max. Points                                                          | Corridor                                                                                           | Other   |           |
| 1. Area in Nonurban Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                         | 15                                                                   | 15                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                         | 10                                                                   | 10                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 3. Percent of Site Being Farmed                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                         | 20                                                                   | 20                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 4. Protection Provided by State and Local Government                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                         | 20                                                                   | 20                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 5. Distance from Urban Built-up area                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                         | 0                                                                    | 15                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 6. Distance to Urban Support Services                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                         | 0                                                                    | 15                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 7. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared to Average                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                         | 10                                                                   | 10                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 8. Creation of Non-Farmable Farmland                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                         | 25                                                                   | 10                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 9. Availability of Farm Support Services                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                         | 5                                                                    | 5                                                                                                  |         |           |
| 10. On-Farm Investments                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                         | 20                                                                   | 20                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 11. Effects of Conversion on Farm Support Services                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                         | 25                                                                   | 10                                                                                                 |         |           |
| 12. Compatibility with Existing Agricultural Use                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                         | 10                                                                   | 10                                                                                                 |         |           |
| <b>TOTAL CORRIDOR OR SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                         | 160                                                                  |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| <b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| Relative Value of Farmland (from Part V above)                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         | 100                                                                  |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| Total Corridor or Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                         | 160                                                                  |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                         | 260                                                                  |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| <b>PART VIII (To be completed by Federal Agency after final alternative is chosen)</b>                                                                                                                                                             |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |
| Corridor or Site Selected:                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                         | 2. Date of Selection:                                                | 3. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?<br>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>   |         |           |
| Reason For Selection:                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                    |         |           |

Signature of person completing the Federal Agency parts of this form: Jason N. Jackson DATE 6/26/02

Consist substitute form AD-1006 6-9-97 Completion instructions: <http://www.wlnrcs.usda.gov/soil/prime/prinotes.html>

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***APPENDIX B***  
***SITE PHOTOGRAPHS***

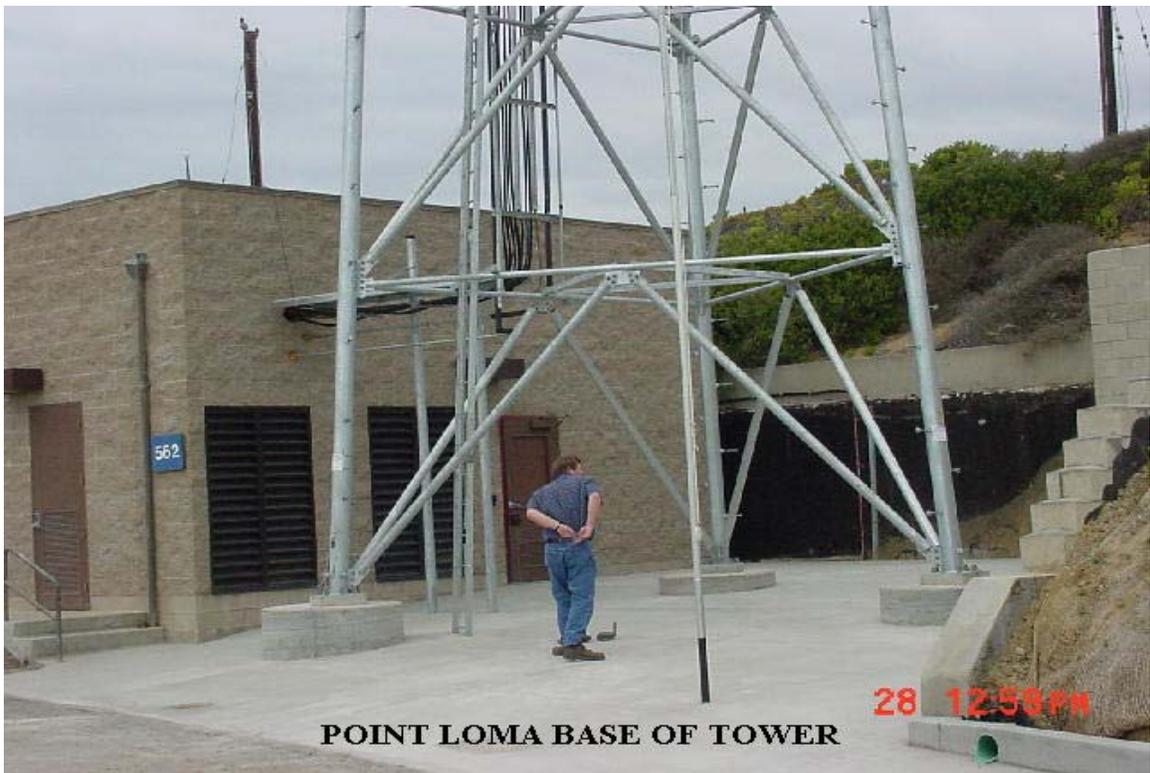
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Photograph 1: Cement pad at Tecate Peak site



POINT LOMA BASE OF TOWER  
Photograph 2: Tower at Point Loma site



Photograph 3: One of three existing towers and buildings at the Otay Tower site



Photograph 4: IB Station site. Tower to be replaced with monopole.



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***APPENDIX C***  
***CORRESPONDENCE***

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

January 22, 2002

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems

Mr. Jim Bartel  
Field Supervisor  
United States Fish and Wildlife Services  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Dear Mr. Bartel,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, is acting for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the installation, operation and maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems for the Chula Vista Station, San Diego Sector of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), U.S. Border Patrol (USBP). This EA will be prepared to address the installation, operation, and maintenance of 12 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border.

We are currently in the process of gathering the most current information available regarding Federally listed species potentially occurring within San Diego County. The USACE respectfully requests that your agency provide a list of the protected species of this county along with a description of the sensitive resources (e.g., rare or unique plant communities, threatened and endangered and candidate species, etc.) that you believe may be affected by the proposed INS activities. Any information you may have regarding proposed species, potential or known presence, critical habitat, general habitat descriptions, distribution, and status of these species would also be greatly appreciated. To better assess potential impacts to these species, we would like to present as much data in a GIS format as possible. Any GIS information, or information sources, you could provide regarding current distribution of protected species would also be appreciated. Additionally, any past Biological Opinions prepared by the USFWS for these species would be very helpful.

We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA once it is completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed and/or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EA. Your prompt attention to

this request would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Charles McGregor at (817) 886-1708.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Hutton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

*for* William Fickel, Jr  
Planning, Environmental and  
Regulatory Division



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300  
January 22, 2002

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems

Mr. William E. Tippetts  
California Department of Fish and Game  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, California 92123

Dear Mr. Tippetts,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, is acting for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the installation, operation and maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems for the Chula Vista Station, San Diego Sector of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), U.S. Border Patrol (USBP). This EA will be prepared to address the installation, operation, and maintenance of 12 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border.

We are currently in the process of gathering the most current information available regarding state listed species potentially occurring within San Diego County. The USACE respectfully requests that your agency provide a list of the protected species of this county along with a description of the sensitive resources (e.g., rare or unique plant communities, threatened and endangered and candidate species, etc.) that you believe may be affected by the proposed INS activities. Any information you may have regarding proposed species, potential or known presence, critical habitat, general habitat descriptions, distribution, and status of these species would also be greatly appreciated. To better assess potential impacts to these species, we would like to present as much data in a GIS format as possible. Any GIS information, or information sources, you could provide regarding current distribution of protected species would also be appreciated.

We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA once it is completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed and/or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EA. Your prompt attention to

this request would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Charles McGregor at (817) 886-1708.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul W. Hutton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.Handwritten initials "fw" in black ink, positioned to the left of the typed name.

William Fickel, Jr  
Planning, Environmental and  
Regulatory Division



United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, California 92008



In Reply Refer to:  
FWS-SDG-2427.2

William Fickel, Jr.  
Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division  
Department of the Army  
Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers  
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A28  
P.O. Box 17300  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

FEB 1 2 2002

Re: Species List for Proposed Environmental Assessment for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance systems for the Chula Vista Station.

Dear Mr. Fickel:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information provided in your letter dated January 22, 2002, to assess the potential presence of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species at the proposed project site. We do not have site specific information for your project area. However, to assist you in evaluating whether or not the proposed project may affect listed species, we are providing a portion of the species list we supplied to you for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Installation and Operation of RVS in San Diego and Imperial Counties, dated November 20, 2001 (FWS-SDG-2427.1). Please refer to that list for more detailed information. In addition, please note that the flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), a candidate species, should be added to the FWS-SDG-2427.1 list.

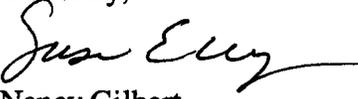
We recommend that you seek assistance from a biologist familiar with your project site, and with the listed species to assess the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative effects likely to result from the proposed activity. You should also contact the California Department of Fish and Game for State-listed and sensitive species that may occur in the area of the proposed project. Please note that State-listed species are protected under the provisions of the California Endangered Species Act.

If it is determined that the proposed project may affect a listed, proposed species, or the designation of any critical habitat you should initiate consultation (or conference for proposed

species) with the Service pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to listed species prior to a written request for formal consultation.

Should you have any questions regarding the species listed or your responsibilities under the Act, please call Bill Ostheimer of my staff at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

  
FOR Nancy Gilbert  
Assistant Field Supervisor

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 1, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
ATTN: Jim Bartel, Field Supervisor  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Dear Mr. Bartel,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, is acting for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the installation, operation and maintenance of twenty-five Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems for the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station, San Diego Sector along the U.S./Mexico border. A previous letter submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife on January 25, 2002 discussed the installation, operation and maintenance of twelve RVS systems within San Diego County. Since that time INS has seen the need to increase the number of RVS systems to be installed in San Diego County.

We are currently in the process of gathering the most current information available regarding Federally listed species potentially occurring within San Diego County. The USACE respectfully requests that your agency provide a list of the protected species of this county along with a description of the sensitive resources (e.g., rare or unique plant communities, threatened and endangered and candidate species, etc.) that you believe may be affected by the proposed INS activities. Any information you may have regarding proposed species, potential or known presence, critical habitat, general habitat descriptions, distribution, and status of these species would also be greatly appreciated. To better assess potential impacts to these species, we would like to present as much data in a GIS format as possible. Any GIS information, or information sources, you could provide regarding current distribution of protected species would also be appreciated. Additionally, any past Biological Opinions prepared by the USFWS for these species would be very helpful.

We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA once it is completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed and/or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EA. Your prompt attention to this request would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Charles McGregor at (817) 886-1708.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Fickel, Jr.", written over a printed name.

William Fickel, Jr  
Chief, Planning, Environmental and  
Regulatory Division





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 1, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems

California Department of Fish and Game  
Attn: William E. Tippetts  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, California 92123

Dear Mr. Tippetts,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, is acting for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the installation, operation and maintenance of twenty-five Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) systems for the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station, San Diego Sector along the U.S./Mexico border. A previous letter submitted to the California Department of Fish and Game on January 25, 2002 discussed the installation, operation and maintenance of twelve RVS systems within San Diego County. Since that time INS has seen the need to increase the number of RVS systems to be installed in San Diego County.

We are currently in the process of gathering the most current information available regarding state listed species potentially occurring within San Diego County. The USACE respectfully requests that your agency provide a list of the protected species of this county along with a description of the sensitive resources (e.g., rare or unique plant communities, threatened and endangered and candidate species, etc.) that you believe may be affected by the proposed INS activities. Any information you may have regarding proposed species, potential or known presence, critical habitat, general habitat descriptions, distribution, and status of these species would also be greatly appreciated. To better assess potential impacts to these species, we would like to present as much data in a GIS format as possible. Any GIS information, or information sources, you could provide regarding current distribution of protected species would also be appreciated.

We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA once it is completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed and/or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EA. Your prompt attention to this request would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Charles McGregor at (817) 886-1708.

Sincerely,

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William Fickel, Jr  
Chief, Planning, Environmental and  
Regulatory Division





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 9, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (REVISED) - COE020213A**

Dr. Knox Mellon  
California State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
ATTN: Ms. Anmarie Medin  
1416 9<sup>TH</sup> Street, Room 1442-7  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Mellon,

In a letter dated February 5<sup>th</sup>, we initiated coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

The proposed action consists of installing, operating, and maintaining 25 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border (see enclosed maps). These RVS systems will be located within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Chula Vista Station's Area of Operation (AO). The USBP Chula Vista Station is located within the USBP San Diego Sector, San Diego, California. Attached is a project description for the presently proposed project. Please note that Number 6 on this list has already been omitted from the project.

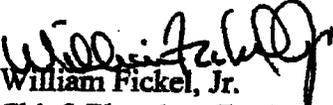
Archaeological surveys on the four sites, Tecate Peak, Otay Mountain (Doghouse Junction) and Point Loma will be conducted later on this month. You will receive the results of those surveys once they have been completed, as you requested in your return letter of March 13, 2002.

Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for your concurrence based on that outcome. Also, in your letter of March 13<sup>th</sup>, you requested additional information on our efforts to involve Native American groups and individuals. Attached is the distribution list of tribes that we have

been in contact with. They will also receive this updated version of the project and we will continue our coordination with them. To date, no response has been forthcoming from any of the groups notified.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

  
William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (REVISED)**

Honorable Anthony Pico, Chairman  
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
P.O. Box 908  
Alpine, CA 91903

Dear Chairman Pico:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

The proposed action consists of installing, operating, and maintaining 25 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border (see enclosed maps). These RVS systems will be located within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Chula Vista Station's Area of Operation (AO). The USBP Chula Vista Station is located within the USBP San Diego Sector, San Diego, California. Attached is a project description for the presently proposed project. Please note that Number 6 on this list has already been omitted from the project.

Archaeological surveys on the four sites, Tecate Peak, Otay Mountain (Doghouse Junction) and Point Loma will be conducted later on this month. You will receive the results of those surveys once they have been completed. You will also receive a copy of the draft EA for your review and comment.

Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for the SHPO's concurrence based on that outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul M. Fickel, Jr.", written in dark ink.

*W* William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (REVISED)**

Honorable Clifford M. LaChappa, Chairman  
Barona Band of Mission Indians  
1095 Barona Road  
Lakeside, CA 92040

Dear Chairman LaChappa:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

The proposed action consists of installing, operating, and maintaining 25 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border (see enclosed maps). These RVS systems will be located within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Chula Vista Station's Area of Operation (AO). The USBP Chula Vista Station is located within the USBP San Diego Sector, San Diego, California. Attached is a project description for the presently proposed project. Please note that Number 6 on this list has already been omitted from the project.

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Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for the SHPO's concurrence based on that outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

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William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (REVISED)**

Honorable Ralph Goff, Chairman  
Campo Band of Mission Indians  
36190 Church Road, Suite 1  
Campo, CA 91906

Dear Chairman Goff:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

The proposed action consists of installing, operating, and maintaining 25 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border (see enclosed maps). These RVS systems will be located within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Chula Vista Station's Area of Operation (AO). The USBP Chula Vista Station is located within the USBP San Diego Sector, San Diego, California. Attached is a project description for the presently proposed project. Please note that Number 6 on this list has already been omitted from the project.

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Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for the SHPO's concurrence based on that outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

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William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (*REVISED*)**

Honorable Tony Pinto, Chairman  
Ewiiapaayp Band of Mission Indians  
P.O. Box 2250  
Alpine, CA 91903

Dear Chairman Pinto:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

The proposed action consists of installing, operating, and maintaining 25 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border (see enclosed maps). These RVS systems will be located within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Chula Vista Station's Area of Operation (AO). The USBP Chula Vista Station is located within the USBP San Diego Sector, San Diego, California. Attached is a project description for the presently proposed project. Please note that Number 6 on this list has already been omitted from the project.

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Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for the SHPO's concurrence based on that outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

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William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (*REVISED*)**

Honorable Rebecca Maxcy, Chairwoman  
Inaja Band of Mission Indians  
P.O. Box 186  
Santa Ysabel, CA 92070

Dear Chairwoman Maxcy:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

The proposed action consists of installing, operating, and maintaining 25 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border (see enclosed maps). These RVS systems will be located within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Chula Vista Station's Area of Operation (AO). The USBP Chula Vista Station is located within the USBP San Diego Sector, San Diego, California. Attached is a project description for the presently proposed project. Please note that Number 6 on this list has already been omitted from the project.

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Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for the SHPO's concurrence based on that outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

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*W* William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (*REVISED*)**

Honorable Kenny Meza, Chairman  
Jamul Indian Village  
P.O. Box 612  
Jamul, CA 91935

Dear Chairman Meza:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

The proposed action consists of installing, operating, and maintaining 25 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border (see enclosed maps). These RVS systems will be located within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Chula Vista Station's Area of Operation (AO). The USBP Chula Vista Station is located within the USBP San Diego Sector, San Diego, California. Attached is a project description for the presently proposed project. Please note that Number 6 on this list has already been omitted from the project.

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Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for the SHPO's concurrence based on that outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

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William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (REVISED)**

Honorable Gwendolyn Parada, Chairwoman  
La Posta Band of Mission Indians  
P.O. Box 1048  
Boulevard, CA 91905

Dear Chairwoman Parada:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

The proposed action consists of installing, operating, and maintaining 25 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border (see enclosed maps). These RVS systems will be located within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Chula Vista Station's Area of Operation (AO). The USBP Chula Vista Station is located within the USBP San Diego Sector, San Diego, California. Attached is a project description for the presently proposed project. Please note that Number 6 on this list has already been omitted from the project.

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Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for the SHPO's concurrence based on that outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

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William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (REVISED)**

Honorable Leroy Elliott, Chairman  
Manzanita Band of Mission Indians  
P.O. Box 1302  
Boulevard, CA 91905

Dear Chairman Elliott:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

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Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for the SHPO's concurrence based on that outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

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William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (*REVISED*)**

Honorable Howard Maxcy, Chairman  
Mesa Grande Band of Missions Indians  
P.O. Box 270  
Santa Ysabel, CA 92070

Dear Chairman Maxcy:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

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Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

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*f* William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (*REVISED*)**

Honorable Allen E. Lawson, Spokesman  
San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians  
P.O. Box 365  
Valley Center, CA 92082

Dear Spokesman Lawson:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

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Sincerely,

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William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
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April 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) Systems in the San Diego Sector: For the U.S. Border Patrol Chula Vista Station San Diego, California (*REVISED*)**

Honorable Ben Scerato, Chairman  
Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueño Indians  
P.O. Box 130  
Santa Ysabel, CA 92070

Dear Chairman Scerato:

In a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, we continued our coordination on the above-mentioned project. We also noted that the Fort Worth District was preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the RVS systems. The project, as proposed, has now changed and the following denotes the current project parameters.

The proposed action consists of installing, operating, and maintaining 25 RVS systems along the U.S./Mexican border (see enclosed maps). These RVS systems will be located within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Chula Vista Station's Area of Operation (AO). The USBP Chula Vista Station is located within the USBP San Diego Sector, San Diego, California. Attached is a project description for the presently proposed project. Please note that Number 6 on this list has already been omitted from the project.

Archaeological surveys on the four sites, Tecate Peak, Otay Mountain (Doghouse Junction) and Point Loma will be conducted later on this month. You will receive the results of those surveys once they have been completed. You will also receive a copy of the draft EA for your review and comment.

Once we have received all of the pertinent information concerning the outcome of the surveys we will again ask for the SHPO's concurrence based on that outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul M. H. Fickel, Jr.", written in dark ink.

William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures