

APPENDIX VR-BCD-1  
SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT: VISUAL RESOURCES – SUMMARY OF KEY VIEWPOINT ANALYSES

METHODOLOGIES:

<b>BLM</b>	<b>BLM LANDS: VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM)</b>	<b>USFS</b>	<b>FOREST SERVICE LANDS: SCENERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS)</b>	<b>CPUC</b>	<b>NON-BLM/USFS LANDS: VISUAL SENSITIVITY-VISUAL CHANGE (VS-VC)</b>
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BCD ALTERNATIVE										
VIEWPOINT		BLM - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING					BLM - VISUAL CONTRAST ANALYSIS		IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	
Key Viewpoint (KVP)	Description	Scenic Quality Classification	Viewer Sensitivity	VRM Class			Level of Change <small>(See Appendix VR-3 Contrast Rating Worksheets)</small>	VRM Consistency	Before Mitigation	Mitigation
				Status	Rating	Management Objective			After Mitigation	
KVP 60 McCain Valley Road at Sacatone Overlook Road  Figures E.2.3-1A / 1B	View to the north toward the convergence of the BCD Alternative on McCain Valley Road, from the intersection of McCain Valley Road and Sacatone Overlook Road.	<b>Not Available</b>  <small>(Wherever "Not Available" is indicated in a specific BLM-VRM data field of this table, the VRM classification was originally determined by the BLM and the Scenic Quality classification was either not documented or is otherwise not available.)</small>	High	Existing RMP	II	To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	<b>Moderate to High</b> This portion of the alternative would be built in an area that does not presently contain structures of similar scale and character. The new structures and conductors would be prominently visible from McCain Valley Road and other 4WD roads in the area including Sacatone Overlook Road. The resulting structural visual contrast (for form and line) would range from moderate-to-strong to strong.	<b>Not Consistent</b> The moderate to high level of change would not meet the VRM Class II objective of a low degree of visual change. The new line with its complex structural forms and vertical to diagonal lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (rolling to angular landforms and irregular lines). Also, the structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, accentuated by the skylining that would occur.	BEFORE: <b>Significant (Class I)</b>  AFTER: <b>Same</b>	<b>Measure V-3a</b> <small>(Project Design)</small>
KVP 61 Carrizo Overlook  Figures E.2.3-2A / 2B	View to the southwest across McCain Valley toward Tecate Divide, from Carrizo Overlook.	<b>Not Available</b>	High	Existing RMP	II	To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	<b>Moderate</b> This portion of the alternative would be built in an area that does not presently contain structures of similar scale and character though there is a solitary communication tower in the vicinity and the existing wind turbines on Tecate Divide are faintly visible in the distance. The new structures and conductors would be prominently visible from Carrizo Overlook and McCain Valley Road. At this viewing distance, the resulting structural visual contrast (for form and line) would be moderate.	<b>Not Consistent</b> The moderate level of change would not meet the VRM Class II objective of a low degree of visual change. The new line with its complex structural forms and vertical to diagonal lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (rolling to level landforms and horizontal to irregular lines). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent features in the landscape, accentuated by the skylining that would occur.	BEFORE: <b>Significant (Class I)</b>  AFTER: <b>Same</b>	<b>Measure V-3a</b> <small>(Project Design)</small>
KVP 62 McCain Valley North  Figures E.2.3-3A / 3B	View to the southwest across the northern end of McCain Valley, from McCain Valley Road, approximately 1.5 miles south of Cottonwood Campground.	<b>Not Available</b>	High	Existing RMP	II	To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	<b>Moderate to High</b> This portion of the alternative would be built in an area that does not presently contain structures of similar scale and character though there is a solitary communication tower in the vicinity and the existing wind turbines on Tecate Divide are faintly visible in the distance. The new structures and conductors would be prominently visible from McCain Valley Road south of Cottonwood Campground (though not from the Campground). The resulting structural visual contrast (for form and line) would be moderate-to-strong.	<b>Not Consistent</b> The moderate-to-strong level of change would not meet the VRM Class II objective of a low degree of visual change. The new line with its complex structural forms and vertical to diagonal lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (rolling to level landforms and horizontal to irregular lines). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent features in the landscape, accentuated by the skylining that would occur.	BEFORE: <b>Significant (Class I)</b>  AFTER: <b>Same</b>	<b>Measure V-3a</b> <small>(Project Design)</small>

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### METHODOLOGIES:

<b>BLM</b>	BLM LANDS: VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM)	<b>USFS</b>	FOREST SERVICE LANDS: SCENERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS)	<b>CPUC</b>	NON-BLM/USFS LANDS: VISUAL SENSITIVITY-VISUAL CHANGE (VS-VC)
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### BCD ALTERNATIVE (cont'd)

VIEWPOINT		USFS - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING				USFS - VISUAL CHANGE		IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	
Key Viewpoint (KVP)	Description	Existing Landscape Character	Desired Landscape Character	Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO)		Level of Change	SIO Consistency	Before Mitigation	Mitigation
				Level	Description			After Mitigation	
<b>KVP 63</b> Pacific Crest Trail North of Fred Canyon Road  Figures E.2.3-4A / 4B	View to the northwest toward the BCD Alternative's span of Long Valley and Kitchen Creek Road, from the Pacific Crest Trail, just north of Fred Canyon Road.	This viewpoint captures a portion of the Morena Place, which is generally comprised of rolling terrain that also includes large valleys surrounded by steep mountains. Scenery is further characterized by steep, uniform, chaparral covered hills, interrupted by scattered oak covered drainages. It retains an open-space character with large expanses of undeveloped land. Views are also expansive.	The Morena Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as one of the primary gateways to the deserts of the southwest and a natural appearing viewshed along the Interstate 8 corridor. Valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time include the rare and inviting streamside woodlands that provide scenic diversity in this chaparral-dominated landscape, and the natural appearance of areas that can be viewed from the I-8 corridor, the Sunrise Scenic Highway, and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Part of the management emphasis is to protect scenic values along the Interstate 8 corridor and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.	High	<b>Appears Unaltered.</b> High scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears" intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.	<b>Moderate to High</b> This alternative would introduce prominent built structures with substantial industrial character into a predominantly natural landscape absent similar features. The resulting visual contrast would be substantial. The openness of the terrain and large scale of the structures would allow foreground to distant views of the transmission line (structures and conductors) from both the Pacific Crest Trail and Fred Canyon Road. View blockage of the surrounding slopes and ridges would also occur as would skylining (extending above the horizon), where the line crosses ridges and crests hills. Skylining would exacerbate structure prominence and the transmission line would substantially reduce the integrity of the existing landscape.	<b>Not Consistent</b> This alternative would not be consistent with Aesthetic Management Standard S9 requiring activities to meet the applicable Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO). Specifically, the transmission line would not repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that it is not evident, as required by the applicable "High" Scenic Integrity Objective. Indeed, the structures would be quite prominent features in the landscape. Furthermore, the transmission line would not qualify for the exceptions of (1) a minor adjustment (one level reduction with approval) to the SIO, or (2) a temporary drop of more than one SIO not to exceed three years in duration, as required in Aesthetic Management Standard S10.	<b>BEFORE:</b> Significant (Class I)	<b>Measure V-3a</b> (Project Design)

### BCD SOUTH OPTION

VIEWPOINT		CPUC - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING							CPUC - VISUAL CHANGE					IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		
Key Viewpoint (KVP)	Description	Visual Quality	Viewer Concern	Viewer Exposure					Overall Visual Sensitivity	Description of Visual Change	Visual Contrast	Project Dominance	View Blockage	Overall Visual Change	Before Mitigation	Mitigation
				Visibility	Distance Zone	Number of Viewers	Duration of View	Overall Viewer Exposure							After Mitigation	
<b>KVP 79</b> La Posta Truck Trail BCD South Option  Figures E.2.3-5A / 5B	View to the south-southeast toward I-8, the La Posta Road Overpass, and the BCD South Option route, from La Posta Truck Trail, approximately 0.3 mi. north of Sandy Creek Road.	<b>Moderate</b> Foreground rural landscape consisting of low rolling, rocky hills surrounding a shallow valley along La Posta Creek. Although several rural residences are visible and I-8 and the La Posta Road Overpass are prominent built features, the landscape is predominantly natural in appearance. Views are open and unobstructed and there is no visual evidence of built industrial features or character.	<b>High</b> Nearby residents and travelers on Sandy Creek Road and La Posta Truck Trail presently experience a rural landscape that is substantially natural in appearance. There is no visible industrial character though I-8 and the La Posta Road Overpass are prominent built features. Any intrusion of industrial character or blockage of views of the sky, hills, and ridges would be perceived as an adverse visual change in the landscape.	High	Foreground	Low	Extended	Moderate to High	Moderate to High	This portion of the BCD South Option would introduce prominent lattice-steel structures with substantial industrial character into a landscape presently absent such built industrial features. The new structures and conductors would also result in view blockage of the background sky, hill slopes, and ridges.	High	Co-Dominant	Moderate-to-High	Moderate to High	<b>BEFORE:</b> Significant (Class I)	<b>Measure V-3a</b> (Project Design)