



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Parker Dam to Headgate Rock and Parker Dam to Bouse 161-kV Transmission Lines, Cross Arm Repairs and Helicopter Staging Areas

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): La Paz County, Arizona and San Bernardino County, California

Proposed Action Description:

Western proposes to replace cross arms on twelve existing structures along the Parker Dam-Headgate Rock (PAD-HDR) 161-kV transmission line and eight structures along the Parker Dam-Bouse (PAD-BSE) 161-kV transmission line. Sixteen of the structures are located east of the Colorado River in La Paz County, Arizona and the remaining four structures are located west of the Colorado River in San Bernardino County, California. Four helicopter staging areas are also proposed.

Five of the twenty structures are on Colorado Indian Tribal (CRIT) lands, seven are on private lands, two are on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the remaining six are on lands managed by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD). Helicopter staging areas 1 and 2 are located on CRIT lands, area 3 is on ASLD lands, and area 4 is on private land (Figure 1). Staging areas 2 and 4 as well as structures 3-7, 10-8 (PAD-HDR) and 3-6 (PAD-BSE) are located within Reach 4 of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program area. All of the structures and staging areas are located between approximately 370 and 470 feet elevation, on the USGS Parker or Cross Roads 7½-minute topographic quads.

SEE 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: *Kinda Marin*

Date Determined: 2-19-13

Parker Dam to Headgate Rock and Parker Dam to Bouse 161-kV Transmission Lines

Cross Arm Repairs and Helicopter Staging Areas Project

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form Continuation Sheet

Proposed Action Description (Continued)

Table 1. Structures Proposed for Cross Arm Repair/Replacement

PADHDR Str. #	PLSS	Land Ownership	PADBSE Str. #	PLSS	Land Ownership
3-5*	T2N R27E S20	BLM	3-4*	T2N R27E S17	BLM
3-6*	T2N R27E S20	Private	3-5*	T2N R27E S20	Private
3-7*					
7-6	T10N R19W	ASLD	3-6	T11N R18W	Private
7-7	S14			S31	
8-3	T10N R19W	Private	4-6	T10N R18W	ASLD
8-4	S22			S6	
9-6	T10N R19W	CRIT	7-5	T10N R19W	ASLD
10-2	S27		7-6	S14	
			7-7		
10-8	T10N R19W	CRIT	7-8	T10N R19W	Private
	S28			S15	
11-1	T10N R19W	CRIT			
	S33				
11-4	T10N R19W	CRIT			
	S32				
* Structures located in California (San Bernardino Meridian)					

Personnel and materials will be transported to and from each work area by helicopter to avoid any permanent ground disturbance that would be caused by constructing new access roads. The helicopter will fly to and from each structure up to four times in one day. The landing location at each work area will be determined in the field by the pilot based on site specific conditions such as terrain and proximity of adjacent structures. Personnel and materials will be staged at one of the four proposed staging areas. All helicopter fueling will take place at the Parker Airport.

Equipment to be used at the staging areas will include crew trucks (F-550s), arm trucks and trailers, line trucks, and water trucks for dust control. In addition, two "fly baskets" will be used to transport tools and material from each staging area via helicopter to each structure. At the structure locations, two fly baskets will be lowered along with the crew personnel and tools necessary to conduct the cross arm replacement.

Project activities are anticipated to begin no sooner than February 25, 2013, and be completed by May 31, 2014.

Special Conditions

1. *Limited disturbance area*: At the proposed staging areas and fly basket landing locations, limit the disturbance of previously undisturbed habitat (including soils) to the greatest extent practicable.
2. *Biological Monitor*: Due to the possibility that desert tortoise may be found in some of the work areas, a Biological Monitor will be present during all project activities occurring in desert tortoise habitat in California (PADHDR 3-5, 3-6, and 3-7; PADBSE 3-4 and 3-5). The Biological Monitor's responsibilities will include, but will not be limited to the following:
 - a. Monitoring activity of desert tortoise or any other sensitive species occurring in or near the work areas;
 - b. Regularly inspecting the work areas, including structure repair locations and staging areas for desert tortoise;
 - c. Regularly inspecting beneath vehicles and equipment to ensure that they do not present potential hazards to wildlife, including desert tortoises.

The Biological Monitor will be authorized by Western to temporarily halt construction activity if needed to prevent harm to desert tortoise or other wildlife. The work supervisor will coordinate with the Biological Monitor on planned or ongoing activities within the work areas. The Biological Monitor will not be required to monitor for tortoises in Arizona. However, employee environmental awareness training will be conducted prior to work occurring in Arizona or California (#5, below).

3. *Desert tortoise*: All project activities occurring in Arizona and California will take place between November 1 and March 1, outside the activity season for desert tortoise, as feasible. The Biological Monitor and all workers shall regularly observe the work areas for desert tortoise. At any time a desert tortoise is seen within or near any work area (including access roads, turnouts, staging areas, etc.), the Biological Monitor and/or project supervisor will be immediately notified. No construction activities will take place in the vicinity of a desert tortoise; if a desert tortoise is observed, it will be left to move away from the work site on its own. **No desert tortoises will be handled**; unauthorized handling of a Mojave desert tortoise could constitute "take" as defined in the ESA.
4. *Nesting birds*: All project activities occurring in Arizona and California will take place between September 1 and March 1, generally outside the breeding bird season, as feasible. At least 7 days prior to construction at the PADBSE 3-6 and PADHDR 3-7 structures, a qualified biologist will confirm that the potential peregrine falcon nest below the structures is inactive. If nests or nest cavities are observed at any of the structures within the project area, no work shall occur at those structures until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is inactive.
5. *Worker training*: The Biological Monitor will conduct employee training before the start of project activities, in Arizona or California, to ensure that all workers on the project site are aware of all applicable avoidance measures for biological resources. Specifically, workers will be required to (1) limit all activities to approved work areas; (2) check beneath and around vehicles and equipment before moving them; (3) report any desert tortoise or bird nest observation in the work areas and access routes, to the supervisor or biological monitor; (4) avoid contact with any wildlife that may approach a work area and be aware of potential venomous reptile bites from carelessness or unnecessary harassment; (5) pick up and properly dispose of any food, trash or construction refuse; and (6) report any spilled materials (oil, fuel, solvent, engine coolant, raw concrete, or other material potentially hazardous to wildlife, to supervisor or biological monitor. In addition, all workers will be informed of civil and criminal penalties for violations of the federal ESA, California ESA, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

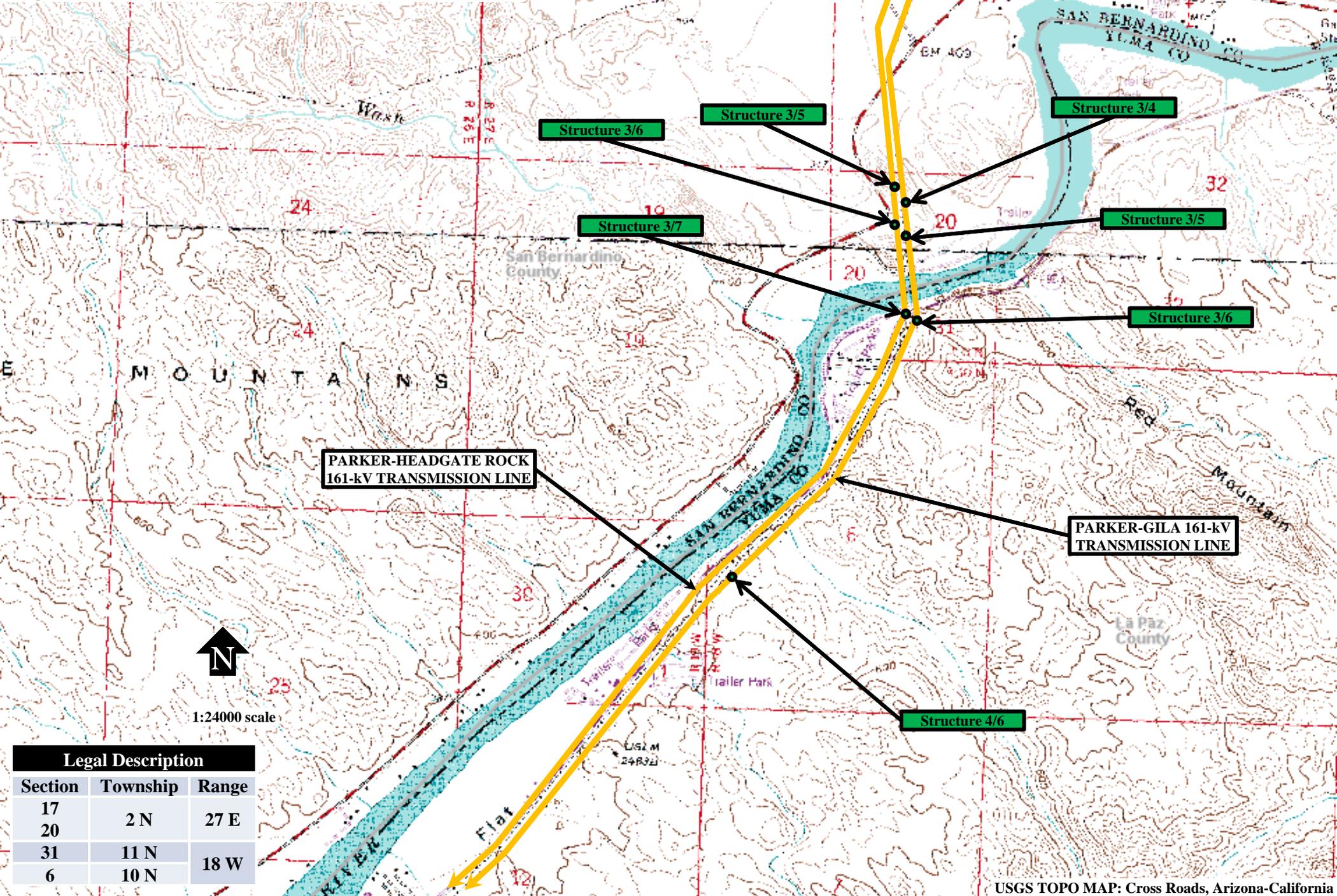
Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
(b)(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix A or B to subpart D.		X	
(b)(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental 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 concerning 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, statute, 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		

**PARKER-HEADGATE ROCK & PARKER-GILA
161-kV TRANSMISSION LINE
Cross Arm Repair and Helicopter Staging Areas
Figure 1. Project Location**

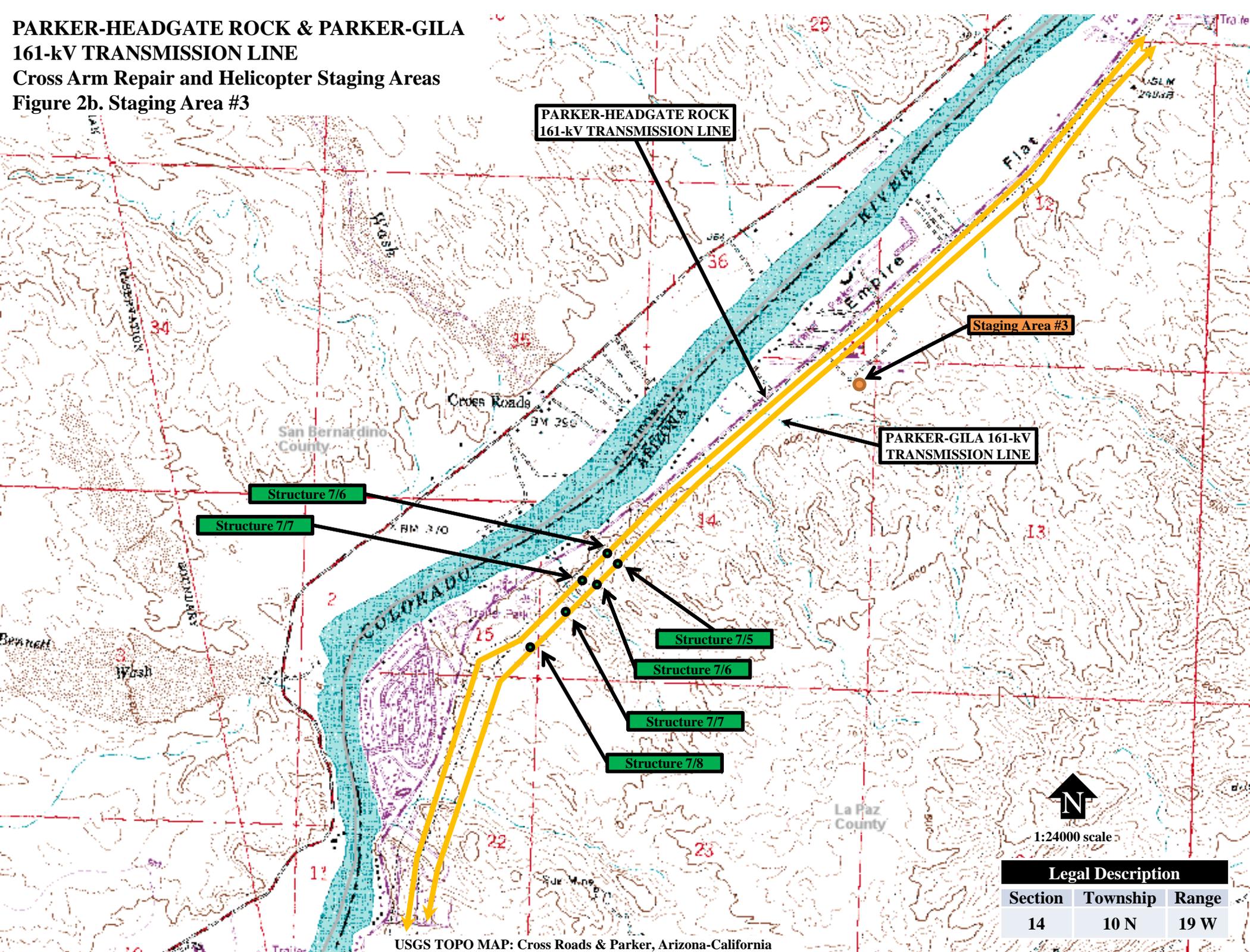


**PARKER-HEADGATE ROCK & PARKER-GILA
161-kV TRANSMISSION LINE
Cross Arm Repair and Helicopter Staging Areas
Figure 2a. Project Area (North)**



Legal Description		
Section	Township	Range
17	2 N	27 E
20		
31	11 N	18 W
6	10 N	

**PARKER-HEADGATE ROCK & PARKER-GILA
161-kV TRANSMISSION LINE
Cross Arm Repair and Helicopter Staging Areas
Figure 2b. Staging Area #3**



**PARKER-HEADGATE ROCK
161-kV TRANSMISSION LINE**

Staging Area #3

**PARKER-GILA 161-kV
TRANSMISSION LINE**

Structure 7/6

Structure 7/7

Structure 7/5

Structure 7/6

Structure 7/7

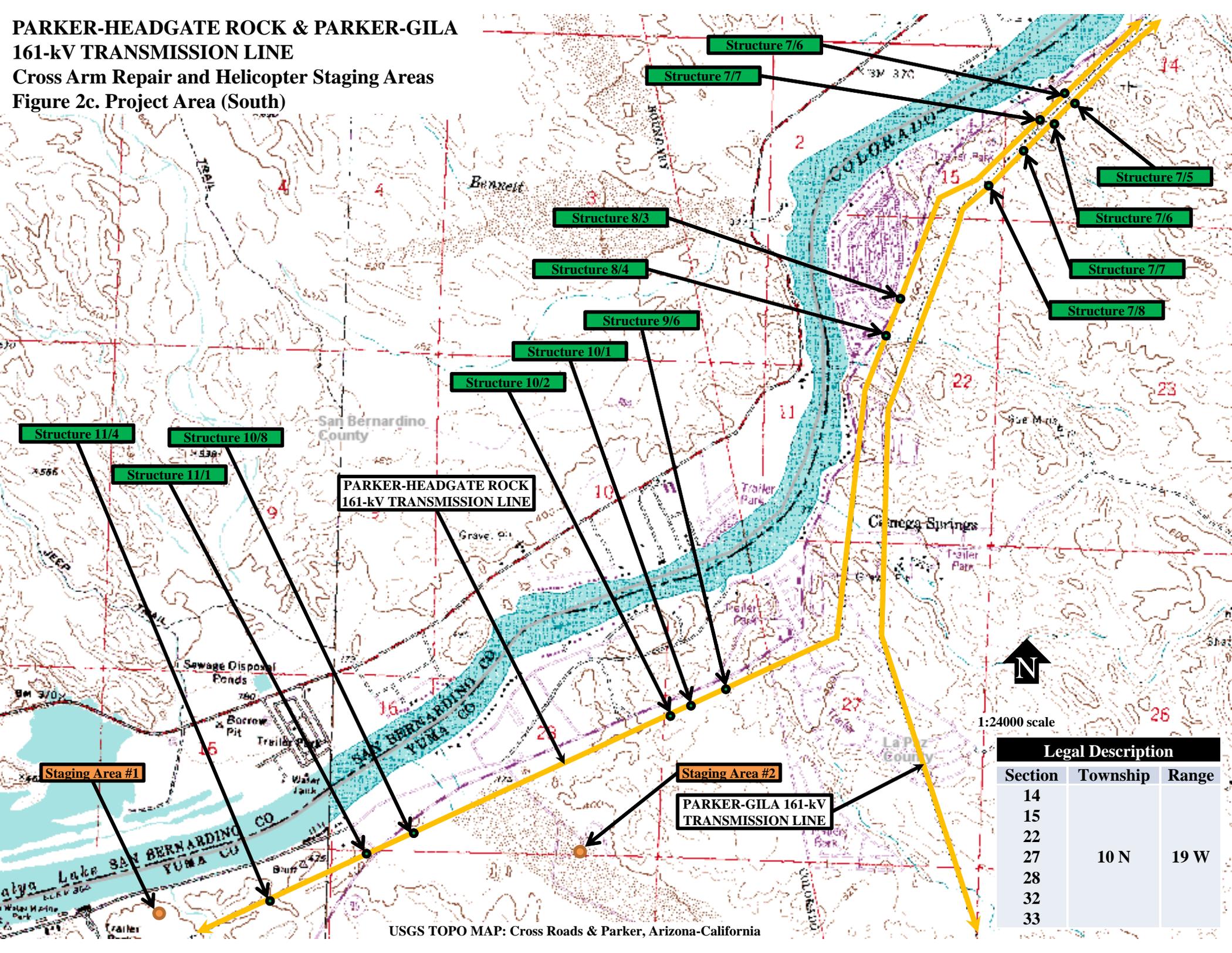
Structure 7/8



1:24000 scale

Legal Description		
Section	Township	Range
14	10 N	19 W

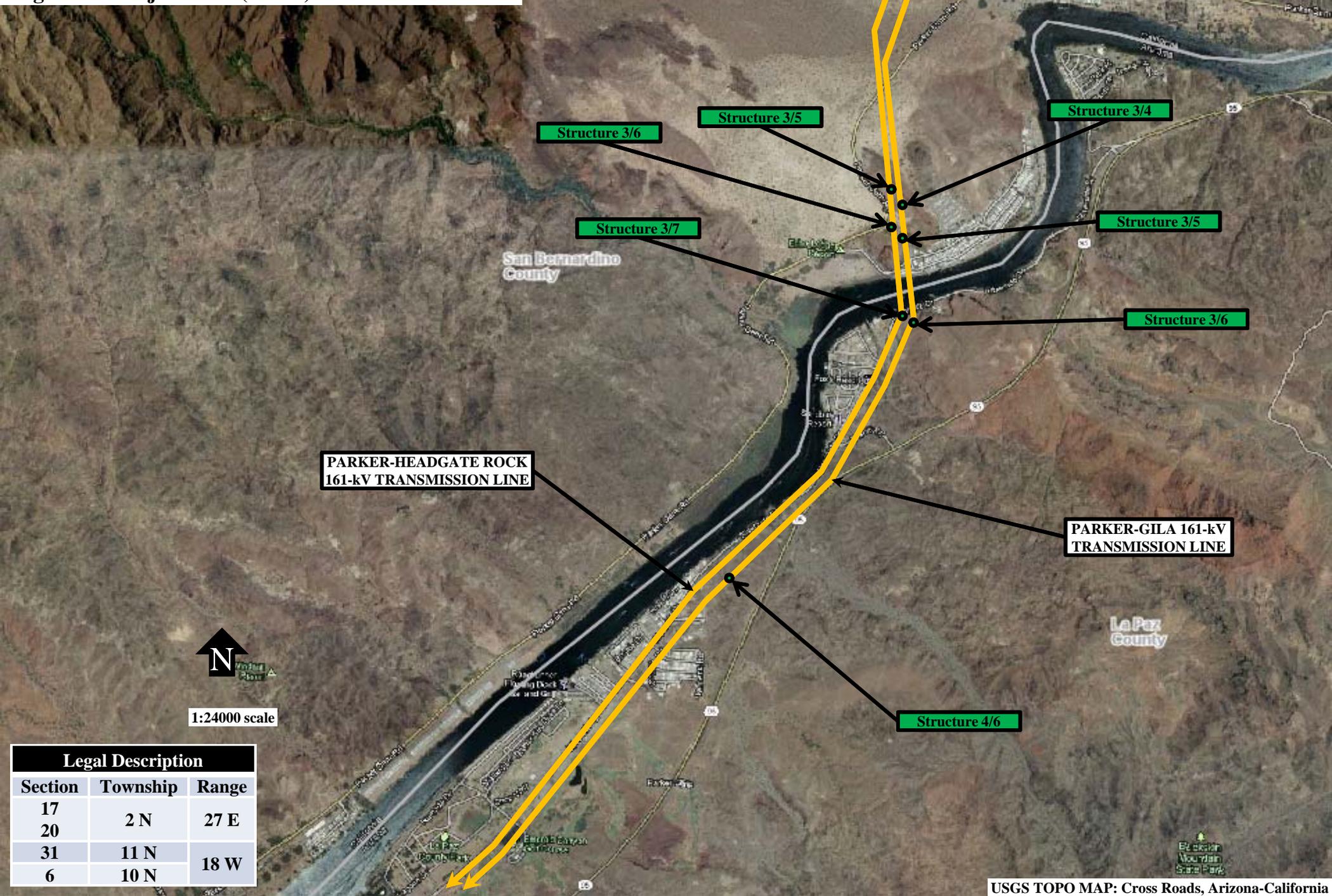
**PARKER-HEADGATE ROCK & PARKER-GILA
161-kV TRANSMISSION LINE**
Cross Arm Repair and Helicopter Staging Areas
Figure 2c. Project Area (South)



1:24000 scale

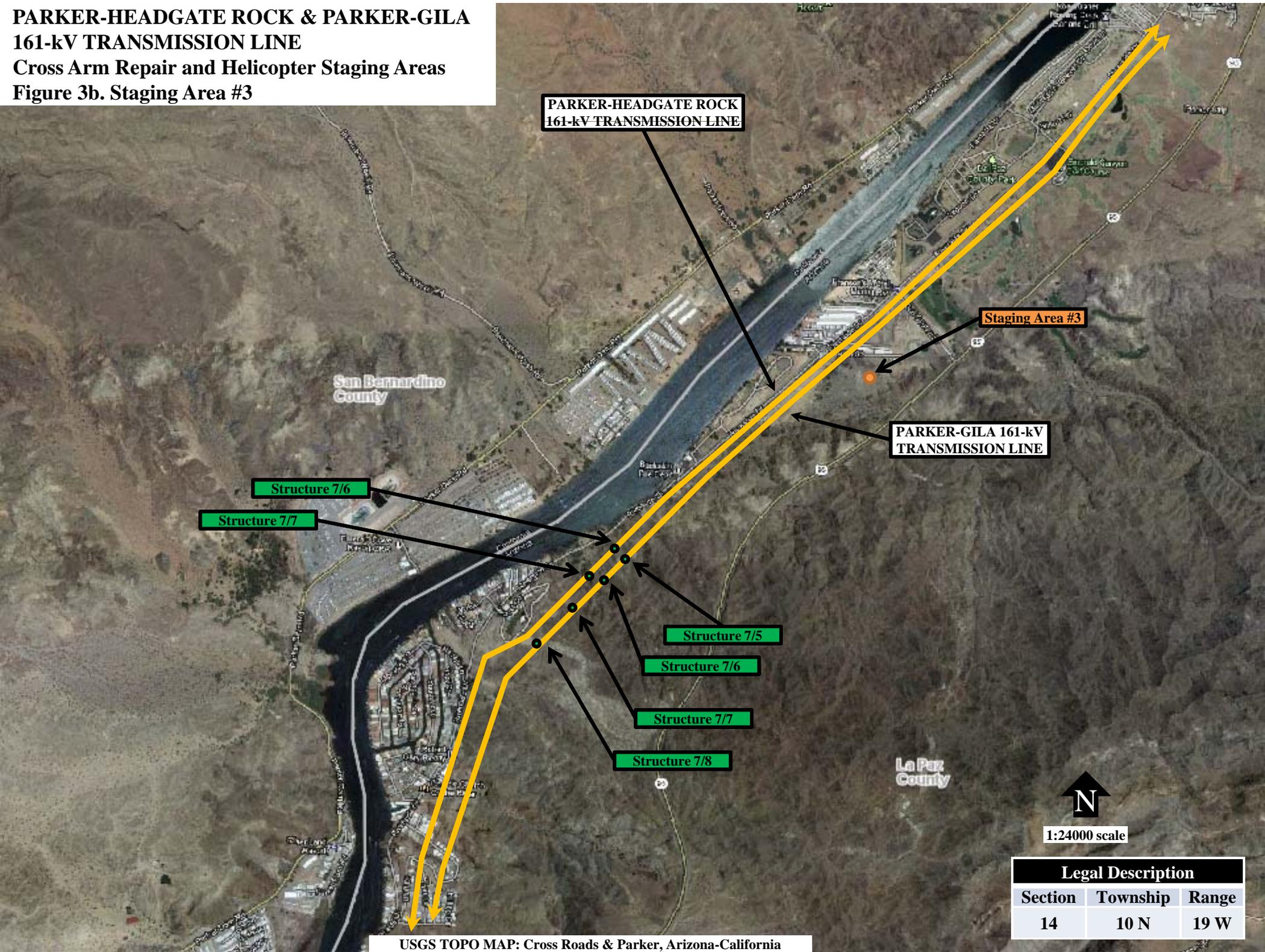
Legal Description		
Section	Township	Range
14	10 N	19 W
15		
22		
27		
28		
32		
33		

**PARKER-HEADGATE ROCK & PARKER-GILA
161-kV TRANSMISSION LINE
Cross Arm Repair and Helicopter Staging Areas
Figure 3a. Project Area (North)**



Legal Description		
Section	Township	Range
17	2 N	27 E
20		
31	11 N	18 W
6	10 N	

**PARKER-HEADGATE ROCK & PARKER-GILA
161-kV TRANSMISSION LINE
Cross Arm Repair and Helicopter Staging Areas
Figure 3b. Staging Area #3**



**PARKER-HEADGATE ROCK
161-kV TRANSMISSION LINE**

Staging Area #3

**PARKER-GILA 161-kV
TRANSMISSION LINE**

Structure 7/6

Structure 7/7

Structure 7/5

Structure 7/6

Structure 7/7

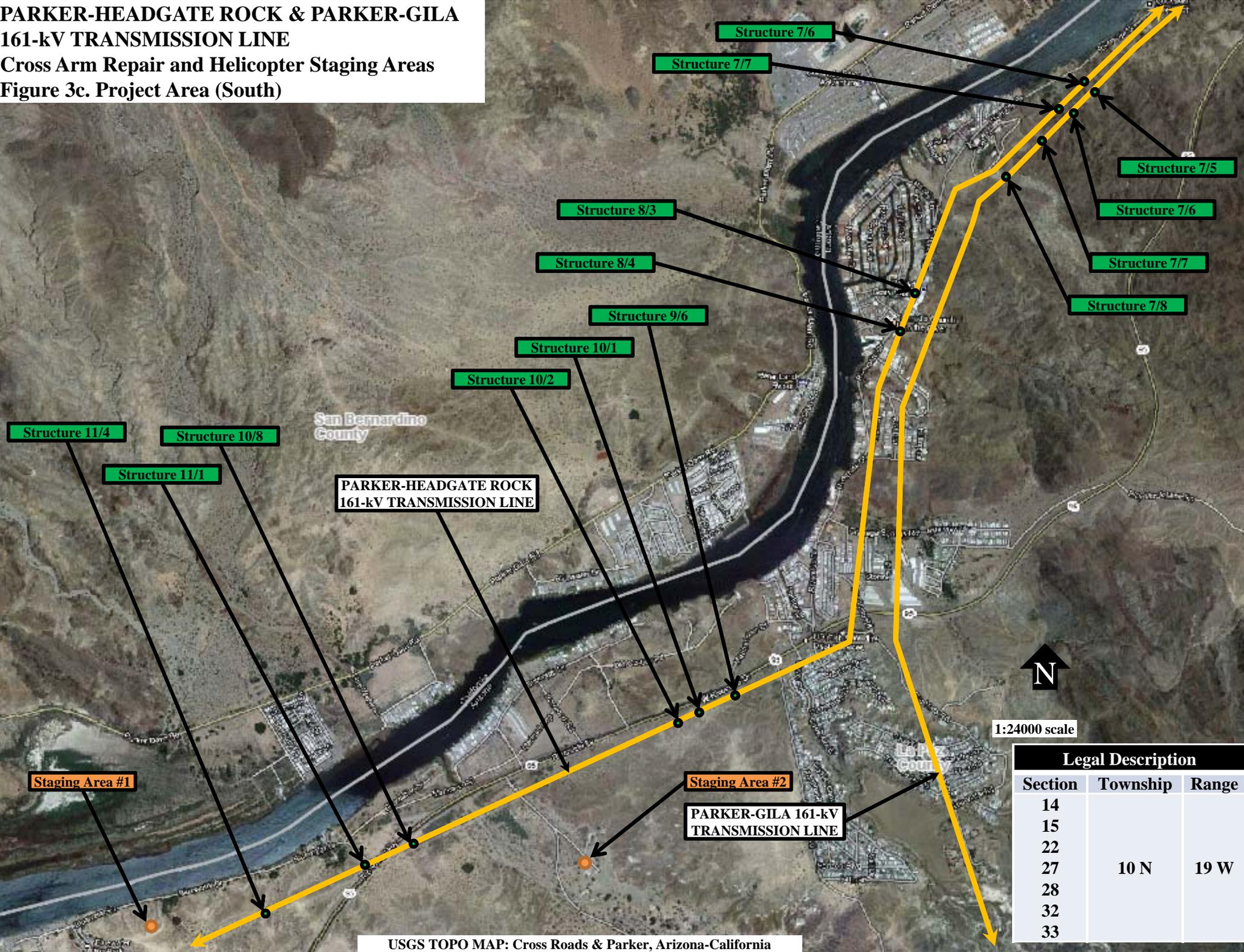
Structure 7/8



1:24000 scale

Legal Description		
Section	Township	Range
14	10 N	19 W

**PARKER-HEADGATE ROCK & PARKER-GILA
161-kV TRANSMISSION LINE**
Cross Arm Repair and Helicopter Staging Areas
Figure 3c. Project Area (South)



1:24000 scale

Legal Description		
Section	Township	Range
14	10 N	19 W
15		
22		
27		
28		
32		
33		