



Draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement and Preliminary Section 4(f) Evaluation

Appendix E9, Visual Effects on Selected Viewpoints and Landscapes

March 2019



Federal Aid No. 999-M(161)S
ADOT Project No. 999 SW 0 M5180 01P

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Acronyms

1	amsl	above mean sea level
2	AVE	Area of Visual Effect
3	I	Interstate
4	KOP	Key Observation Point
5	LU	Landscape Unit
6	ROW	Right-of-Way
7	SR	State Route
8	US	United States



1 **E9.1 Description of Landscape Units**

2 Fifteen distinct landscape unit (LU) types were defined within the area of visual effect (AVE).
3 The LU determination was based in part on landform, existing land uses, visual character,
4 viewpoints, and presence of special features. The relative distinctness, intactness, and unity of
5 the landscape also were evaluated. The existing visual quality of the Interstate 11 (I-11) Corridor
6 Study Area is generally in the moderate to low range for most LUs. Two LU types, one in the
7 South Section and the other in the North Section, are relatively undisturbed or have lower levels
8 of disturbance over a larger area. The most common LU type is associated with rural residential
9 development in varied landscape settings.

10 **LU 1: Santa Cruz River Valley/Small Communities/Agriculture**

11 This LU is defined primarily by the Santa Cruz River Valley, between Nogales and South
12 Tucson, which is a highly constrained river corridor adjacent to highly dissected bajadas. The
13 bajada landscape associated with the basin and range is a gently sloping landform that typically
14 occurs at the base of surrounding mountains. There are several small communities and rural
15 residences that occur within the Santa Cruz River Valley including Nogales, Rio Rico,
16 Tumacacori, Tubac, Arivaca Junction, Green Valley, and Sahuarita. These communities are
17 characterized by denser development with residential and mixed land uses such as commercial,
18 light industrial, and agriculture. Views of adjacent mountains and steep bajadas constrain the
19 viewshed to the Santa Cruz River Valley. The overall rating of visual quality for this LU is
20 moderate, primarily due to the encroachment of development within this unique river valley
21 landscape.

22 **LU 2: Undeveloped Mountain/Bajada**

23 Primarily characterized by rugged mountains and dissected bajadas, this LU is relatively
24 undisturbed with modifications limited to dirt roads and very isolated rural residences with
25 limited developed services such as electricity. Roads within this LU may require high clearance
26 vehicles and are minimally maintained. The mountain landforms are more memorable and
27 striking whereas the bajada landform is above average in vividness. Views may be partially to
28 completely restricted depending on terrain and viewer orientation. Superior views are likely at
29 higher elevations on the bajada or mountain ridges. Overall this LU is harmonious and unified,
30 which contributes to a high rating of visual quality. No viewpoints were selected in this area.

31 **LU 3: Bajada/Rural Residential**

32 This LU is associated with gently sloping bajadas where rural residential development is
33 intermixed with undeveloped land. Bajadas are typically occupied by a more diverse vegetative
34 community including saguaro, cholla, ocotillo, and paloverde trees, particularly as the bajada
35 gets higher in elevation. These unique vegetation specimens bring diversity to this simple
36 landscape. Rural residential development is typically organized in a grid formation but each
37 residence is surrounded by a large amount of land that is primarily intact. Views within this LU
38 are typically open and unrestricted with superior views at higher elevations on the bajada.
39 Overall, the character of the rural development intermixed with undeveloped lands contribute to
40 the landscapes visually cohesive appearance resulting in a moderate visual quality rating.



1 LU 4: Heavy Industrial/Mining

2 Heavy industrial land uses, specifically mining, are the most distinctive and dominating feature
3 in this LU. Mining pits, tailings facilities, and associated infrastructure characterizes a portion of
4 the Santa Cruz River Valley near Green Valley and Sahuarita. Mixed land uses may occur
5 within this unit including residences, commercial, agricultural, and other industrial uses.
6 Unrestricted views are of the distant Sierrita Mountains, Santa Rita Mountains, and mining
7 facilities. These large scale modifications and facilities diminish the visual cohesiveness of the
8 landscape and contribute to an overall visual quality rating of low. No viewpoints were selected
9 in this area.

10 LU 5: Flat Valley/Limited Development

11 This LU is characterized by flat valleys that are primarily undeveloped with the exception of a
12 major road or other local roads. These alluvial flats are occupied by creosote vegetation with
13 little variety and are occasionally dissected by ephemeral washes that flow from the surrounding
14 bajadas and mountain ranges. Views within this LU are typically open and unrestricted. These
15 valley plains are associated with moderate visual quality due to lack of distinctiveness and
16 encroachment of modifications such as rural residences, utility corridors, roads, and other
17 structural features that detract from the natural setting.

18 LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential

19 This LU is associated with flat valleys where rural residential development is intermixed with
20 undeveloped land. Flat valleys are typically occupied by vegetation that is less diverse and may
21 include creosote, saltbush, and other shrubs that are occasionally interrupted by palo verde or
22 mesquite trees. The lack of diversity results in a common or plain setting that is interrupted by
23 rural development. Rural residential development is typically organized in a grid formation but
24 each residence is surrounded by a large amount of land that is primarily intact. Views within this
25 LU are typically open and unrestricted. Overall, the character of the rural development
26 intermixed with undeveloped lands contribute to the landscapes visually cohesive appearance
27 resulting in a low/moderate visual quality rating.

28 LU 7: Flat Valley/Abandoned Agricultural

29 Flat valley areas within proximity to a major river corridor typically have been converted to
30 agricultural land use. This LU has been modified for agricultural land use but is not in use or is
31 fallow. Land may be occupied by sparse grassland with shrubs and desert trees that line canals.
32 Rural residences may be present but are not the primary land use in this landscape setting.
33 Agricultural fields generally lack striking visual patterns, or landforms, and built features are
34 mostly limited to canals, roads, and small structures. Views within this LU are typically open and
35 unrestricted. The overall rating of visual quality for this LU is low.

36 LU 8: Suburban Residences/Mixed Land Uses

37 Dense suburban residences intermixed with commercial, public, industrial, and open space land
38 uses are the dominant feature in this LU. The Tucson metropolitan area is primarily associated
39 with this LU. The landscape has been highly modified but orderly with some design integrity;
40 however, there are few remnants of the natural setting intact. Views are highly constrained by
41 dense development. This LU has a high degree of visual adsorption because of the urban



1 development in the region. These suburban to urban landscapes are associated with low visual
2 quality due to the intensity of development.

3 **LU 9: Commercial/Light Industrial Mixed Use**

4 The existing I-10 corridor through Tucson is characterized by large scale light industrial land
5 uses and some commercial uses such as hotels, shopping centers, and office parks. This LU is
6 specific to the urban core of Tucson where high-voltage transmission lines and canals also
7 parallel the highway. This LU is highly modified mixed with some residences although it is not
8 the primary land use. Views are highly constrained by dense development. This LU has a high
9 degree of visual adsorption because of the urban development in the region. The overall visual
10 quality rating is low primarily due to the dominance and scale of industrial facilities.

11 **LU 10: Flat Valley/Active Agricultural**

12 This LU is characterized by active agriculture. This land use typically dominates the setting and
13 extends throughout Avra Valley, Santa Cruz Flats, Little Rainbow Valley, and near the Gila
14 River. Rural residences may be present but are not the primary land use in this landscape
15 setting. Agricultural fields generally lack striking visual patterns, or landforms, and built features
16 are mostly limited to canals, roads, and small structures. Vegetative cover from crops is
17 seasonal. Views within this LU are typically open and unrestricted. The overall rating of visual
18 quality for this LU is low/moderate, primarily due to the encroachment of development.

19 **LU 11: Transitional Development**

20 The I-10 corridor between Casa Grande and Tucson is currently transitioning from a rural,
21 agricultural setting with limited developed to a residential mixed use landscape. Land uses are
22 in transition where new developments are intermixed with active or inactive agricultural land.
23 The new residential communities under construction are at a higher density than what is typical
24 for a rural residential setting. The juxtaposition of varied land uses during this transitional phase
25 disrupts the unit of the landscape setting. This LU is expected to trend towards LU 9 as
26 agricultural land uses are replaced with mixed land uses. Views within this LU are typically open
27 and unrestricted due to flat terrain and lower density of development. Overall visual quality of
28 this unit is low primarily due to the lack of integrity and disjointed nature of this transitional land.

29 **LU 12: Picacho Peak**

30 This LU was primarily defined for an area associated with Picacho Peak which is a unique
31 feature that is prominent in the landscape. The peak can be seen for several miles along the
32 I-10 corridor. The peak is a dramatic landform that is isolated to a small area and viewed in
33 context with the surrounding flat agricultural areas. Development within this LU is generally
34 limited to state park facilities including picnic areas, hiking trails, and parking areas. There are
35 limited commercial facilities at the interchange for I-10 and private recreational vehicle/camping
36 facilities. Superior views are likely at higher elevations on this landform. The overall visual
37 quality rating for this LU is moderate due to encroaching development that disrupts the unity of
38 the setting.



1 **LU 13: Bajada/Limited Development**

2 This LU is characterized by gently sloping to rolling bajada landscapes that are primarily
3 undeveloped with the exception of a major road or other local roads. These lands are typically
4 occupied by saguaro, cholla, ocotillo, and paloverde trees. These unique vegetation specimens
5 bring diversity to this simple landscape. Views within this LU are typically open and unrestricted
6 with superior views at higher elevations on the bajada. This LU is associated with moderate
7 visual quality because there are few modifications that detract from the natural setting.

8 **LU 14: Bajada/Light Industrial/Utilities**

9 This LU is characterized by gently sloping to rolling bajada landscapes that are associated with
10 light industrial development including high-voltage transmission lines, underground pipelines,
11 substations, landfills, and other industrial uses. These lands are typically occupied by saguaro,
12 cholla, ocotillo, and paloverde trees which add interest to the landscape. Views within this LU
13 are typically open and unrestricted with superior views at higher elevations on the bajada. This
14 LU is associated with low/moderate visual quality because of the industrial scale modifications
15 that co-dominate the LU.

16 **LU 15: Undeveloped Rolling Hills/Plains**

17 Primarily characterized by smaller mountain chains, rolling hills, and extensive valley plains
18 dissected by several washes, this LU is relatively undisturbed. Modifications are limited to dirt
19 roads and very isolated rural residences. Roads within this LU may require high clearance
20 vehicles and are minimally maintained. The mountain landforms are more unique in this flat
21 valley setting and the presence of dense vegetation along washes contributes to an above
22 average rating in vividness. Views within this LU type may be partially to completely restricted.
23 This depends on terrain and viewer orientation. Superior views likely at higher elevations on the
24 bajada or mountain ridges. Overall, this LU is harmonious and unified, which contributes to a
25 moderate/high rating of visual quality.

26 **Figure E9-1** through **Figure E9-9** show the landscape unit boundaries, the location of
27 representative viewpoints and visibility of the corridor alternatives.

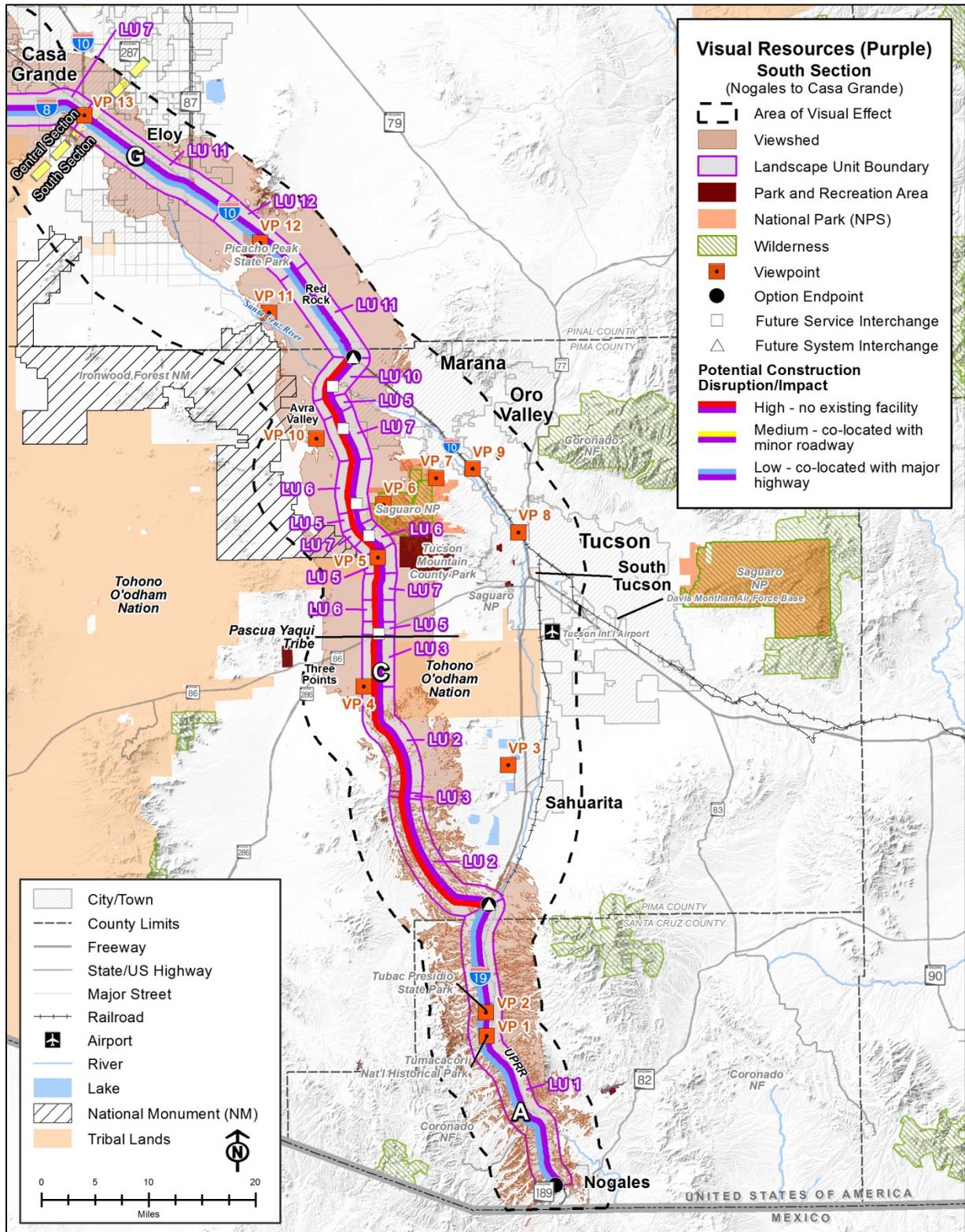


Figure E9-1 Visual Resources Purple Alternative: South Section

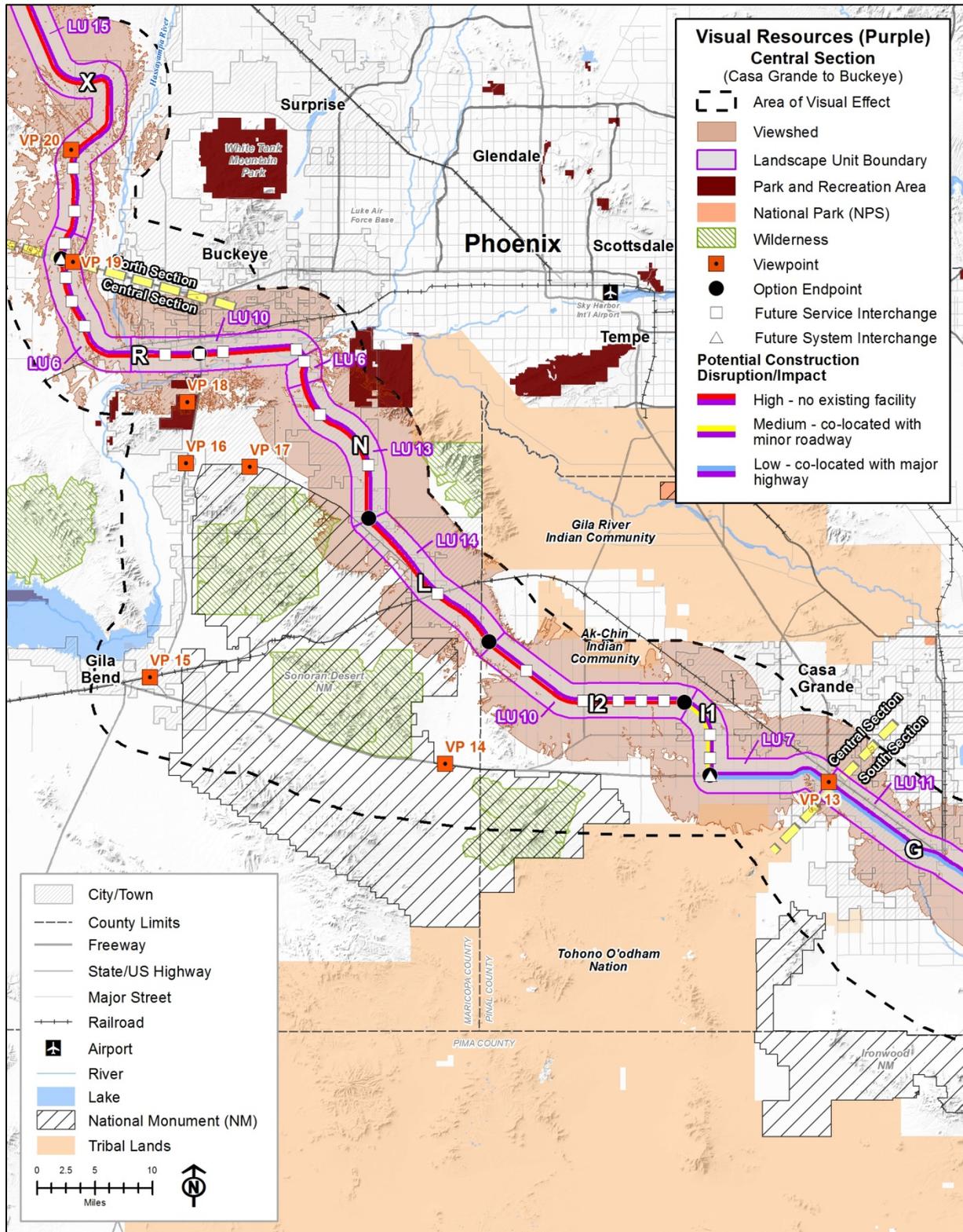


Figure E9-2 Visual Resources Purple Alternative: Central Section

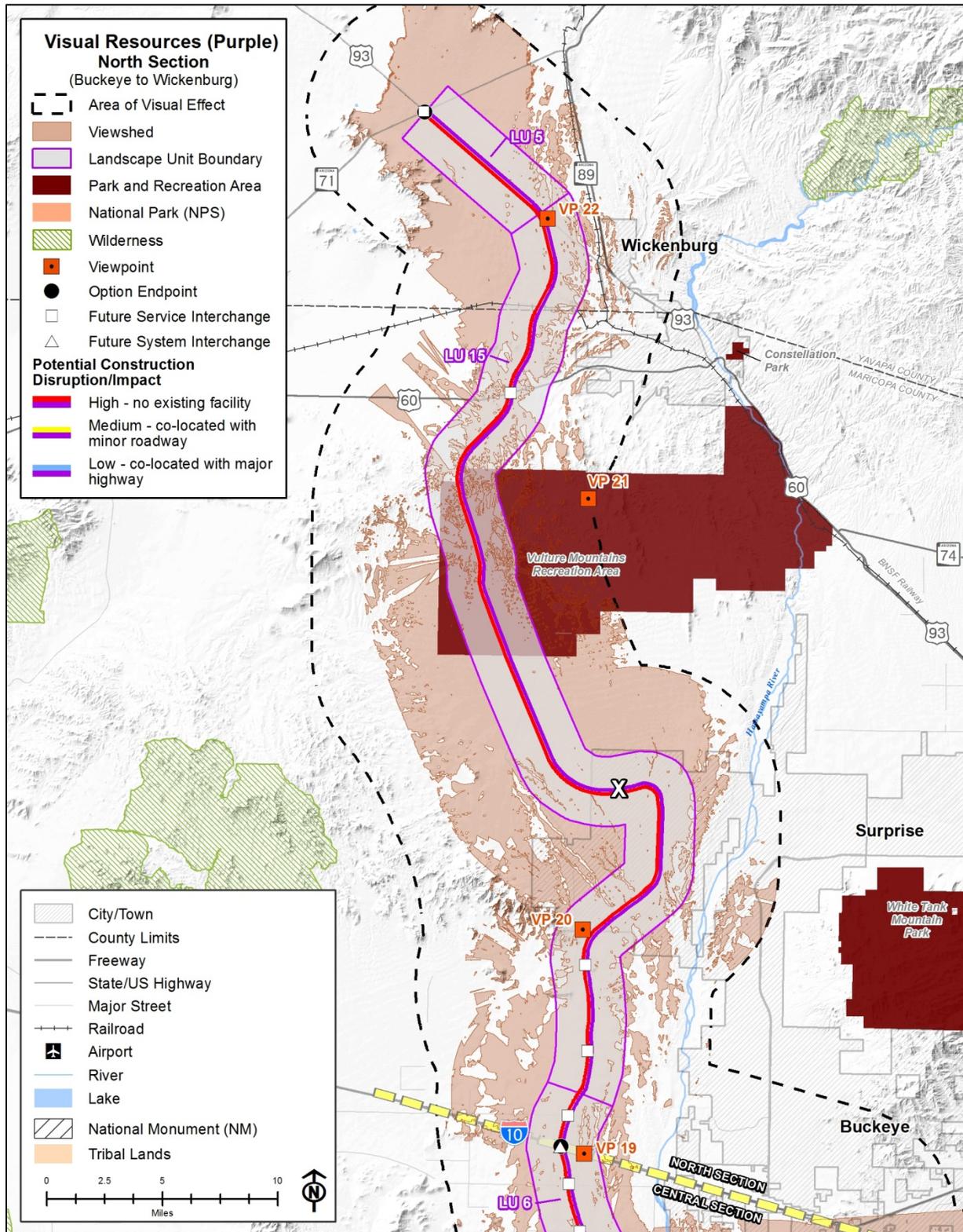


Figure E9-3 Visual Resources Purple Alternative: North Section

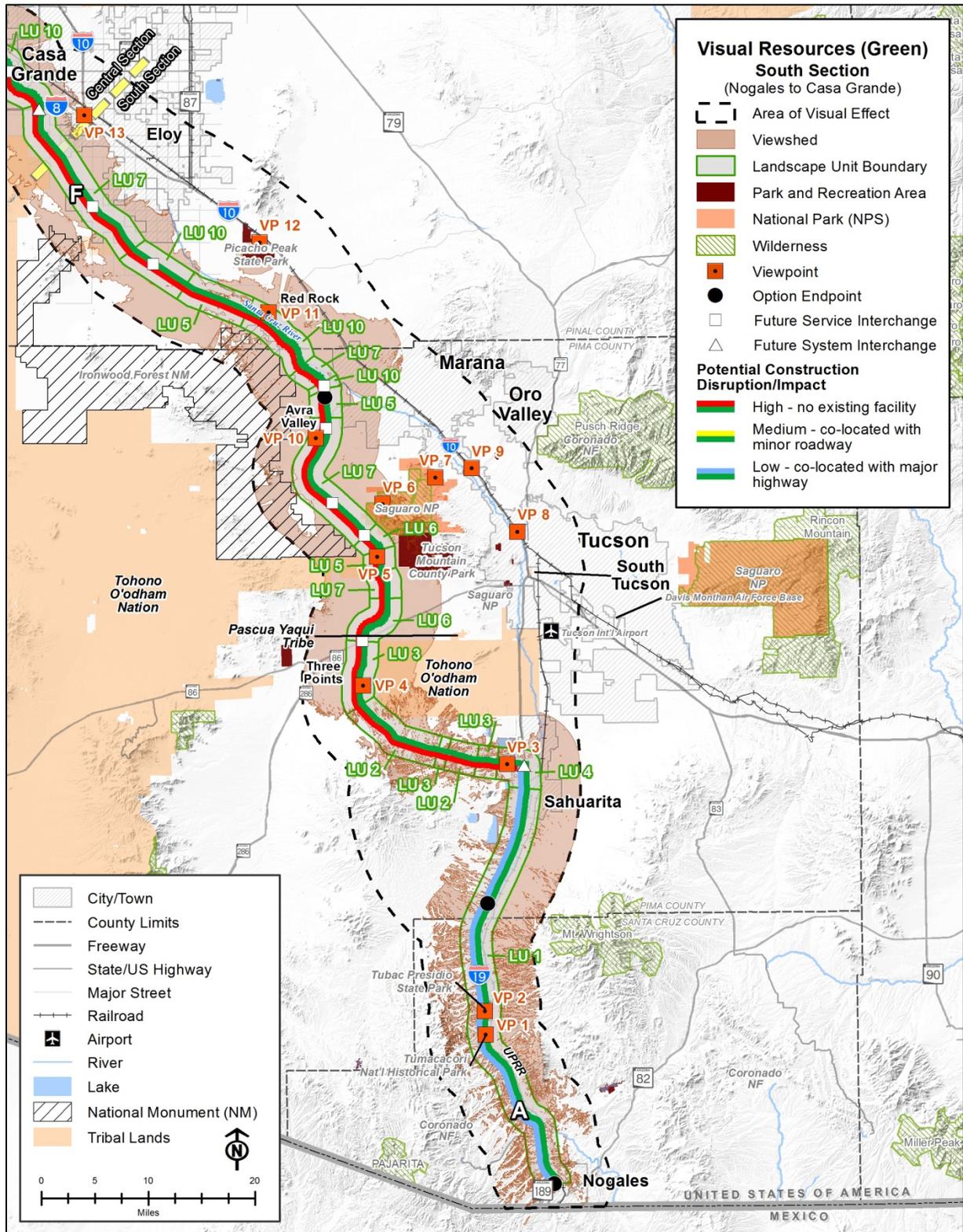


Figure E9-4 Visual Resources Green Alternative: South Section

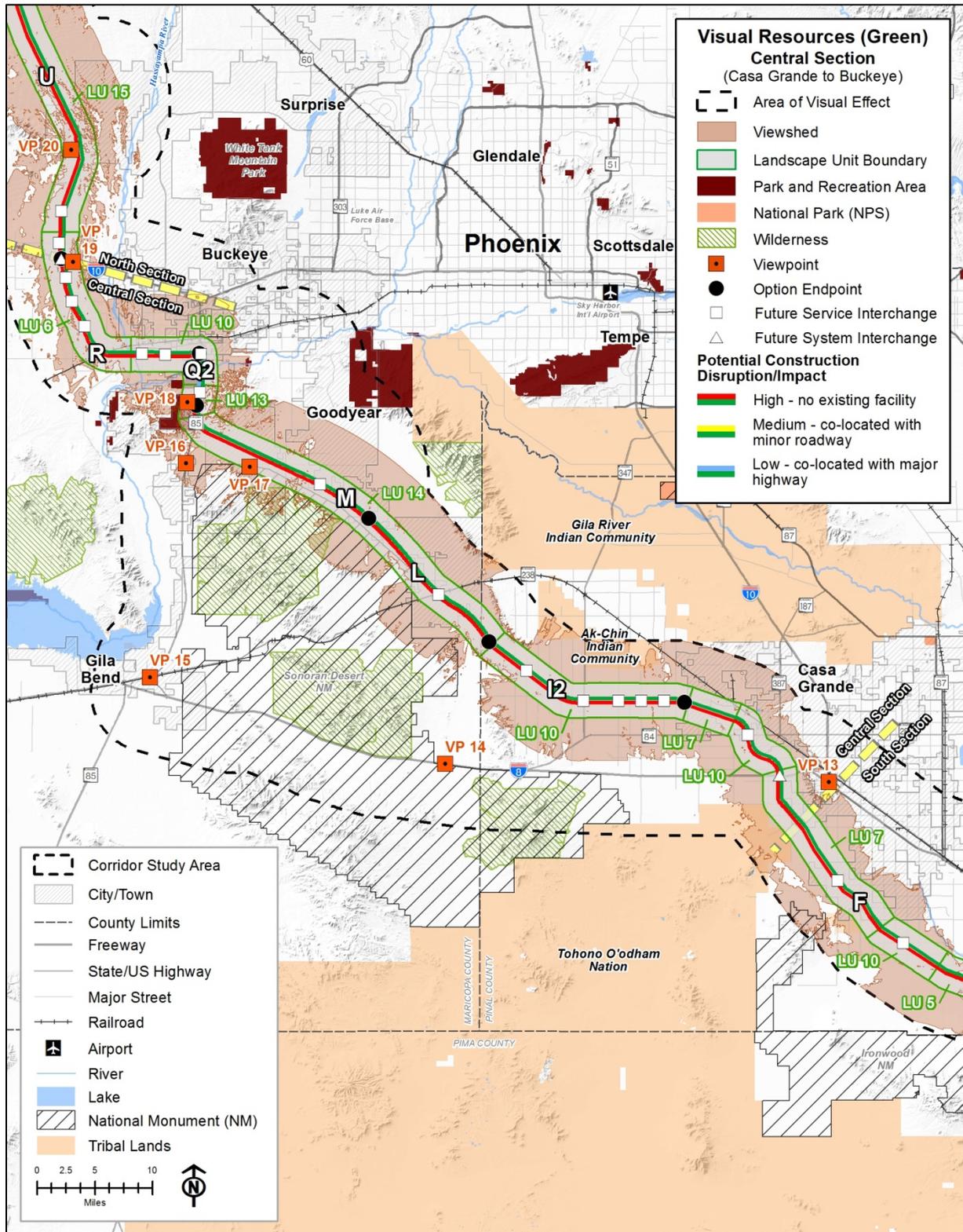


Figure E9-5 Visual Resources Green Alternative: Central Section

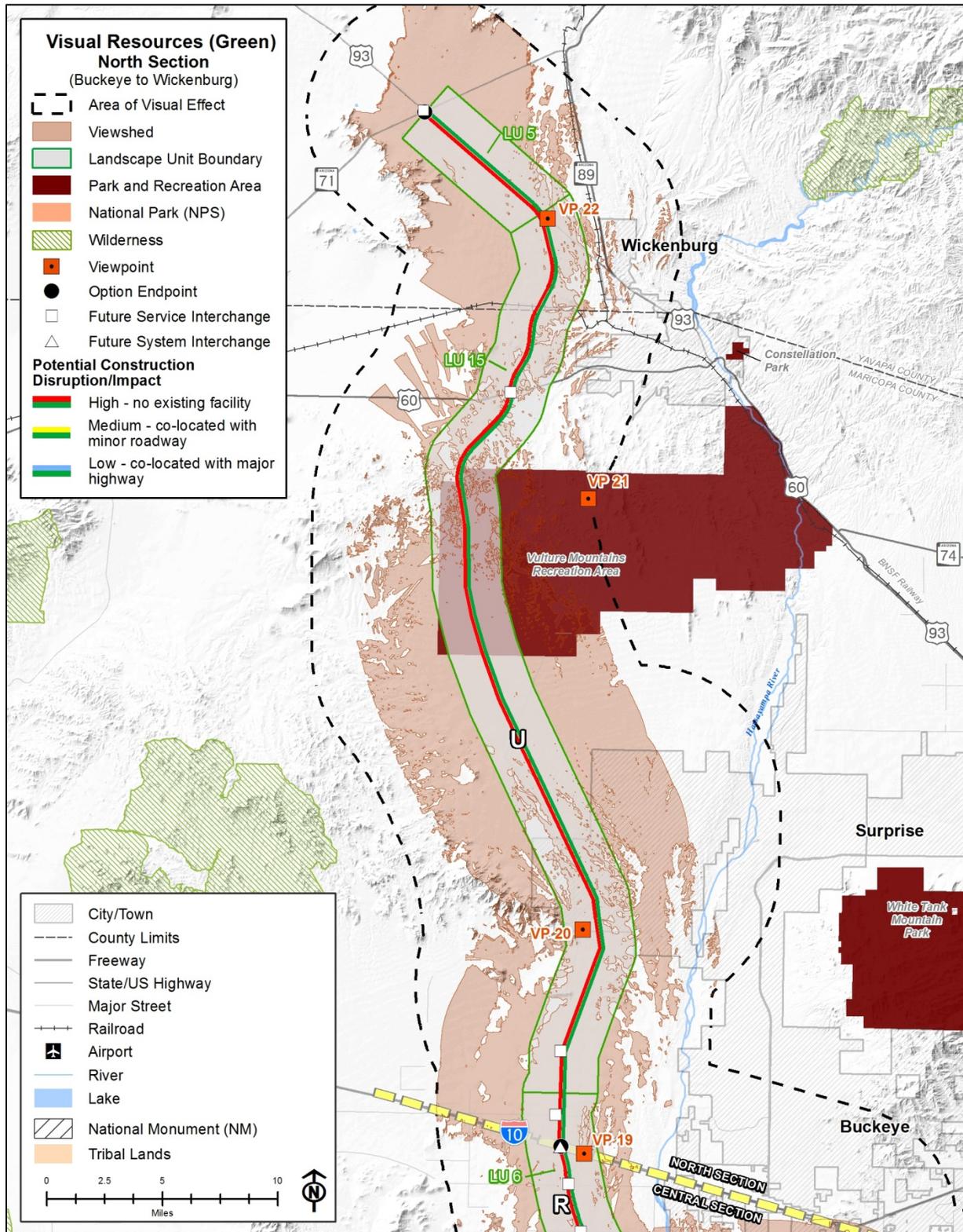


Figure E9-6 Visual Resources Green Alternative: North Section

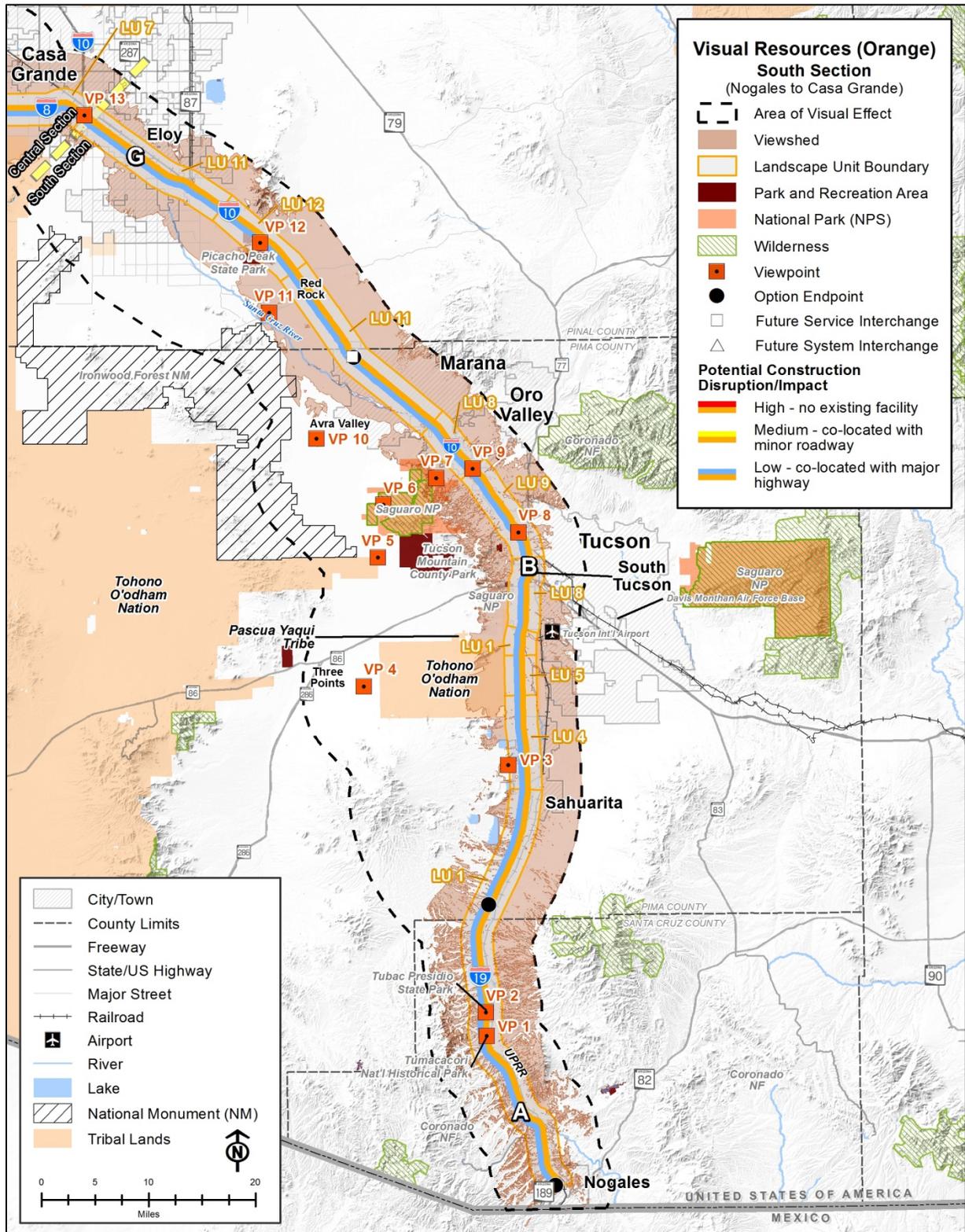


Figure E9-7 Visual Resources Orange Alternative: South Section

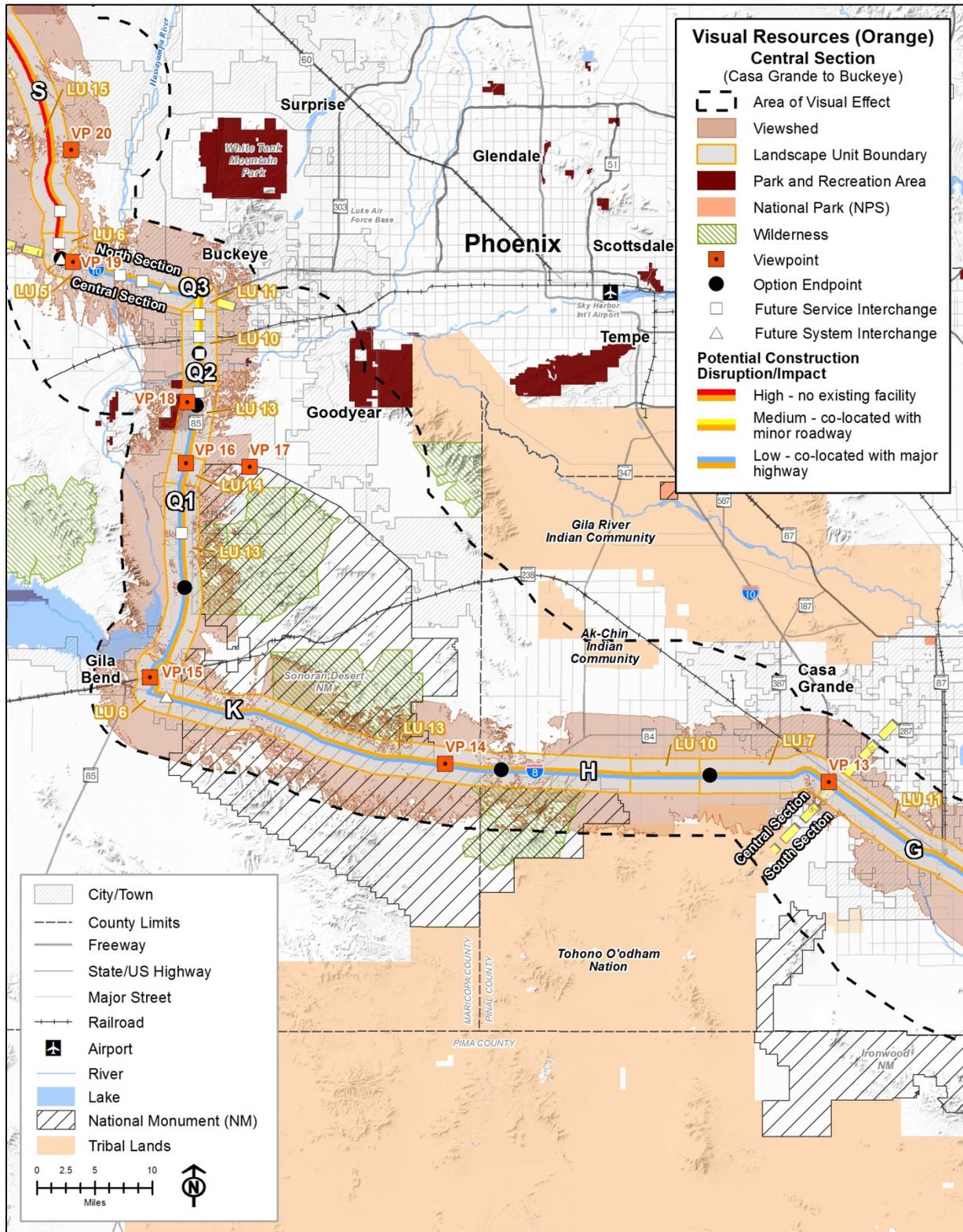


Figure E9-8 Visual Resources Orange Alternative: Central Section

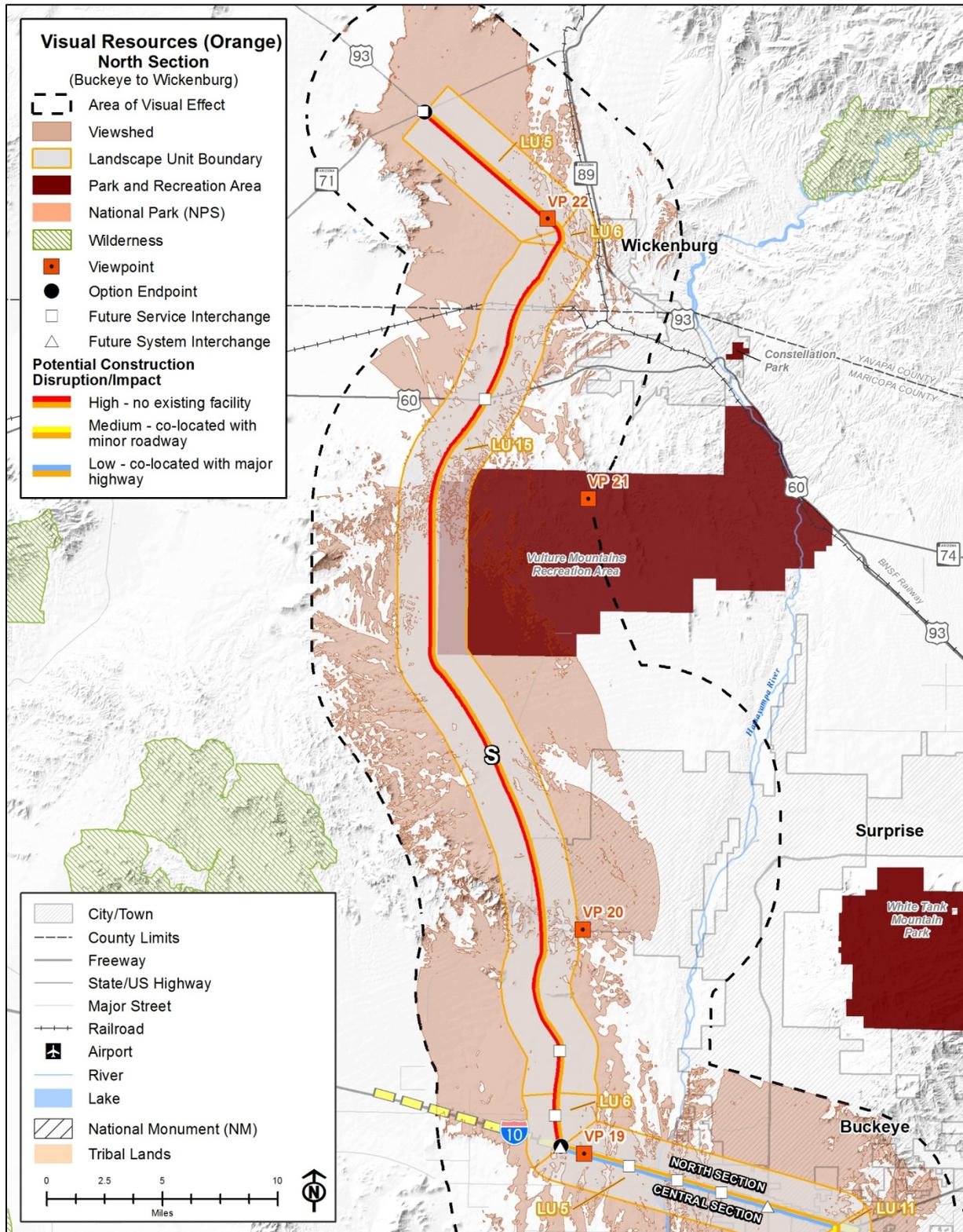


Figure E9-9 Visual Resources Orange Alternative: North Section



1 E9.2 Viewer Types and Awareness

2 There are two distinct groups of viewers within the AVE: neighbors and travelers. Neighbors are
 3 those people who are adjacent to the highway and have “views of the road.” Travelers are those
 4 people who are using the highway and have “views from the road.” Neighbors and travelers are
 5 further subdivided into categories that help establish viewer preferences and their awareness to
 6 changes in visual resources. **Table E9-1** (Viewer Types and Awareness) identifies the
 7 categories and general viewer awareness within the AVE.

Table E9-1 Viewer Types and Awareness

Viewer Type	Description	Viewer Awareness
Neighbors: Residential	Those who would live within viewing distance of the I-11 Corridor. They can be owners or renters and tend to be permanent rather than transitory. Their visual preferences tend toward a desire to maintain the existing landscape as it is—they settled where they are for a reason, including how their neighborhood looks. They are not very interested in change, even change that purports to improve the quality of their lives, unless they participated in defining the changes. Depending on their location, residential neighbors are often interested in cultural order and natural harmony, with less emphasis on project coherence unless it impacts their ability to appreciate the other two aspects of visual quality.	High
Neighbors: Recreational	Recreation includes organized sporting events, indoor and outdoor leisure activities, and cultural events. Those who supply a recreational service for others to consume and enjoy, are sometimes permanent; visitors are consumers of the recreational service and are more transitory. The visual preferences of recreational neighbors tend to be focused on and associated with their recreational activity. As a whole, neighbors tend to prefer the status quo and are leery of visual encroachments that may cause adverse effects on the setting of their activity. They also may show willingness to entertain improvements to visual resources that enhance their recreational experience. Depending on the type of recreation, recreational neighbors are very interested in cultural order and natural harmony, with some emphasis on project coherence as it impacts their experience traveling to their recreational activity	High
Neighbors: Commercial	Those who occupy or use office buildings, warehouses, and other commercial structures. Workers are often permanent, while visitors and customers are transitory. The visual preferences of commercial interests vary depending on the business. Those with many visitors and customers mimic the visual preferences of retail neighbors. Others are more inclined to align themselves with the visual preferences of institutional or industrial neighbors. Retail neighbors are dependent on good cultural order and project coherence. Some commercial developments use natural harmony as a method for attracting and keeping tenants.	Low



Table E9-1 Viewer Types and Awareness (Continued)

Viewer Type	Description	Viewer Awareness
Neighbors: Industrial	Industrial neighbors mine or harvest raw materials, manufacture goods and services, or transport goods, services, and people. They tend to require large amounts of land. They tend to limit the extent to which their activities are exposed to the public. Industrial neighbors tend to be primarily workers with few transitory visitors. Industrial neighbors may benefit from good cultural order, natural harmony, and project coherence, but may not depend on these attributes.	Low
Neighbors: Agricultural	Farmers of crops or herd animals. They often work in fields and pastures. Some are permanent; many are migratory but may return to the same area again and again over the years. Agricultural neighbors regard cultural order and natural harmony as critical components of the landscape. They are less interested in project coherence.	Low
Travelers: Recreational/ Touring	Those who are traveling on a highway, primarily for enjoyment, usually to a pre-determined destination. These types of trips tend to be more adventuresome, cover longer distances, and take more time than commuting trips. Touring travelers frequently are traveling in groups with both a driver and passengers. Touring travelers are equally interested in project coherence, cultural order, and natural harmony. Motorist traveling for recreation, particularly along scenic routes have a higher degree of concern of changes in the landscape.	Moderate to High
Travelers: Commuting	Commuters are regular travelers of the same route. The frequency of the travel may vary, but there tend to be peaks—such as morning and evening rush hours and holidays. Most commuting occurs as short trips in urban areas between home and work. These commutes tend to be by single drivers. Other types of commuting involving longer distances, travel through rural or even wilderness settings, and involve passengers as well as drivers. Such trips may include commuting to a favorite or frequent destination, such as a campground, cabin, sports arena, or relative's home. Such trips are considered to be commuting because as they are repeated, the trips tend to become routine and not an adventure. Commuters, like all travelers, are particularly interested in project coherence. They also are interested in cultural order and natural harmony to the extent that it contributes to wayfinding.	Low
Travelers: Shipping	Shippers make a living using a highway primarily to move goods. The type of vehicle and the distance traveled vary. Most shipping travel is routine. Frequently, shipping travelers are only drivers. Shipper's primary interest lies in project coherence.	Low

SOURCE: Federal Highway Administration 2015.

1 **E9.3 Effects on Landscape Units**

2 The following discussion addresses potential impacts on landscape units. **Figure E9-10** through
 3 **Figure E9-31** are photographs from representative viewpoints from each landscape unit and are
 4 shown in **Figures E9-1** through **Figure E9-9**. **Tables E9-2** through **E9-45** describe the visual
 5 quality rating of the landscape units and the anticipated viewer response at the representative
 6 viewpoint.

7 **E9.3.1 Viewpoints**

8 **Viewpoint 1: Tumacacori National Historical Park (Purple, Green, and Orange**
 9 **Build Corridor Alternatives; Option A)**

Elevation: 3,261 feet above mean sea level (amsl)



Figure E9-10 Viewpoint 1: View West from Tumacacori National Historical Park Grounds

10 **Table E9-2 Viewpoint 1 - Visual Quality Rating**

LU 1: Santa Cruz River Valley/Small Communities/Agriculture		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate/high (4)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)

Table E9-3 Viewpoint 1 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 1: Tumacacori National Historic Park		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
National Park recreation destination with historical significance. Recreational viewers are associated with high awareness.	Viewers have inferior foreground views of the existing I-19 corridor. The majority of views from the National Park would be obstructed by vegetation.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be low due to obstructed views of the existing I-19 corridor.
LU 1: Santa Cruz River Valley/Small Communities/Agriculture		
Visual Contrast Level		Not Noticeable

1 All of the Build Corridor Alternatives would be co-located with I-19 (Option A), which has an
 2 existing right-of-way (ROW) width of approximately 300 feet. The current footprint would
 3 accommodate the Build Corridor Alternatives without additional improvement such as ROW
 4 acquisition. Anticipated visual impact for viewers associated with Tumacacori National Historical
 5 Park would be Not Noticeable for all Build Corridor Alternatives because the Project Area is
 6 screened by vegetation and other structures and no changes to the existing cross section are
 7 proposed.

8 **Viewpoint 2: Tubac Residential Community (Purple, Green, and Orange**
 9 **Alternatives; Option A)**

Elevation: 3,274 feet amsl



Figure E9-11 Viewpoint 2: View West from I-19 Toward the Town of Tubac



Table E9-4 Viewpoint 2 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 1: Santa Cruz River Valley/Small Communities/Agriculture		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate/high (4)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Overall Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)

Table E9-5 Viewpoint 2 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 2: Tubac Residential Community		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Residences typically have high awareness due to long duration of views and greater concern to changes in the landscape.	Tubac residences are within 500 feet of the existing I-19 corridor and would have at-grade views of the Build Corridor Alternatives with partial screening by vegetation.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be low, as corridor views are partially obstructed and no changes to the existing I-19 cross section are proposed.
LU 1: Santa Cruz River Valley/Small Communities/Agriculture		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable	

- 1 Similar to Viewpoint 1, all of the Build Corridor Alternatives would be co-located with I-19
- 2 (Option A) which has an existing corridor width of approximately 300 feet. The current cross
- 3 section would accommodate all the Build Corridor Alternatives without additional ROW or lanes.
- 4 Anticipated visual contrast level for residential viewers in Tubac would be Not Noticeable for all
- 5 Build Corridor Alternatives because vegetation and other residential structures partially screen
- 6 views of the Project Area and no changes to the existing cross section are proposed.

7 Viewpoint 3: Twin Buttes Road (Green Alternative, Option D)

Elevation: 3,065 feet amsl



Figure E9-12 Viewpoint 3: View Southeast from Twin Butte Road near Green Valley



Table E9-6 Viewpoint 3 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 4: Heavy Industrial/Mining		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Low/moderate (2)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Overall Visual Quality Rating	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)

Table E9-7 Viewpoint 3 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 3: Twin Buttes Road		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along this local recreational access road would generally have a moderate level of visual awareness.	Travelers would have foreground views of Green Corridor. Viewing duration is typically moderate for recreation focused travelers, including off highway vehicles and motorcycling.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be moderate due to the influence of mining modifications and utilities.
LU 4: Heavy Industrial/Mining		
Visual Contrast Level	Noticeable	

- 1 This viewpoint is located along the Green Alternative (Option D) where modifications include
- 2 unimproved roads, high-voltage transmission lines, and adjacent mining operations. This setting
- 3 is dominated by the landscape scale modifications associated with the mine and utilities. The
- 4 introduction of a 400-foot typical section would result in changes to the visual character (new
- 5 form, lines, and colors) of the unit. Changes would be Noticeable to recreational viewers, but the
- 6 overall visual impact is anticipated to be moderate because of the influence of adjacent mining.

- 1 Viewpoint 4: Three Points Area Rural Residences (Purple Alternative, Option C;
- 2 Green Alternative, Option D)

Elevation: 2,943 feet amsl



Figure E9-13 Viewpoint 4: View West from Rural Residences Located Along Hilltop Road South of Three Points, Arizona

Table E9-8 Viewpoint 4 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 3: Bajada/Rural Residential		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Low/moderate (2)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Low (1)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low (1)



Table E9-9 Viewpoint 4 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 4: Three Points Area Rural Residences		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Residential viewers typically have high awareness due to long duration of views and greater concern to changes in the landscape.	Three Points area rural residences would be within 600 feet of the Green Alternative and would have foreground, at-grade views of the Green and Purple Alternatives with minimal to partial screening by vegetation.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be high due to limited visual intrusions associated with LU.
LU 3: Bajada/Rural Residential		
Visual Contrast Level	Co-Dominant	

1 This viewpoint is located along the Green Alternative (Option D) and the Purple Alternative
2 (Option C) where landscape modifications include unimproved roads, distribution lines, and rural
3 residences. This LU is fairly intact with a low level of encroachment with some visual interest
4 associated with the upper Sonoran desert, sloping bajada landform, and adjacent mountains.
5 The scale of rural residential development is less noticeable than more intensely developed or
6 subdivide residences; therefore the overall unit is cohesive with the surrounding undeveloped
7 landscape. The introduction of a 400-foot typical section would result in changes to the visual
8 character (new form, lines, and colors) of the unit. The visual contrast would be Co-Dominant
9 because of the contrast between residential and transportation uses. The freeway would be
10 incongruous in the overall setting and would create visual contrast due to scale. The Green
11 Alternative would be visible to residential viewers; although portions of the highway may be
12 screened by vegetation and topography for certain residences. Overall visual impact is
13 anticipated to be high due to high viewer awareness to a Co-Dominant level of visual change.

- 1 Viewpoint 5: Sandario Road at the Tucson Mitigation Corridor (Purple Alternative,
- 2 Option C; Green Alternative, Option D)

Elevation: 2,269 feet amsl



Figure E9-14 Viewpoint 5: View North Along Sandario Road Near the Tucson Mitigation Corridor

Table E9-10 Viewpoint 5 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 5: Flat Valley/Limited Development		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low (1)

Table E9-11 Viewpoint 5 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 5: Sandario Road at the Tucson Mitigation Corridor		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along this local travel route are primarily commuting and would be associated with a moderate level of visual awareness.	Travelers would sustain foreground views of the Green and Purple Alternatives. Viewing duration would be typical of interstate travel.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be moderate due to limited visual intrusions associated with LU.
LU 5: Flat Valley/Limited Development		
Visual Contrast Level	Co-Dominant	

1 This viewpoint is located along the Green Alternative (Option D) and the Purple Alternative
 2 (Option C) where landscape modifications include paved roads and transmission lines. Due to
 3 the adjacency of the Tucson Mitigation Corridor, the cross section for the Purple Alternative
 4 would be reduced and the highway travel lanes would be offset to the east. Sandario Road
 5 would remain as a two lane frontage road similar to the existing conditions. The introduction of a
 6 200-foot typical section to accommodate two interim travel lanes for each direction and concrete
 7 median would result in industrial type changes to the visual character. The improvements would
 8 be Co-Dominant to travelers along Sandario Road. Overall visual impact is anticipated to be
 9 moderate due to the level of change to visual quality and partially unobstructed views.

10 **Viewpoint 6: Saguaro National Park (West) (Purple Alternative, Option C; Green**
 11 **Alternative, Option D)**

Elevation: 2,441 feet amsl



Figure E9-15 Viewpoint 6: View Southwest from Saguaro National Park. Sandario Road Evident in Middleground

Table E9-12 Viewpoint 6 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low (1)

Table E9-13 Viewpoint 6 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 6: Saguaro National Park		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Saguaro National Park is a recreation destination utilized by locals and visitors year round. Recreational viewers are associated with high visual awareness.	Viewers have superior views of the existing Avra Valley landscape in the middleground. Views of the Build Corridor Alternatives would be unobstructed from viewpoints with higher elevation within the park.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be high because of high viewer awareness and multiple superior, unobstructed viewing points within the park.
LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Change in Visual Contrast	Co-Dominant (daytime) to Dominant (nighttime)	

1 Viewpoint 6 is located along the Green Alternative (Option D) and the Purple Alternative
 2 (Option C) where landscape modifications include paved roads, rural residences, and
 3 transmission lines. The introduction of a 400-foot typical section would result in visual changes
 4 to the landscape character. The visual contrast would be Co-Dominant (daytime) to Dominant
 5 (nighttime) because of the contrast between the rural setting and transportation uses. The
 6 improvements would be incongruous in the overall setting and would create visual contrast due
 7 to scale. The improvements would be visible to park visitors and motorists on portions of the
 8 Bajada Loop Drive; although portions of the future improvements may be screened by
 9 vegetation and topography from certain park use areas and trails. Overall visual impact is
 10 anticipated to be high due to the high viewer awareness and Co-Dominant (daytime) to
 11 Dominant (nighttime) level of visual change.

12 **Viewpoint 7: Picture Rocks Road (Tucson Mountains) (Orange Alternative,**
 13 **Option B)**

Elevation: 2,406 feet amsl



Figure E9-16 Viewpoint 7: View East from Picture Rocks Road Overlook



Table E9-14 Viewpoint 7 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 8: Suburban Residences/Mixed Land Uses		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)

Table E9-15 Viewpoint 7 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 7: Picture Rocks Road		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along Picture Rocks Road are largely recreational and commuting and would be associated with a moderate level of awareness.	Travelers along Picture Rocks Road would sustain middle to background views of the Orange Alternative.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be low because of the partial vegetation screening in the foreground, high visual absorption capacity of the Metropolitan Tucson Area in the background, and proposed modifications consistent with the existing landscape.
LU 8: Suburban Residences/Mixed Land Uses		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable	

- 1 West Picture Rocks Road is about 3 miles from the existing I-10 corridor and Orange
- 2 Alternative, Option B. In the foreground, the vegetation partially screens views of the Orange
- 3 Alternative. In the background the Tucson Metropolitan Area dominates the landscape, and
- 4 provides a high level of visual absorption. The change to visual quality rating would be low
- 5 because the Orange Alternative would be co-located with the existing I-10. Overall visual impact
- 6 is anticipated to be neutral due to viewing distance, dominance of the developed Tucson
- 7 metropolitan area, and the Orange Alternative is consistent with the existing landscape.

1 **Viewpoint 8: I-10 at Grant Road (Orange Alternative, Option B)**

Elevation: 2,309 feet amsl



Figure E9-17 Viewpoint 8: View South from I-10 at Grant Road

Table E9-16 Viewpoint 8 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 9: Commercial/Light Industrial Mixed Use		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Low (1)	Low (1)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low (1)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Visual Quality Rating	Low (1)	Low (1)

Table E9-17 Viewpoint 8 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 8: I-10 at Grant Road		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along this regional travel route are primarily commuting and shipping, and would generally have a low level of visual awareness to changes in the landscape.	Travelers would have foreground views of the Orange Alternative. Duration of views would be typical of those traveling along an interstate facility.	Impacts to visual quality are anticipated to be low. Response to affected views is anticipated to be low.
LU 9: Commercial/Light Industrial Mixed Use		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable to Noticeable	

1 From this viewpoint along the Orange Alternative (Option B), the developed metropolitan
 2 Tucson area dominates the landscape setting where industrial and mixed land uses are visible
 3 in the foreground, immediately adjacent to the I-10 corridor. The contrast level would be Not
 4 Noticeable to Noticeable. Additional lanes are proposed, and could potentially be added within
 5 the median, to the outside, or above. If an elevated facility were to be proposed in Tier 2, the
 6 level of visual contrast and visibility could be greater.

7 **Viewpoint 9: I-10 at Ina Road (Purple Alternative 3, Option G; Orange Alternative,**
 8 **Option B/G)**

Elevation: 2,202 feet amsl



Figure E9-18 Viewpoint 9: View South from I-10 at Ina Road

Table E9-18 Viewpoint 9 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 9: Commercial/Light Industrial Mixed Use		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Low (1)	Low (1)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low (1)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	Low (1)	Low (1)

Table E9-19 Viewpoint 9 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 9: I-10 at Ina Road		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along this regional travel route are primarily commuting and shipping, and would generally have a low level of visual awareness.	Duration of views would be typical of those traveling along an interstate facility.	Response to impacted views is anticipated to be low, as the proposed modifications to I-10 would be consistent with the existing landscape.
LU 9: Commercial/Light Industrial Mixed Use		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable	

1 Viewpoint 9 is located where Options B and G are co-located with I-10. From this viewpoint, the
 2 developed Metropolitan Tucson Area dominates the landscape setting where commercial, light
 3 industrial, and mixed land uses are visible in the foreground, immediately adjacent to the I-10
 4 corridor. The change to visual landscape would be Not Noticeable because the proposed
 5 modifications would be consistent with the existing landscape. Overall visual impact is
 6 anticipated to be neutral due to the high degree of visual absorption in this urban LU, low viewer
 7 awareness, and proposed modifications that are consistent with the existing landscape.

8 **Viewpoint 10: Avra Valley Area Residences (Purple Alternative, Option C; Green**
 9 **Alternative, Option D)**

Elevation: 2,012 feet amsl



Figure E9-19 Viewpoint 10: View East from Residences Along Avra Valley Road



Table E9-20 Viewpoint 10 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 7: Flat Valley/Abandoned Agriculture		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low (1)

Table E9-21 Viewpoint 10 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 10: Avra Valley Area Residences		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Residential viewers typically have high awareness due to long duration of views and greater concern to changes in the landscape.	Avra Valley residences would have at grade, middleground views of Green and Purple Alternatives. These views would be partially to complete obstructed by vegetation.	The change in visual quality is anticipated be moderate, but response to visual impact is anticipated to be moderate due to the high viewer awareness, partial screening and at-grade views.
LU 7: Flat Valley/Abandoned Agriculture		
Visual Contrast Level	Co-Dominant	

1 This viewpoint is located along the Green Alternative (Option D) and Purple Alternative
2 (Option C) where modifications include abandoned agricultural fields and near unimproved
3 roads, distribution lines, and rural residences. This LU is fairly intact with a low level of
4 encroachment with some visual interest associated with the lower Sonoran Desert and riparian
5 washes along the valley floor. The scale of rural residential development is less noticeable
6 compared to more densely developed areas. Overall the LU is cohesive within the surrounding
7 agricultural landscape. The introduction of a 400-foot typical section would result in changes to
8 the visual character (new form, lines, and colors) of the LU. The change to visual quality would
9 be Co-Dominant because of the contrast between rural agricultural and transportation uses. The
10 freeway would be incongruous in the overall setting and would create visual contrast due to
11 scale. The Green Alternative would be visible to adjacent residential viewers; although portions
12 of the Orange Alternative may be screened by vegetation and topography for certain
13 residences. Overall visual impact is anticipated to be moderate due to high levels of viewer
14 awareness, at-grade and partial screening of views, and anticipated change in the visual quality.

1 **Viewpoint 11: Red Rock Agricultural Area and Rural Residences (Green**
 2 **Alternative, Option F)**

Elevation: 1,812 feet amsl



Figure E9-20 Viewpoint 11: View East Along Sasco Road

Table E9-22 Viewpoint 11 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 10: Flat Valley/Active Agriculture		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low (1)

Table E9-23 Viewpoint 11 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 11: Red Rock Agricultural Area and Rural Residences		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Residential viewers typically have high awareness due to long duration of views and greater concern to changes in the landscape.	Residents of Red Rock would have middleground views of the Green Alternative (Option F) and would have at-grade with project views that would be partially to completely screened by vegetation.	Response to visual impact anticipated to be high due to the lack of visual intrusions associated with LU.
LU 10: Flat Valley/Active Agriculture		
Visual Contrast Level	Co-Dominant	

1 Viewpoint 11 is located along Option F of the Green Alternative where modifications would
 2 occur within active agricultural fields near unimproved roads, distribution lines, and rural
 3 residences. This LU is fairly intact with a low level of encroachment with some visual interest
 4 associated with the lower Sonoran Desert and active agricultural landscape. The scale of rural
 5 residential development is less noticeable than more densely developed areas; the overall unit
 6 is cohesive with the surrounding agricultural landscape. The introduction of a 400-foot typical
 7 section would result in changes to the visual character (new form, lines, and colors) of the LU.
 8 The change to visual quality rating would be Co-Dominant because of the contrast between
 9 rural agricultural and transportation uses. The improvements would be incongruous in the
 10 overall setting and would create visual contrast due to scale. The Green Alternative would be
 11 visible to residential viewers adjacent to the Build Alternative, although portions of the highway
 12 may be screened by vegetation and topography for certain residences. Overall visual impact is
 13 anticipated to be moderate due to the high viewer awareness, at-grade and partial screening of
 14 impacted views, and anticipated change in visual quality.

15 **Viewpoint 12: Picacho State Park (Purple and Orange Alternatives, Option G)**

Elevation: 1,884 feet amsl



Figure E9-21 Viewpoint 12: View East from the Park Main Road/Entrance



Table E9-24 Viewpoint 12 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 12: Picacho Peak		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	High (5)	High (5)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Moderate (2)

Table E9-25 Viewpoint 12 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 12: Picacho State Park		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Picacho State Park is a recreation destination that is utilized by locals and visitors year round. Recreational viewers are associated with high awareness.	Viewers have superior views of the existing I-10 landscape within the foreground. Views of the Orange and Purple Alternatives would be unobstructed from viewpoints with higher elevations within the park.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be low. Despite the high viewer awareness and multiple superior viewing points within the park, changes to the landscape would be Not Noticeable because proposed modifications to I-10 would be consistent with the existing landscape.
LU 12: Picacho Peak		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable	

- 1 Picacho Peak State Park is within 0.5 mile from the existing I-10 corridor and Orange and
- 2 Purple Alternatives (Option G). From this viewpoint, the I-10 corridor co-dominates the
- 3 landscape setting where limited development occurs within the viewshed. The project would be
- 4 consistent with the current landscape and the change introduced to the landscape would be Not
- 5 Noticeable. Overall visual impact is anticipated to be neutral.

- 1 **Viewpoint 13: Casa Grande Area Residences at South/Central Section Boundary**
- 2 **(Purple Alternative and Orange Alternative, Option G; Green Alternative,**
- 3 **Option I2)**

Elevation: 1,490 feet amsl



Figure E9-22 Viewpoint 13: View South from I-8 Interchange

Table E9-26 Viewpoint 13 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 11: Transitional Development		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)



Table E9-27 Viewpoint 13 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 13: Casa Grande Area Residences		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Residential viewers typically have high awareness due to long duration of views and greater concern to changes in the landscape.	Casa Grande residences are at-grade with the Orange and Purple Alternatives and project views would be limited to the foreground. The project would not likely be visible in the middleground due to partial to complete vegetation screening.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be low for existing and future residences immediately adjacent to the corridor, as modifications would be consistent with the existing landscape.
LU 11: Transitional Development		
Visual Contrast Level		Not Noticeable

- 1 The developing suburban community of Casa Grande is generally bounded to the south by the
- 2 interchange of I-10 and I-8. Residences and mixed use development continues to expand within
- 3 this transitional area between Casa Grande and Rillito. This viewpoint is located along the
- 4 Orange Alternative (Option G) and Purple Alternative (Option I1). The I-11 improvements would
- 5 be co-located with I-10/I-8 corridors which have an existing width of 300 feet. The current
- 6 footprint would accommodate all the Build Corridor Alternatives without additional improvement
- 7 such as ROW widening. Anticipated visual impact for residential viewers in Casa Grande would
- 8 be neutral for all Build Corridor Alternatives because the visual change would be Not Noticeable
- 9 and consistent with the existing facilities.

- 10 The Green Alternative (Option I2) is not located close to viewpoint 13, but has a potential to
- 11 impact the developing suburban community of Casa Grande to the west. Option I2 passes
- 12 through open farmland where new improvements would not follow and existing roadway.
- 13 Potential visual impacts would be high along this Option.

1 **Viewpoint 14: I-8 (Orange Alternative, Options H and K)**

Elevation: 1,731 feet amsl



Figure E9-23 Viewpoint 14: View West from I-8 within Sonoran Desert National Monument

Table E9-28 Viewpoint 14 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 13: Bajada/Limited Development		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate/high (4)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)

Table E9-29 Viewpoint 14 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 14: I-8		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along this regional travel route are primarily shipping, and would generally have a low level of visual awareness. Recreational travelers also would be present and would generally be moderately to highly sensitive to visual changes in the landscape.	Travelers would have foreground views of the Orange Alternative. Duration of views would be typical of those traveling along an interstate facility.	Along I-8 modifications associated with the Orange Alternative would be consistent with the existing landscape and be Not Noticeable. Anticipated viewer response is anticipated to be low.
LU 13: Bajada/Limited Development		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable	

1 This portion of I-8 corridor traverses through the Sonoran Desert National Monument just north
 2 of the Table Mountain Wilderness Area. This viewpoint is located along the Orange Alternative
 3 (Options H and K) which would be co-located with the I-8 corridor that has an existing corridor
 4 width of 400 feet. The current footprint would accommodate the Orange Alternative without
 5 improvement such as additional ROW or lanes. Anticipated visual impact for travel route
 6 viewers along I-8 would be neutral for all Build Corridor Alternatives because the Orange
 7 Alternative would be consistent with the existing landscape.

8 Viewpoint 15: Gila Bend Area Residences (Orange Alternative, Option K)

Elevation: 780 feet amsl



Figure E9-24 Viewpoint 15: View Southeast from I-8 Interchange



Table E9-30 Viewpoint 15 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Low/moderate (2)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low/moderate (2)

Table E9-31 Viewpoint 15 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 15: Gila Bend Area Residences		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along this regional travel route are primarily commuting and shipping, and would generally have a low level of visual awareness. Recreational travelers also would be present and would generally be moderately to highly sensitive to visual changes in the landscape. Adjacent residents also would have views of the corridor and would generally have a higher awareness to visual changes in the landscape.	Gila Bend residences adjacent to the corridor would have foreground views of the corridor. The flat terrain and vegetation cover would limit views to those on or adjacent to the corridor.	Viewer response is anticipated to be moderate, as the Orange Alternative would have a new alignment for a small section of Option K that connects I-8 to State Route (SR) 85.
LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Visual Contrast Level	Noticeable	

1 Gila Bend is a small community that is transitioning from agricultural land uses into a more
 2 industrial landscape setting through development of power generation facilities. Additional
 3 mixed use development is seen in this small town primarily due to its location at the junction of
 4 I-8 and SR 85 (i.e., the Phoenix bypass route). The Orange Alternative (Option K) would be co-
 5 located with the I-8 and SR 85 corridor, and would utilize the existing travel lanes within the
 6 current ROW of 400 feet. However, a small section of Option K that connects I-8 to SR 85 would
 7 be a new alignment and is anticipated to have visual impacts on the travelers as well as the
 8 adjacent residents. Overall visual impact is anticipated to be moderate due to the high viewer
 9 awareness, at-grade and partial screening of the corridor, and anticipated change in visual
 10 quality.

1 **Viewpoint 16: State Route 85 (Alternative Orange, Option Q1)**

Elevation: 915 feet amsl



Figure E9-25 Viewpoint 16: View North from SR 85 near Landfill and Utility Corridor

Table E9-32 Viewpoint 16 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 14: Bajada/Light Industrial/Utilities		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Low (1)	Low (1)
Visual Quality Rating	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)

Table E9-33 Viewpoint 16 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 16: State Route 85		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along this regional travel route are primarily commuting and shipping, and would generally have low levels of visual awareness. Recreational travelers also would be present and generally are moderately to highly sensitive to visual changes in the landscape.	Travelers would have foreground views of the Orange Alternative at this location. Duration of views would be typical of those traveling along an interstate facility.	Modifications to SR 85 to accommodate I-11 would be consistent with the existing landscape. Viewer response is anticipated to be low.
LU 14: Bajada/Light Industrial/Utilities		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable	

1 SR 85 is a Phoenix bypass route for shipping and commuting travelers and is characterized by
 2 areas of light industrial land uses, utilities, and undeveloped lands associated with the Sonoran
 3 Desert National Monument. The adjacent mountainous scenery and upper Sonoran desert
 4 vegetation such as Saguaros, contribute to a moderate level of vividness in the LU despite the
 5 presence of some industrial land uses. Along SR 85 (Option Q1), I-11 would utilize the existing
 6 travel lanes within the current ROW of 400 feet. Anticipated visual impact for travel route
 7 viewers along SR 85 would be neutral because the landscape modifications would be Not
 8 Noticeable.
 9

10 **Viewpoint 17: Sonoran Desert National Monument (Green Alternative, Option M)**

Elevation: 1,192 feet amsl



Figure E9-26 Viewpoint 17: View North from Sonoran Desert National Monument with Views of Utility Corridor in Foreground

Table E9-34 Viewpoint 17 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 14: Bajada/Light Industrial/Utilities		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Low/moderate (2)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low (1)

Table E9-35 Viewpoint 17 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 17: Sonoran Desert National Monument		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Sonoran Desert National Monument is a recreation destination that is utilized by locals and visitors year round. Recreational viewers are associated with high awareness.	Viewers have superior views of the Green Alternative in the foreground. Middleground views of the Green Alternative from viewpoints with higher elevation within the park would be unobstructed.	Viewer response from superior viewing points within the monument is anticipated to be high.
LU 14: Bajada/Light Industrial/Utilities		
Visual Contrast Level	Co-Dominant	

- 1 The Sonoran Desert National Monument is primarily undeveloped with few recreation amenities
- 2 other than hiking trails. Three wildernesses exist within the monument boundaries: North
- 3 Maricopa Mountains Wilderness, South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness and Table Top
- 4 Wilderness. Viewpoint 17 is located along Option M of the Green Alternative where existing
- 5 modifications to the landscape include unimproved roads and a utility corridor containing two
- 6 high-voltage transmission lines and several pipelines. The introduction of a 400-foot typical
- 7 section would result in changes to the visual character (new form, lines, and colors) of the unit,
- 8 in addition to the existing industrial modifications to the landscape. Recreational viewers at
- 9 higher elevation would have Co-Dominant fore- and middeground views of the Green
- 10 Alternative and a high level of viewer response.

1 **Viewpoint 18: Buckeye Hills Regional Park (Green and Orange Alternatives,**
 2 **Option Q2)**

Elevation: 902 feet amsl



Figure E9-27 Viewpoint 18: View Northeast from Buckeye Hills Regional Park with SR 85 in Middleground

Table E9-36 Viewpoint 18 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 13: Bajada/Limited Development		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Moderate (2)



Table E9-37 Viewpoint 18 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 18: Buckeye Hills Regional Park		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
<p>Buckeye Hills is a recreation destination that is utilized by locals year round. Recreational viewers typically have high awareness to visual changes in the landscape. Visitors to Buckeye Hills would have foreground views of the Green and Orange Alternatives that are associated with high awareness due to high viewer use and long viewing durations of the site and surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Travelers along SR 85 are primarily shipping and commuting, and would generally have a low level of visual awareness. Recreational travelers would generally be moderately to highly sensitive to visual changes in the landscape.</p>	<p>Viewers within Buckeye Hills would have superior views of the Orange and Green Alternatives in the foreground. Views would be unobstructed to partially screened by vegetation from viewpoints with higher elevation within the park.</p>	<p>Visual response is anticipated to be low as the Green and Orange Alternatives along SR 85 are consistent with existing landscape.</p>
LU 13: Bajada/Limited Development		
Visual Contrast Level		Not Noticeable

- 1 Buckeye Hills Regional Park is a day use site for hikers, sightseers, and has several picnic site
- 2 amenities. The adjacent mountainous scenery and upper Sonoran desert vegetation such as
- 3 Saguaros, contribute to a moderate level of vividness in the LU although development
- 4 associated with Buckeye and SR 85 are subordinate from this viewpoint. Along SR 85 (Green
- 5 and Orange Alternatives, Option Q2), I-11 would be co-located with the existing travel lanes,
- 6 within the current ROW of 500 feet. Anticipated visual impact for recreation viewers at this park
- 7 would be neutral because the visual change is consistent with the existing landscape.

- 1 **Viewpoint 19: I-10 at 355th Avenue (Purple and Green Alternatives, Option R;**
- 2 **Purple Alternative, Option X; Orange Alternative, Option Q3)**

Elevation: 1,092 feet amsl



Figure E9-28 Viewpoint 19: View West from I-10 at 355th Avenue Interchange

Table E9-38 Viewpoint 19 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 5: Flat Valley/Limited Development; LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (2)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Low (1)	Low (1)
Visual Quality Rating	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)

Table E9-39 Viewpoint 19 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 19: I-10 at 355 th Avenue		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along this regional travel route are primarily commuting and shipping, and would generally have a low level of visual awareness.	Travelers would have foreground views of the Build Corridor Alternatives. Duration of views would be typical of those traveling along an interstate facility.	Modifications along I-10 associated with all the Build Corridor Alternatives would be consistent with the existing landscape and not noticeable. Viewer response is anticipated to be low.
LU 5: Flat Valley/Limited Development; LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable	

1 From this viewpoint (Option R/X), the existing I-10 corridor co-dominates the landscape setting
 2 where light industrial and utilities are immediately adjacent to the corridor. The visual change to
 3 the landscape would be Not Noticeable because all of the Build Corridor Alternatives at this
 4 location would be consistent with the existing landscape. Overall viewer response is anticipated
 5 to be neutral for traveler route viewers along I-10.
 6

7 **Viewpoint 20: Aguila Road (Purple Alternative, Option X and Green Alternative,**
 8 **Option U)**

Elevation: 1,422 feet amsl



Figure E9-29 Viewpoint 20: View South from Aguila Road

Table E9-40 Viewpoint 20 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 15: Undeveloped Rolling Hills/Plains		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	High (5)	Moderate (3)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	High (5)	Low/moderate (2)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	High (5)	Low/moderate (2)

Table E9-41 Viewpoint 20 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 20: Aguila Road		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Recreational travelers are the primary viewers along this local route and would generally have moderate to high awareness to visual changes in the landscape.	Travelers along Aguila Road would have foreground views of the Green and Purple Alternatives.	Viewer response is anticipated to be high.
LU 15: Undeveloped Rolling Hills/Plains		
Visual Contrast Level	Dominant	

1 Viewpoint 20 is located near the Purple and Green Alternatives (Options U and X, respectively).
 2 Options U and X involve improvements in a new corridor from I-10 to US Highway 93 north of
 3 Wickenburg. This portion of the North Section is largely undeveloped and there are no highways
 4 or other industrial scale facilities within the LU. Anticipated visual impacts for high sensitivity
 5 recreational travelers along Aguila Road would be high because the visual change would be
 6 Dominant in the context of this landscape with development limited to utilities, canals, and
 7 unimproved roads.
 8

9 **Viewpoint 21: Vulture Mine Road (Purple, Green, Orange Alternatives, Option S,**
 10 **U, and X, respectively)**

Elevation: 2,543 feet amsl



Figure E9-30 Viewpoint 21: View to the Northwest from Vulture Mine Road



Table E9-42 Viewpoint 21 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 15: Undeveloped Rolling Hills/Plains		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	High (5)	High (5)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	High (5)	High (5)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate/high (4)
Visual Quality Rating	High (5)	High (5)

Table E9-43 Viewpoint 21 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 21: Vulture Mine Road		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Recreational travelers and neighbors are the primary viewers along this local route and would generally have moderate to high awareness to visual changes in the landscape.	Travelers and recreationalists along Vulture Mine Road would not have views of any of the Build Alternatives due to distance, intervening terrain, and vegetation screening.	Viewer response is anticipated to be low because all of the Build Corridor Alternatives would not be seen.
LU 15: Undeveloped Rolling Hills/Plains		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable	

- 1 This viewpoint is located in the proposed Vulture Mountains Recreation Area along existing
- 2 Vulture Mine Road. The alignments of the Purple, Green, and Orange Alternatives are relatively
- 3 close together near viewpoint 21. The Purple Alternative (Option X) is the closest at
- 4 approximately five miles away. Anticipated visual impact for viewers associated with Vulture
- 5 Mine Road and future recreation users would be neutral for all Build Corridor Alternatives
- 6 because the visual change would be Not Noticeable as I-11 would be screened by intervening
- 7 topography.

- 1 **Viewpoint 22: US Highway 93 (Purple, Green, Orange Alternatives, Option S, U,**
- 2 **and X, respectively)**

Elevation: 2,618 feet amsl



Figure E9-31 Viewpoint 22: View Northwest from US Highway 93

Table E9-44 Viewpoint 22 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 5: Flat Valley/Limited Development		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)

Table E9-45 Viewpoint 22 - Anticipated Viewer Response

Viewpoint 22: US Highway 93		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Travelers along this regional travel route are a combination of commuting, shipping, and recreational and would generally have low to high levels of visual awareness.	Travelers would have foreground views of all Build Corridor Alternatives.	Viewer response is anticipated to be low because each of the Build Corridor Alternatives would be consistent with the existing landscape.
LU 5: Flat Valley/Limited Development		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable	



- 1 The landscape setting at this location has limited development. Travelers along United States
- 2 (US) Highway 93 (US 93) would be the primary viewers of the project. The Build Corridor
- 3 Alternatives would be co-located with US 93 and consistent with the existing visual landscape.
- 4 The visual change in the landscape would be Not Noticeable. The overall visual affect is
- 5 anticipated to be neutral for travelers along US 93.



1 **E9.4 Effects on the Saguaro National Park (West) and**
2 **Tucson Mountain Park**

3 The following discussion describes the potential impacts on the Key Observation Points (KOPs)
4 within the Saguaro National Park. Figure E9-32 through Figure E9-34 shows the KOP locations
5 and Figure E9-35 through Figure E9-41 are photos from the KOPs. Table E9-46 through E9-57
6 describe the KOP Visual Quality Rating and anticipated viewer response.

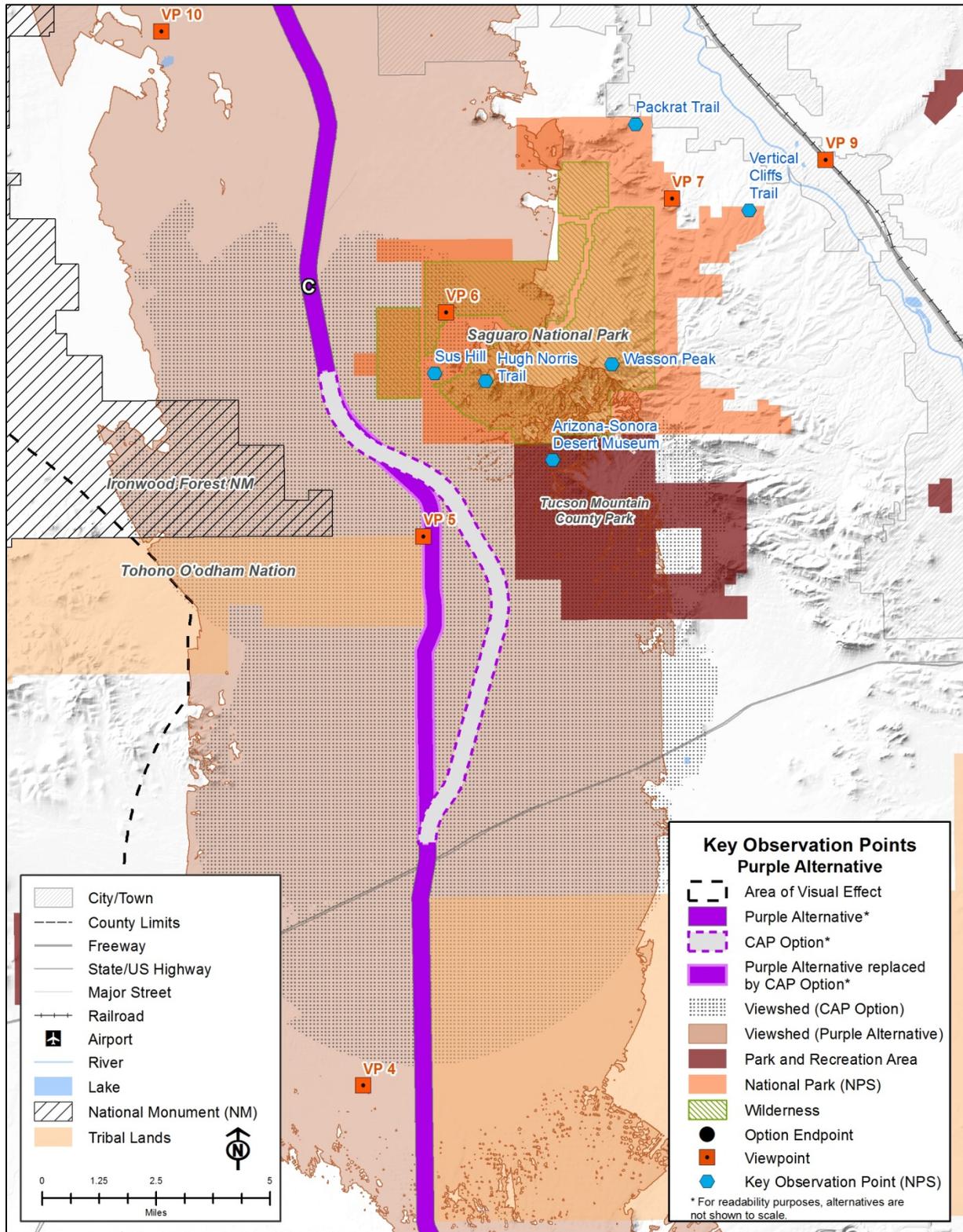


Figure E9-32 Saguardo National Park Key Observation Points: Purple Alternative

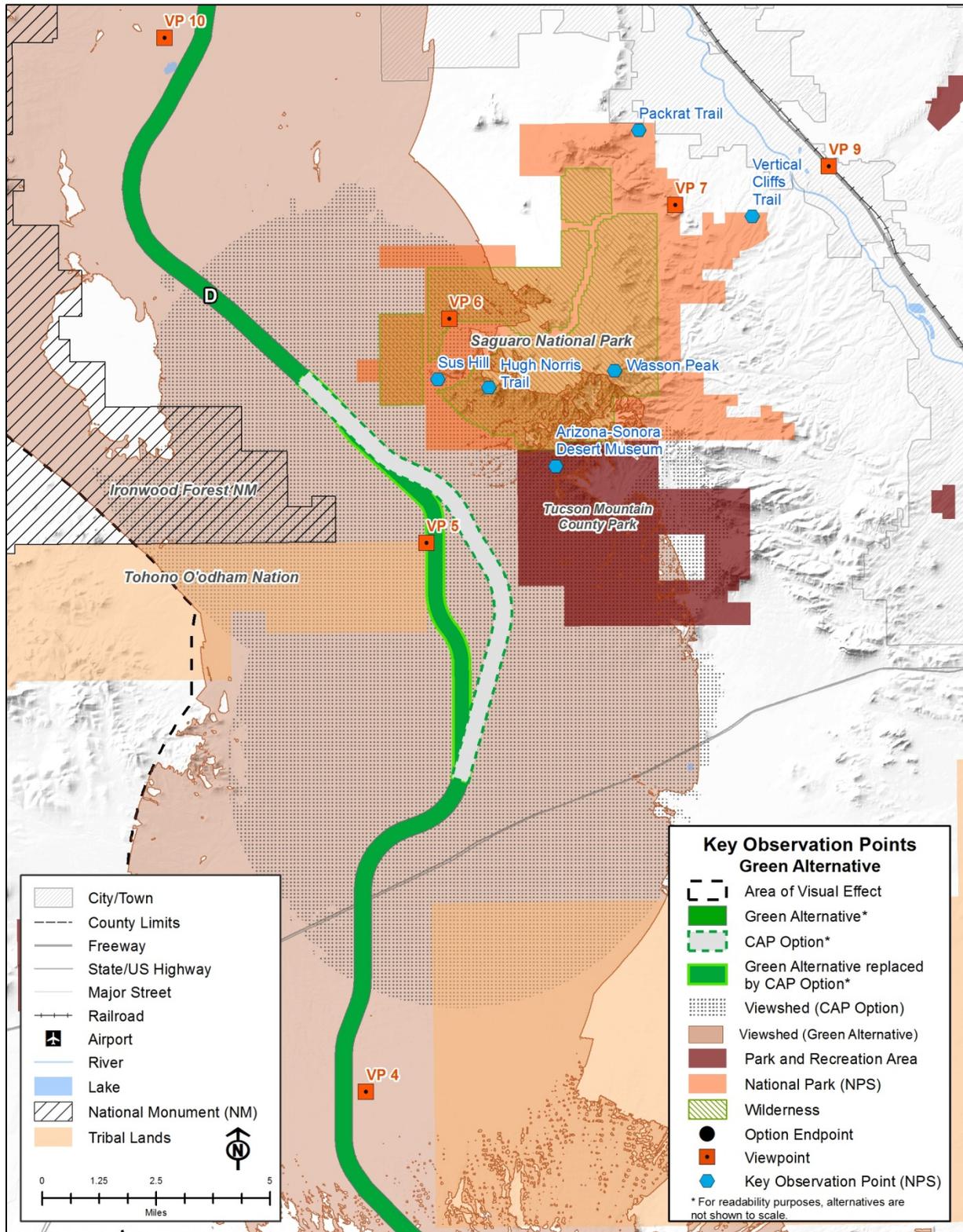


Figure E9-33 Saguro National Park Key Observation Points: Green Alternative

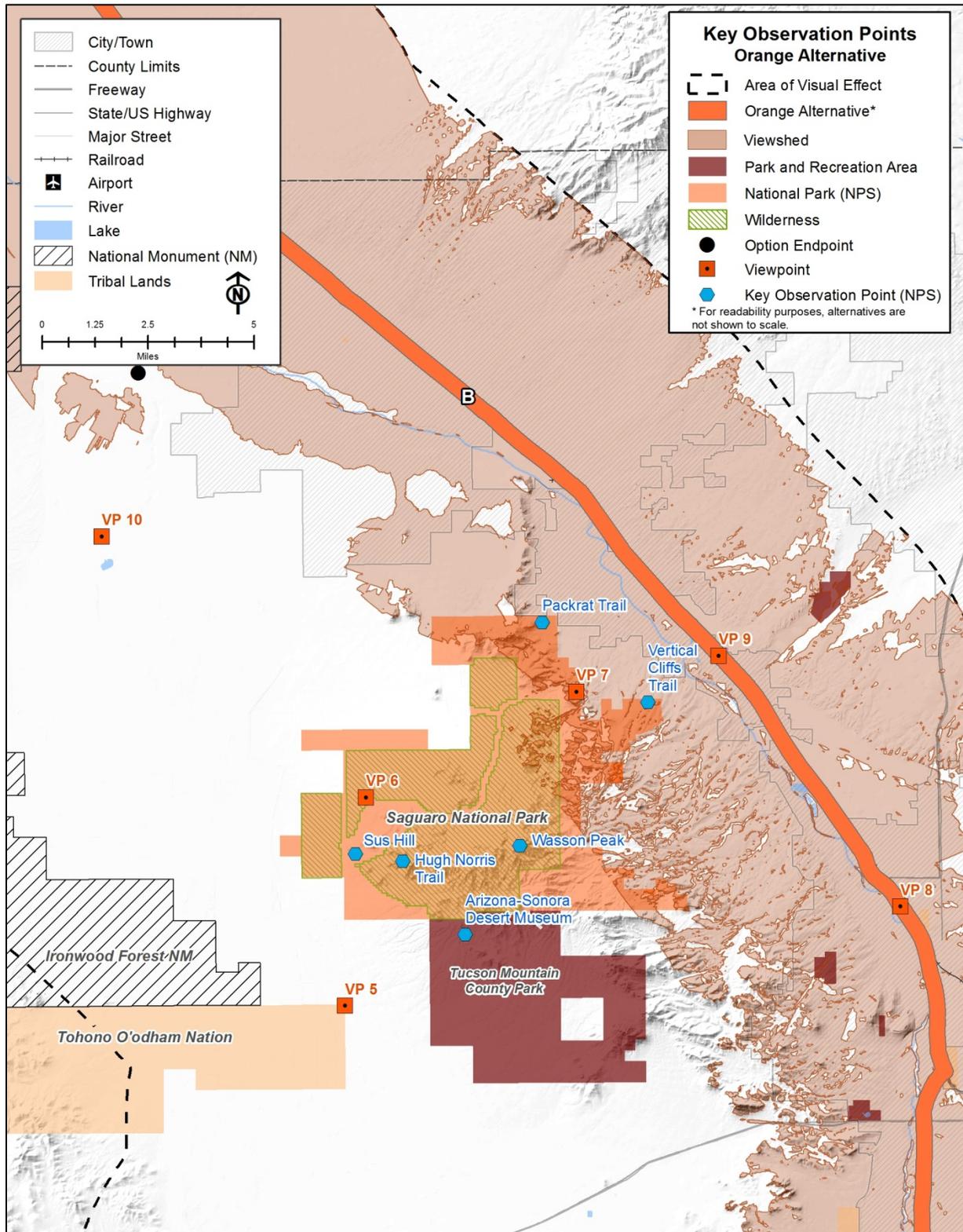


Figure E9-34 Saguaro National Park Key Observation Points: Orange Alternative

1 Key Observation Point 1: Sus Hill (Purple and Green Alternatives; Options C and D, respectively)

Elevation: 2,580 feet amsl



Figure E9-35 KOP 1: View West from Sus Hill (Panoramic view and Zoomed-in)

Table E9-46 KOP 1 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low (1)

Table E9-47 KOP 1 - Anticipated Viewer Response

KOP 1: Sus Hill		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Sus Hill is a recreation destination utilized by locals and visitors year round within the Saguaro National Park. Recreational viewers are associated with high visual awareness.	Viewers have superior views of the existing Picture Rocks in the middleground and views of Avra Valley landscape in the background. Recreational viewers will have middleground views of the Green and Purple Alternatives.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be high because of high viewer awareness and superior, unobstructed views.
LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Visual Contrast Level	Co-Dominant (daytime) to Dominant (nighttime)	

1 Sus Hill KOP is located along the Green Alternative (Option D) and the Purple Alternative (Option C) where landscape modifications
 2 include paved roads, rural residences, and transmission lines. The introduction of a 400-foot typical section would result in visual
 3 changes to the landscape character. The visual contrast would be Co-Dominant (daytime) to Dominant (nighttime) because of the
 4 contrast between the rural setting and transportation uses. The improvements would be incongruous in the overall setting and would
 5 create visual contrast due to scale. The improvements would be visible to park visitors; although portions of the future improvements
 6 may be screened by vegetation and topography from certain picnic areas of Sus Hill. Overall visual impact is anticipated to be high
 7 due to the high viewer awareness and Co-Dominant to Dominant level of visual change.

1 Key Observation Point 2: Hugh Norris Trail (Purple and Green Alternatives; Options C and D, respectively)

Elevation: 3,192 feet amsl



Figure E9-36 KOP 2: View West from Hugh Norris Trail (Panoramic view and Zoomed-in)

Table E9-48 KOP 2 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential; LU 7: Flat Valley/Abandoned Agricultural		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate (3)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Low/moderate (2)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate (3)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate (3)

Table E9-49 KOP 2 - Anticipated Viewer Response

KOP 2: Hugh Norris Trail		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Hugh Norris Trail is a recreation destination utilized by locals and visitors year round within the Saguaro National Park. Recreational viewers are associated with high visual awareness.	Viewers have superior views of the existing Picture Rocks in the middleground, and views of Avra Valley and Marana landscape in the background. Recreational viewers will have middleground views of the Purple and Green Alternatives.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be high because of high viewer awareness and superior, unobstructed views.
LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential; LU 7: Flat Valley/Abandoned Agricultural		
Visual Contrast Level	Co-Dominant (daytime) to Dominant (nighttime)	

1 Hugh Norris Trail KOP is located along the Green Alternative (Option D) and the Purple Alternative (Option C) where landscape
 2 modifications include paved roads, rural residences, and transmission lines. The introduction of a 400-foot typical section would
 3 result in visual changes to the landscape character. The visual contrast would be Co-Dominant (daytime) to Dominant (nighttime)
 4 because of the contrast between the rural setting and transportation uses. The improvements would be incongruous in the overall
 5 setting and would create visual contrast due to scale. The improvements would be visible to park visitors; although portions of the
 6 future improvements may be screened by vegetation and topography from certain locations along the trail. Overall, visual impact is
 7 anticipated to be high due to the high viewer awareness and Co-Dominant to Dominant level of visual change.

- 1 Key Observation Point 3: Wasson Peak (Purple, Green, and Orange Alternatives; Options B, C, and D,
- 2 respectively)

Elevation: 4,608 feet amsl



Figure E9-37 KOP 3: View West from Wasson Peak (Panoramic view)



Figure E9-38 KOP 3: View East from Wasson Peak (Panoramic view)

Table E9-50 KOP 3 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential; LU 7: Flat Valley/Abandoned Agricultural; LU 8: Suburban Residences/Mixed Land Uses; LU 9: Commercial/Light Industrial Mixed Use		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	High (5)	Moderate/high (4)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low (1)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate (3)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low/moderate (2)

Table E9-51 KOP 3 - Anticipated Viewer Response

KOP 3: Wasson Peak		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Wasson Peak is a recreation destination utilized by locals and visitors year round within the Saguaro National Park. Recreational viewers are associated with high visual awareness.	Viewers have superior panoramic views of the existing landscape on the west and east side of the Saguaro West - Tucson Mountain District area in the background. Views of the Build Corridor Alternatives in the background would be unobstructed from Wasson Peak.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be high because of high viewer awareness and superior, unobstructed views.
LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential; LU 7: Flat Valley/Abandoned Agricultural; LU 8: Suburban Residences/Mixed Land Uses; LU 9: Commercial/Light Industrial Mixed Use		
Visual Contrast Level	Not Noticeable to Noticeable	

1 Wasson Peak KOP is about 6.5 miles west from the existing I-10 corridor and Orange Alternative, Option B. In the foreground, the
 2 vegetation partially screens views of the Orange Alternative. The Tucson Metropolitan Area dominates the landscape and provides a
 3 high level of visual absorption in the middleground. The change to visual quality rating would be low because the Orange Alternative
 4 would be co-located with the existing I-10. Overall visual impact is anticipated to be neutral for the recreational viewers due to
 5 viewing distance, dominance of the developed Tucson metropolitan area, and the Orange Alternative is consistent with the existing
 6 landscape.

7 Wasson Peak KOP is about 5.2 miles east of the Green Alternative (Option D) and the Purple Alternative (Option C). The alternatives
 8 would have landscape modifications which include paved roads, rural residences, and transmission lines. The introduction of a 400-
 9 foot typical section would result in visual changes to the landscape character; however, these changes would be in the background.



- 1 The visual contrast would be Noticeable because of the contrast between the rural setting and transportation uses. Overall visual
- 2 impact is anticipated to be moderate due to viewing distance, dominance of the developed residential area, and screening by
- 3 vegetation and topography in the foreground.

1 Key Observation Point 4: Vertical Cliffs Trail (Orange Alternative; Option B)

Elevation: 2,330 feet amsl



Figure E9-39 KOP 4: View East from Vertical Cliffs Trail (Panoramic view and Zoomed-in)

Table E9-52 KOP 4 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 8: Suburban Residences/Mixed Land Uses		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate/high (4)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Moderate/high (4)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)

Table E9-53 KOP 4 - Anticipated Viewer Response

KOP 4: Vertical Cliffs Trail		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Vertical Cliffs Trail is a recreation destination utilized by locals and visitors year round within the Saguaro National Park. Recreational viewers are associated with high visual awareness.	Viewers have inferior views of the existing I-10 landscape within the foreground. At-grade views of the Orange Alternative would be completely screened by vegetation within the park.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be low because of obstructed at-grade views.
LU 8: Suburban Residences/Mixed Land Uses		
Visual Contrast Level		Not Noticeable

- 1 Vertical Cliffs Trail KOP is about 2 miles from the existing I-10 corridor and Orange Alternative, Option B. In the foreground, the
- 2 vegetation completely screens views of the Orange Alternative. The change to visual quality rating would be low because the Orange
- 3 Alternative would be co-located with the existing I-10. Overall visual impact is anticipated to be neutral for the recreational viewers
- 4 due to the obstructed at-grade views, and the Orange Alternative is consistent with the existing landscape.

1 Key Observation Point 5: Packrat Trail (Orange Alternative; Option B)

Elevation: 2,367 feet amsl



Figure E9-40 KOP 5: View East from Packrat Trail (Panoramic view and Zoomed-in)

Table E9-54 KOP 5 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 8: Suburban Residences/Mixed Land Uses		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low/moderate (2)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)

Table E9-55 KOP 5 - Anticipated Viewer Response

KOP 5: Packrat Trail		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Packrat Trail is a recreation destination utilized by locals and visitors year round within the Saguaro National Park. Recreational viewers are associated with high visual awareness.	Recreational viewers would sustain middle to background views of the Orange Alternative.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be low because of the partial vegetation screening in the foreground, high visual absorption capacity of the Metropolitan Tucson Area in the background, and proposed modifications consistent with the existing landscape.
LU 8: Suburban Residences/Mixed Land Uses		
Visual Contrast Level		Not Noticeable

- 1 Packrat Trail KOP is about 2.5 miles from the existing I-10 corridor and Orange Alternative, Option B. In the middleground, the
- 2 Tucson Metropolitan Area dominates the landscape, and provides a high level of visual absorption. The change to visual quality
- 3 rating would be low because the Orange Alternative would be co-located with the existing I-10. Overall visual impact is anticipated to
- 4 be neutral due to viewing distance, dominance of the developed Tucson metropolitan area, and the Orange Alternative is consistent
- 5 with the existing landscape.

- 1 Key Observation Point 6: Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (Purple and Green Alternatives; Options C and D,
- 2 respectively)

Elevation: 2,831 feet amsl



Figure E9-41 KOP 6: View West from Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (Panoramic view)

Table E9-56 KOP 6 - Visual Quality Rating

LU 5: Flat Valley/Limited Development; LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Visual Quality Indicators	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Vividness: Memorable (H), Above Average (M), Plain (L)	Low/moderate (2)	Low (1)
Intactness: Free of encroachment (H), retain integrity (M), cluttered (L)	Moderate (3)	Low (1)
Unity: Harmonious (H), partially contiguous (M), disjointed (L)	Moderate/high (4)	Low/moderate (2)
Visual Quality Rating	Moderate (3)	Low (1)

Table E9-57 KOP 6 - Anticipated Viewer Response

KOP 6: Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum		
Viewer Awareness	Viewer Exposure	Anticipated Viewer Response
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is a recreation destination utilized by locals and visitors year round within the Tucson Mountain Park. Recreational viewers are associated with high visual awareness.	Viewers have superior views of the existing limited residential development in the middleground. Brown Mountain screens the south views and the Saguaro National Park screens the north views. Views would be unobstructed to partially screened by vegetation from viewpoints with higher elevation within the museum. Recreational viewers will have middleground views of the Green and Purple Alternatives.	Response to affected views is anticipated to be high because of high viewer awareness and superior views.
LU 6: Flat Valley/Rural Residential		
Visual Contrast Level	Co-Dominant (daytime) to Dominant (nighttime)	

1 Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum KOP is located along the Green Alternative (Option D) and the Purple Alternative (Option C) where
 2 landscape modifications include paved roads, rural residences, and transmission lines. The introduction of a 400-foot typical section
 3 would result in visual changes to the landscape character. The visual contrast would be Co-Dominant (daytime) to Dominant
 4 (nighttime) because of the contrast between the rural setting and transportation uses. The improvements would be incongruous in
 5 the overall setting and would create visual contrast due to scale. The improvements would be visible to park visitors; although
 6 portions of the future improvements may be screened by vegetation and topography from certain points of the Arizona-Sonora Desert
 7 Museum. Overall visual impact is anticipated to be high due to the high viewer awareness and Co-Dominant (daytime) to Dominant
 8 (nighttime) level of visual change.