U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Electrical District 2 to Saguaro #2 115-kV Transmission Line Access Road Maintenance between Structure 26/8 and 26/9

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Regional Office, Phoenix, Arizona

Location(s) (City/County/State): Pinal County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:
Western proposes to conduct access road maintenance and improvements along the existing Electrical District 2 to Saguaro #2 115-kV transmission line in Pinal County, Arizona. The project is on private lands in Township 9 South, Range 9 East, Section 13, approximately 15 miles north of the Town of Marana, Arizona. The proposed project area consists of approximately 400 linear feet of an existing 12- to 16-foot-wide access road and up to 50 feet on both sides of the road. The existing access road in the project area is bissected by McClellan Wash and has become eroded and impassable due to repeated runoff events. The project is necessary to provide continuous and safe access for the operation and maintenance of the associated transmission line.

REFER TO CONTINUATION SHEET

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:
B1.3 - Routine maintenance

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☑ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☑ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☑ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Jared Maricondo Date Determined: 5-20-13

Electrical District 2 to Saguaro #2 115-kV Transmission Line, Access Road Maintenance between Structure 26/8 and 26/9

Categorical Exclusion Form Continuation Sheet

The scope of work for the proposed project includes the following (refer to attached design sheet):

- Clear trees and other vegetation within the construction footprint (approximately 0.27 acres);
- Excavate to required grades (approximately 1,720 cubic yards, in-place) and removal of excess material from Western's right-of-way (ROW);
- Compact roadway subgrade;
- Construction of a diversion berm to direct tributary flows into the main wash at a point upstream of the low water crossing;
- Apply crushed aggregate surfacing;
- Install riprap within the stream channel and roadway approaches subject to scour action;
- Anchor rock to hold the aggregate surfacing and riprap in place within the stream bed.

Western will implement the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent siltation and erosion damage during and after construction: re-vegetation and slope stabilization, consisting of mulch and seeding, along with re-spreading of native topsoil, to provide long-term erosion protection for areas exposed by construction (approximately 0.16 acres).

The work may occur in phases and will begin no earlier than January 14, 2013. The full project will be completed by May 15, 2014.

<u>Special Conditions</u>

1) For activities involving vegetation or soil disturbance during the breeding bird season (February 15 to August 31), a qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys within the project area prior to beginning work.

    a. No more than 5 days prior to on-site activities, a qualified biologist will survey the project area for nesting birds. The biologist will provide these survey results in a memo to Western prior to the onset of maintenance activities, with any appropriate recommendations to avoid or minimize impacts to these resources.

    b. Project activities may not disturb an active bird nest. If an active bird nest is located within the vegetation identified for removal, a qualified biologist will designate and flag an appropriate buffer area around the nest where activities will not be permitted. The buffer area will be based on the bird species and nature of project activity.

Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
(b)(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix A or B to subpart D.		X	
(b)(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerting alternate uses of available resources		X	
(b)(3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. The scope of a proposal must include the consideration of connected and cumulative actions, that is, the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or § 1021.211 of this part concerning limitations on actions during EIS preparation.		X	
B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B. :	NO	YES	UNKNOWN
(1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.	X		
(2) Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities;	X		
(3) Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases;	X		
(4) Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified as needing protection through Executive Order, statue, or regulation by Federal, state, or local government, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to:	X		
(i) Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance	X		

	designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;			
(ii)	Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or Federally- proposed or candidate species or their habitat (Endangered Species Act); state-listed or state-proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; Federally-protected marine mammals and Essential Fish Habitat (Marine Mammal Protection Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act); and otherwise Federally-protected species (such as under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act);	X		
(iii)	Floodplains and wetlands (as defined in 10 CFR 1022.4, ―Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements: “Definitions,” or its successor);	X		
(iv)	Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, scenic areas (such as National Scenic and Historic Trails or National Scenic Areas), and marine sanctuaries;	X		
(v)	Prime or unique farmland, or other farmland of statewide or local importance, as defined at 7 CFR 658.2(a), ―Farmland Protection Policy Act: Definitions,‖ or its successor;	X		
(vi)	Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and	X		
(vii)	Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests.; or	X		
(5)	Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.	X		

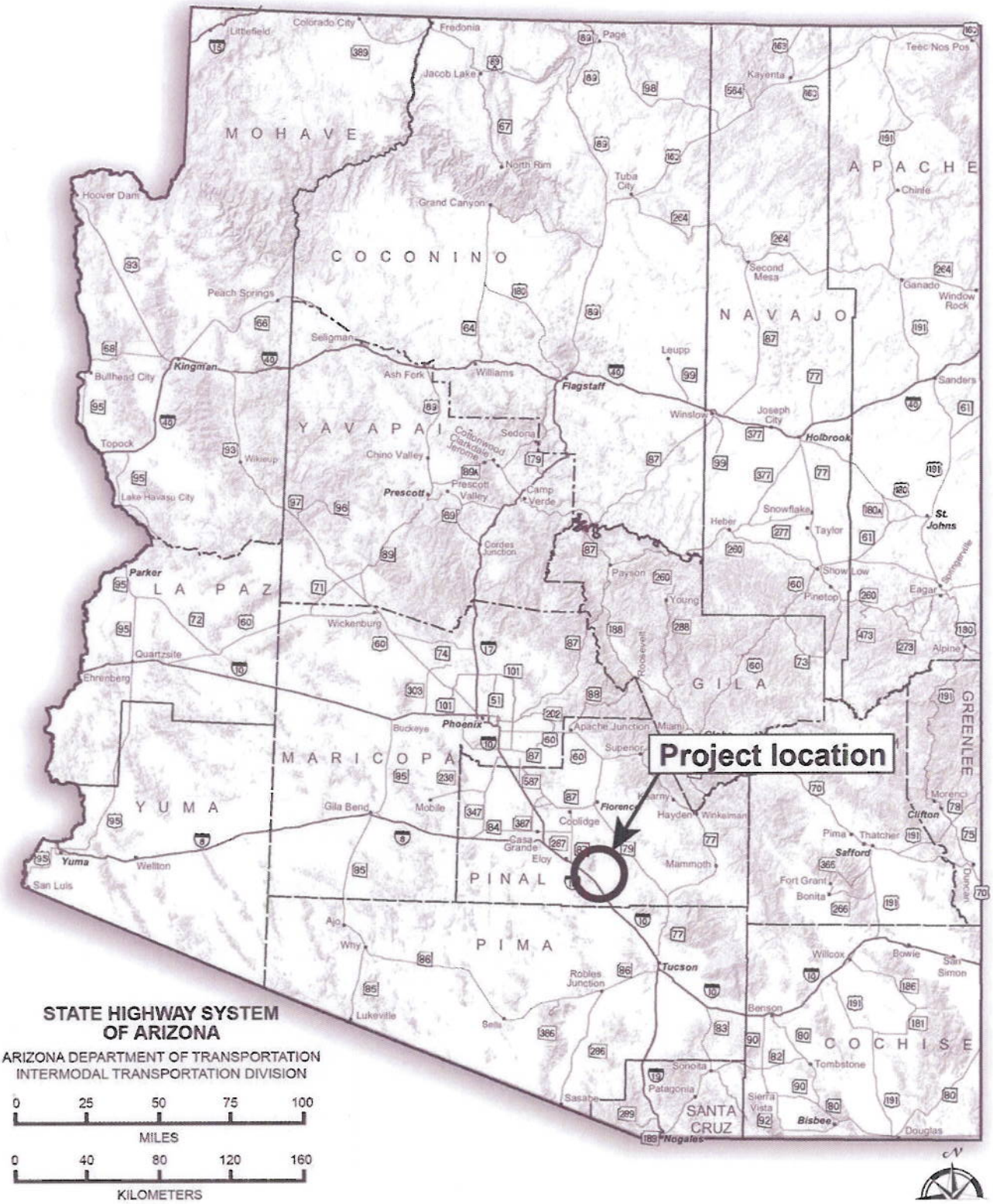
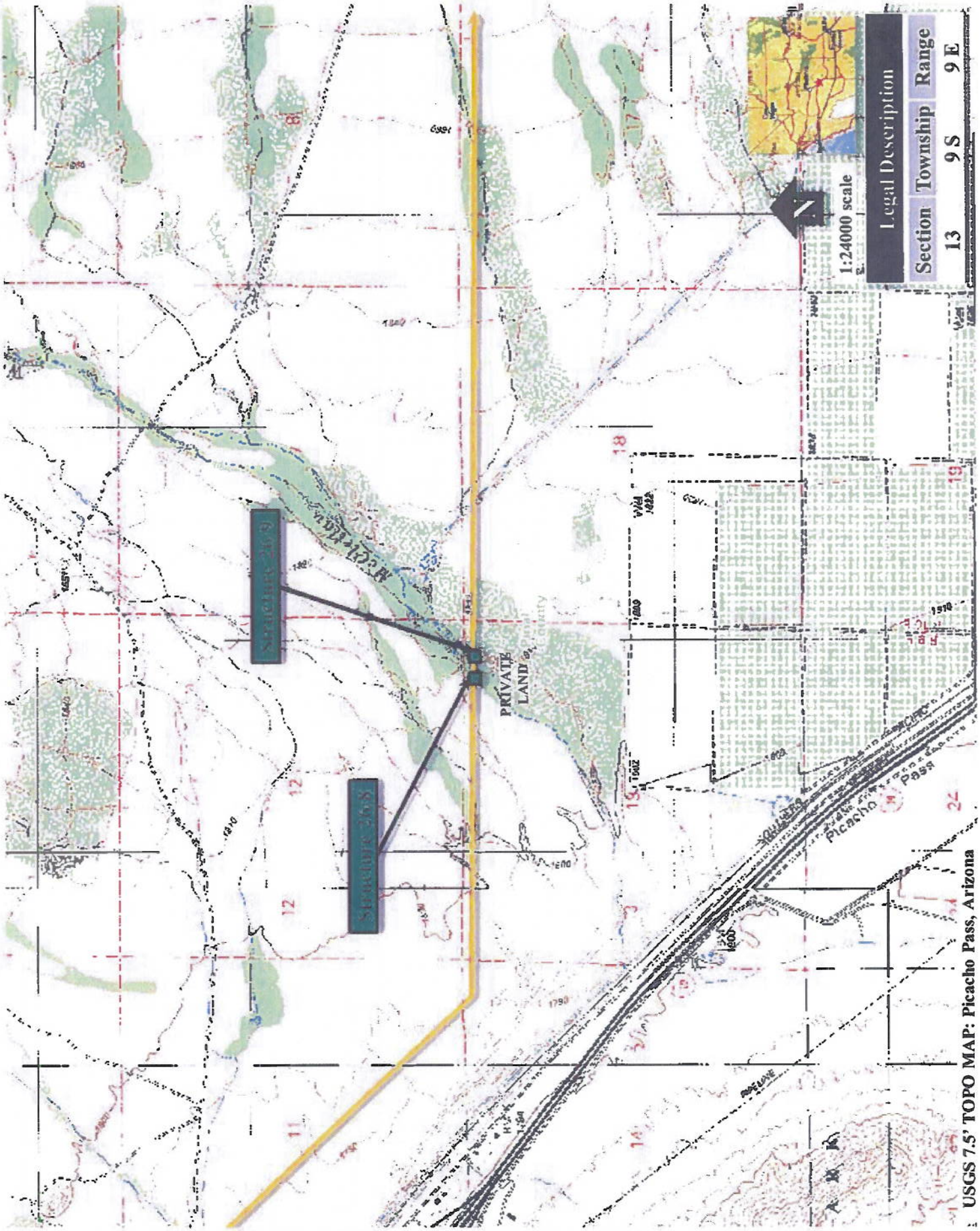


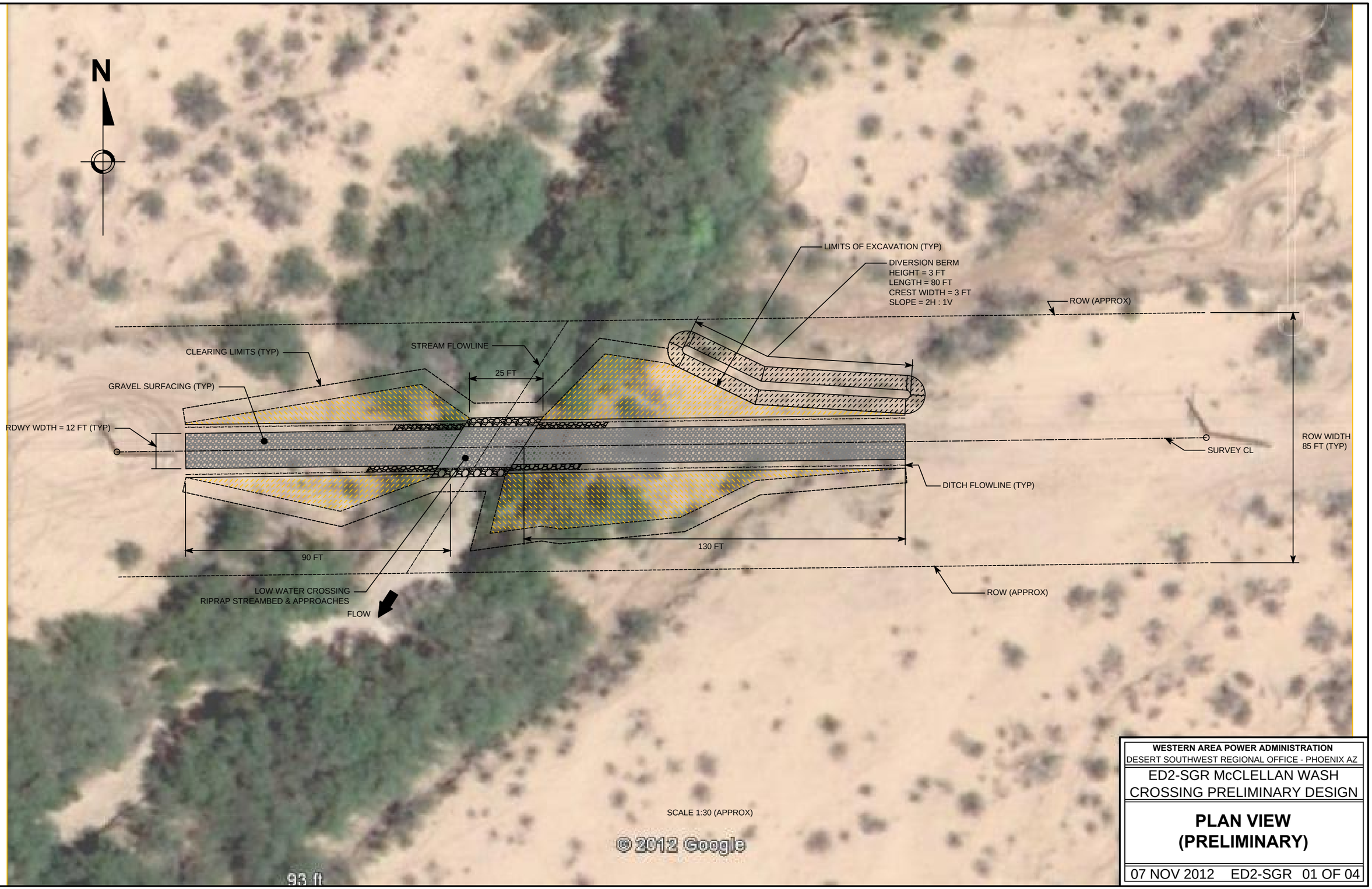
Figure A.1. Project location.



USGS 7.5' TOPO MAP: Picacho Pass, Arizona

ELECTRICAL DISTRICT 2 – SAGUARO #2 TRANSMISSION LINE

Access Road Maintenance



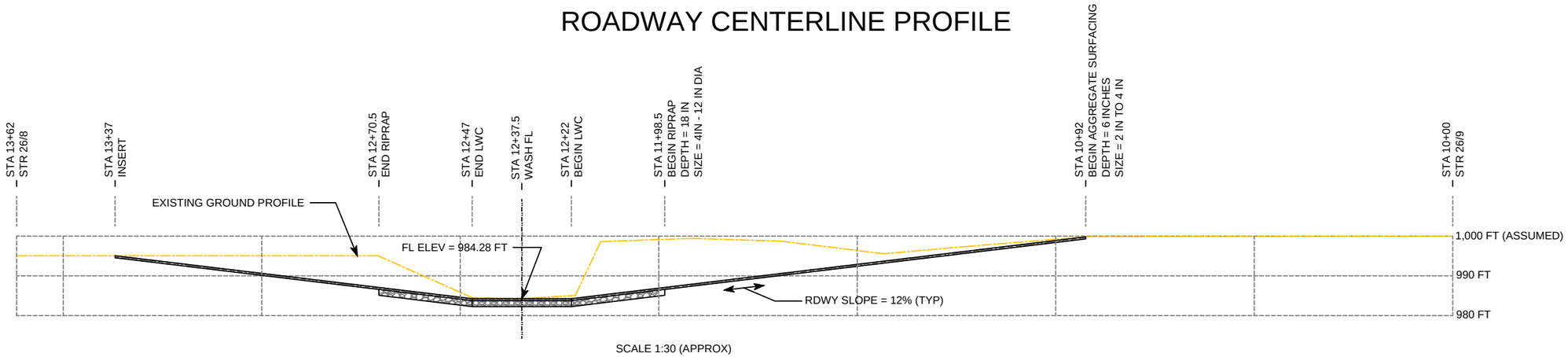
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
DESERT SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE - PHOENIX AZ

ED2-SGR McCLELLAN WASH
CROSSING PRELIMINARY DESIGN

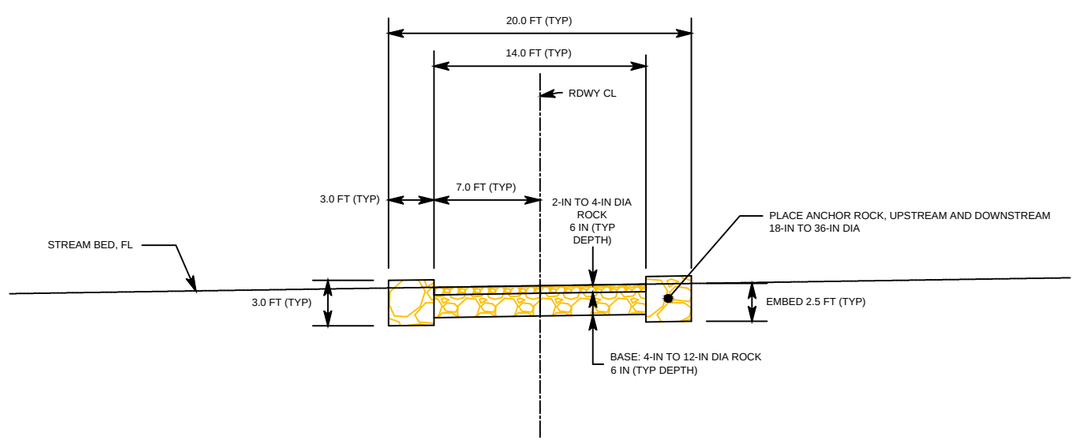
PLAN VIEW
(PRELIMINARY)

07 NOV 2012 ED2-SGR 01 OF 04

ROADWAY CENTERLINE PROFILE



TYPICAL LOW WATER CROSSING SECTION
STA 12+22 TO 12+47
(NTS)



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DESERT SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE - PHOENIX AZ

ED2-SGR McCLELLAN WASH CROSSING PRELIMINARY DESIGN

RDWY PROFILE & LOW WATER CROSSING SECTION (PRELIMINARY)

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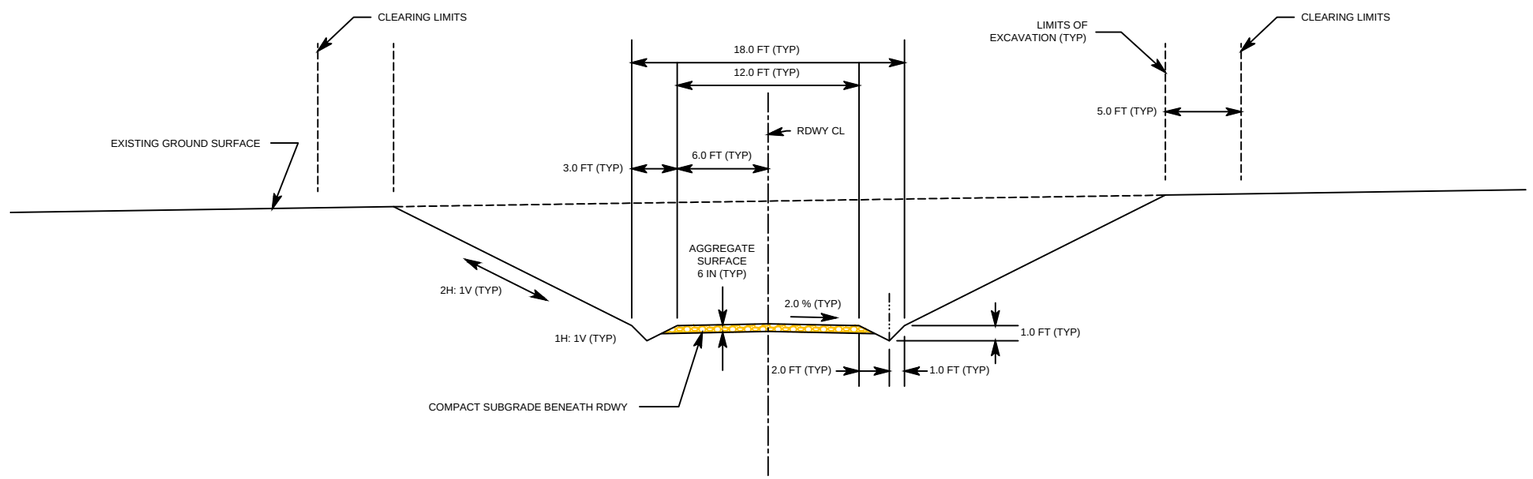
TYPICAL RDWY SECTION
STA 10+92 TO 11+98.5
STA 12+70.5 TO 13+37
(NTS)



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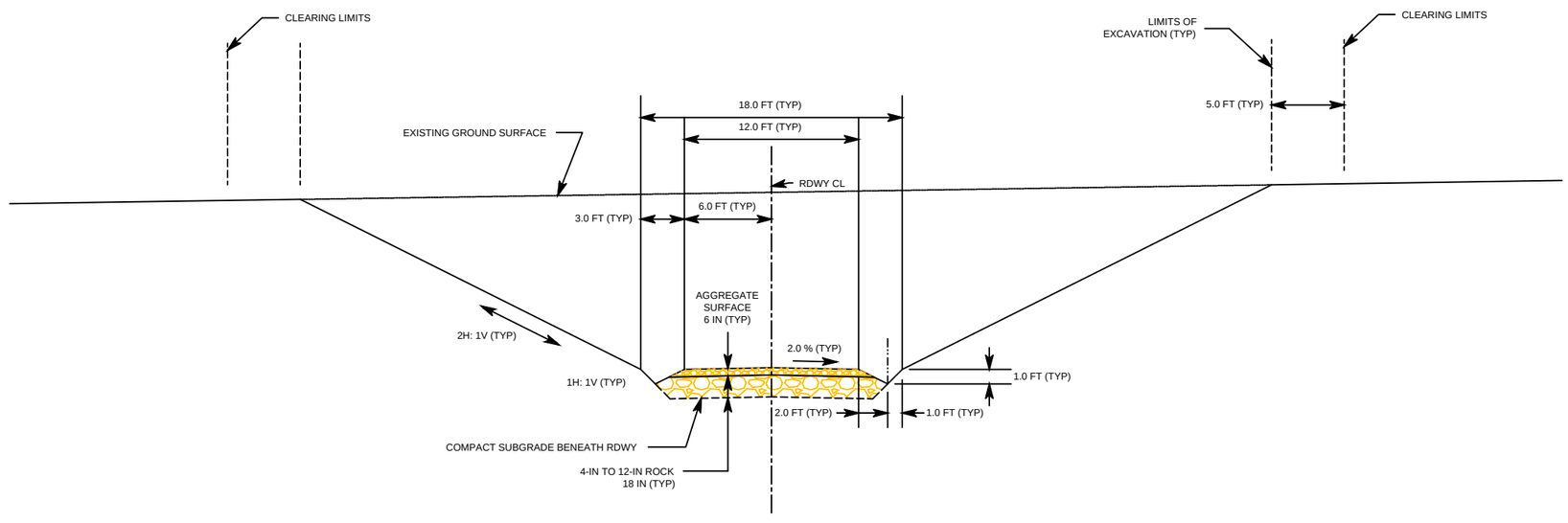
ED2-SGR McCLELLAN WASH CROSSING PRELIMINARY DESIGN

RDWY TYPICAL SECTIONS (PRELIMINARY)

07 NOV 2012 ED2-SGR 03 OF 04

TYPICAL RDWY SECTION
STA 11+98.5 TO 12+22
STA 12+47 TO 12+70.5
(NTS)



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RDWY TYPICAL SECTIONS (PRELIMINARY)

07 NOV 2012 ED2-SGR 04 OF 04