

**Final  
Public Access Plan  
for the  
Mount Olympus Preserve  
San Diego County, California**

Prepared for:

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
AMSL	Above Mean Sea Level
BLM	U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
BMO	Biological Mitigation Ordinance
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CTMP	Community Trails Master Plan
DPR	County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation
FRMP	Framework Resource Management Plan
MBA	Michael Brandman Associates
MSCP	Multiple Species Conservation Program
OHV	Off Highway Vehicle
SDG&E	San Diego Gas & Electric
SR	State Route



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## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

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### **1.1 - PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

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Mount Olympus Preserve (Preserve) is an approximately 707-acre preserve owned and managed by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The Preserve is included in the North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) preserve system. The Preserve is currently closed to the public; however, the conceptual use plan for the Preserve is for a passive recreation facility including a multi-use trail system (hiking, biking, and equestrian use).

Per the North County MSCP (County of San Diego 2009a), passive recreational activities (e.g., hiking, bird watching, bicycling, horse riding) shall be accommodated in concurrence with the goals and management guidelines of the North County MSCP and, therefore, trails are conditionally compatible within the MSCP preserve system. The purpose of the Mount Olympus Preserve Public Access Plan (Plan) is to determine the appropriate level of public access and recreational use of the Preserve and provide recommendations for preferred trail alignments and features consistent with the protection and enhancement of biological and cultural resources.

The Public Access Plan identifies potential sources of visitor demand within the service area for the Preserve, and summarizes other nearby, similar recreation resources. This Plan also identifies constraints to developing trails and access points; identifies opportunities for destinations, scenic experiences and routes; and analyzes potential impacts and requirements for developed trail and access options. In addition, this Plan provides specific recommendations with regard to trails and access points, fencing and gates, signage, and visitor safety.

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### **1.2 - BACKGROUND**

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This Plan is consistent with the San Diego County General Plan, DPR Strategic Plan, Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP), and the North County MSCP. Goals and objectives from these plans are described below.

#### **1.2.1 - County Goals and Guidelines**

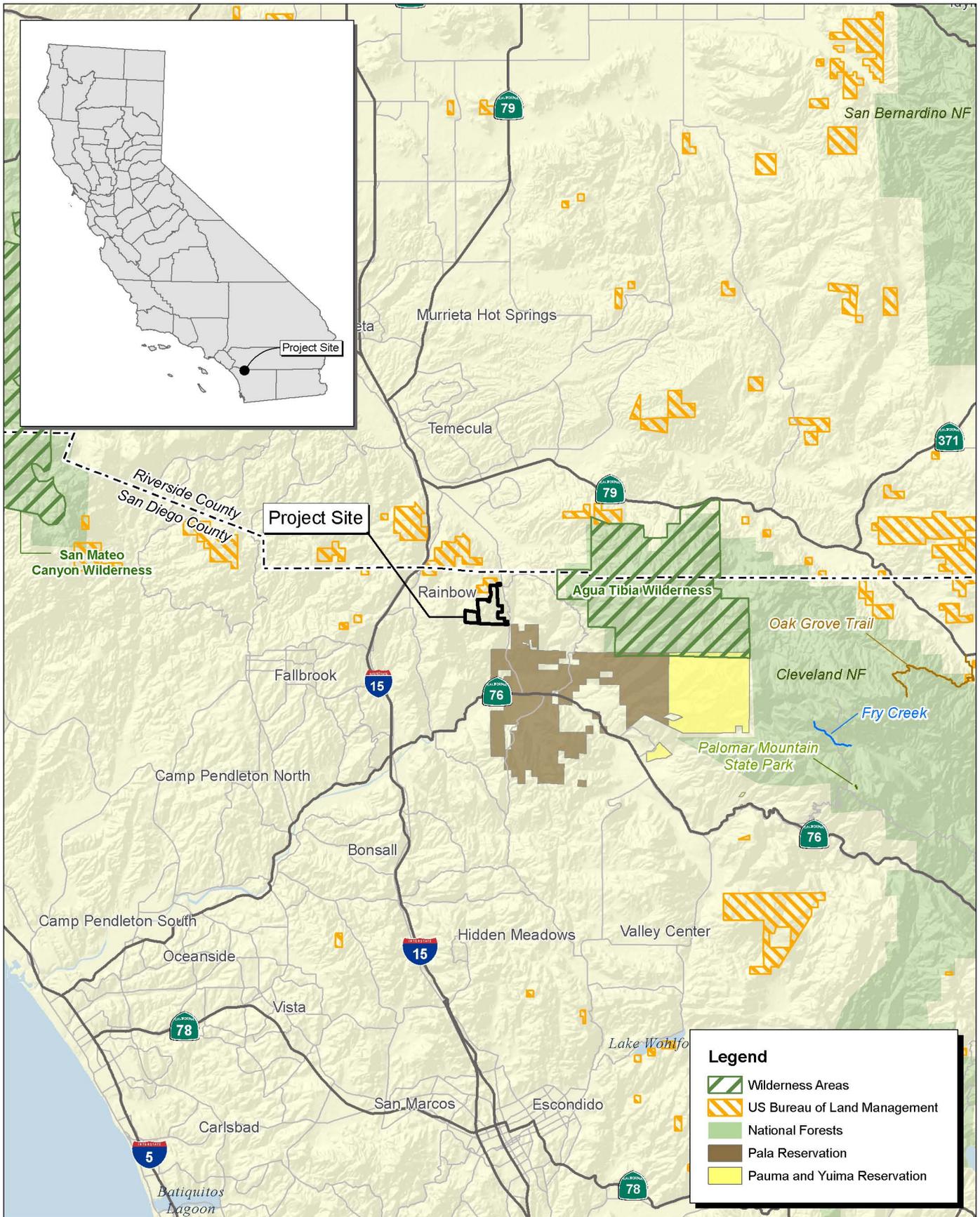
County specific goals and guidelines used to guide the development of this Plan can be found in the San Diego County General Plan. Specifically, the Recreation and Public Facility Elements goals include providing a system of outdoor recreation facilities and trails to serve the needs of the community while preserving natural areas. The Preserve is located within the specific Rainbow Community Plan and the Pala/Pauma Subregional Plan. The Rainbow and Pala/Pauma plans support recreational opportunities to meet community needs and designate the Preserve as a Resource Conservation Area.

Additionally, the overall goal or mission of DPR is to provide opportunities for high quality parks and recreation experiences and to preserve regionally significant natural and cultural resources. DPR oversees the County Trails Program, which has developed the CTMP as the implementing document for the trails program. The purpose of the CTMP is to guide trail development and management in the unincorporated County. Countywide aspects of the CTMP include guidelines regarding trail planning and design, management, and implementation strategies. To this end, this Plan provides recommendations, which are meant to guide future public access and recreational use of the Preserve consistent with these goals and guidelines.

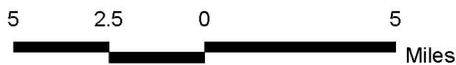
### **1.2.2 - MSCP Goals and Guidelines**

Underlying goals of the North County MSCP address both biological and social factors. The North County MSCP seeks to preserve ecosystem functions and values, maintain the range of natural biological communities and native species, and contribute to the recovery of sensitive species; and to protect the quality of life for residents and visitors by maintaining scenic beauty, natural biodiversity, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities (County of San Diego 2009a).

Appendix G of the North County MSCP, the Framework Resource Management Plan (FRMP), provides management guidelines for MSCP preserve areas. Per the FRMP, any new uses (i.e., new trails or recreational facilities) will not begin until baseline biological and management needs surveys have been conducted, including an inventory of existing trails. Michael Brandman Associates (MBA) conducted these required baseline surveys at the Preserve in 2009. The recommendations provided in this plan are consistent with the FRMP management guidelines regarding: siting criteria; recreation and public access; erosion control; fencing, signs, and lighting; as well as conservation goals for the Mount Olympus Core Area.



Source: Census 2000 Data, The CaSIL, MBA GIS 2009.



## Exhibit 1 Regional Location Map



## SECTION 2: Regional/Local Setting

### 2.1 - PRESERVE LOCATION

The Preserve is generally located north of State Route (SR) 76, south of SR-79, east of Interstate 15 and west of the Cleveland National Forest in unincorporated San Diego County, California (Exhibit 1). The site is specifically located north of Arouba Road, south of Rainbow Heights Road, east of Rainbow Crest Road, and west of Pala Temecula Road (Exhibit 2). The Preserve is comprised of the following nine Assessor's Parcel Numbers:

109-080-12	109-080-22	109-081-07
109-081-08	109-280-03	109-280-42
109-300-08	109-371-03	109-412-06

#### 2.1.1 - Service Area Description

The service area for the Preserve includes North San Diego County (North County) and the Temecula area in Riverside County. As population growth continues in the North County/Temecula area, there may be unmet demand for passive, non-motorized recreation activities because there are only two comparable recreation areas within a 30-minute drive of Temecula (Exhibits 2 and 3). Much of the demand for any future recreational use of the Preserve would likely originate in or around Temecula, with an approximate driving distance of 6.4 miles, and from other communities in North County such as Fallbrook, with an approximate driving distance of 21 miles. In addition to Fallbrook, visitors to the Preserve may also originate from Bonsall located approximately 20 miles away. There are two small communities, Pala and Pauma Valley, which are located within a 10-mile drive of the Preserve. However, both of these communities have less than 5,000 residents. Further south are the communities of San Marcos and Vista. However, these communities have easier, closer access to multiple other County Parks/Preserves.

#### Similar Recreational Areas

In considering future public access and recreational use of the Preserve, other recreational opportunities in the vicinity were looked at (Exhibit 3). Wilderness Gardens Preserve, Agua Tibia Wilderness, Cleveland National Forest and Palomar Mountain State Park offer hiking and other forms of passive recreation in a similar environment to the Preserve, as well as easy access and basic park infrastructure (e.g., restrooms, parking, trailheads). The recreational opportunities in these areas are described in more detail below.

#### *Wilderness Gardens*

Wilderness Gardens Preserve is located about 15 miles southeast of Mount Olympus Preserve. It has four miles of day-use trails, a staging area, a pond, a historic gristmill, and portable toilets. It is open

Fridays through Mondays, from 8am to 4pm. Wilderness Gardens Preserve is closed August 1 to September 4 due to excessively hot weather.

### *Agua Tibia Wilderness*

This 17,979-acre wilderness area, managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Cleveland National Forest, is located in Riverside and San Diego counties south of Highway 79 and north of Highway 76. Agua Tibia has 25 miles of trails including the Dripping Springs Trail (approximately 6.8 miles long) and the Palomar-McGee Trail (approximately 5.5 miles). Visitor use permits are required for overnight stays in the wilderness.

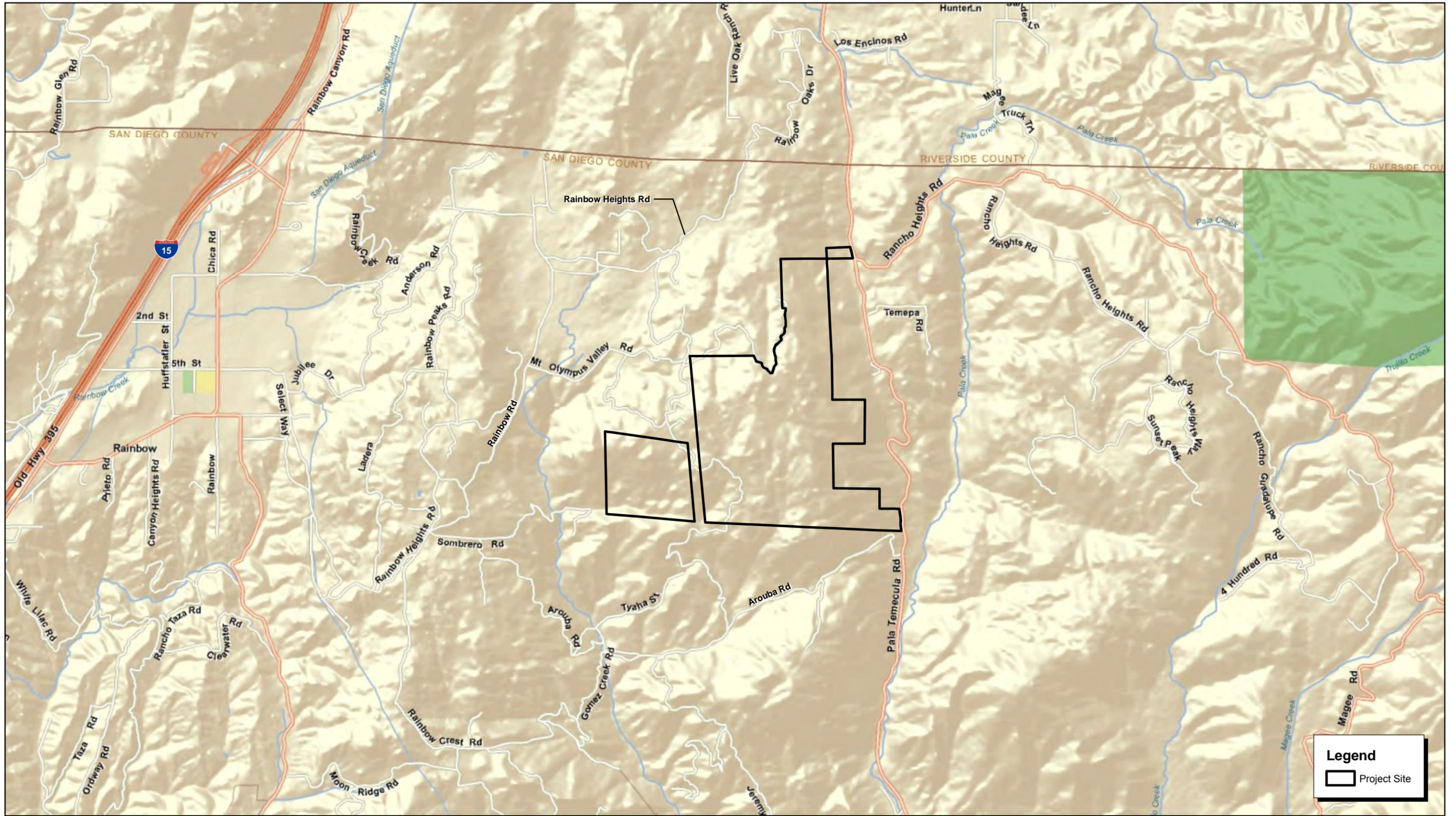
### *Other Trails: Cleveland National Forest*

In addition to trails within the Agua Tibia Wilderness, there are two other trails within a one-hour drive of Temecula, the Fry Creek and Oak Grove trails. Both trails are relatively short (1.7 and 1.9 miles, respectively), and are open to hiker use.

### *Palomar Mountain State Park*

Palomar Mountain State Park is located in San Diego County within a 53-mile drive of Temecula. The Park offers day and overnight use opportunities, including a 3.5-mile loop hiking trail. It is located north of Highway 76.

There are many other nearby park and recreation areas, particularly in Temecula. However, none offer hiking in an undeveloped setting. The California State Parks 2002 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan indicates that statewide demand for hiking and walking will continue to increase and that 1,000 miles of new trails will be needed to meet demand in 2020. Much of the demand for new trails will be in southern California. Additionally, recent comments submitted in response to the draft North County MSCP indicate strong demand for trails from the San Diego Mountain Bike Association and the Valley Trail Association.



Source: ESRI Street Map. MBA GIS Data, 2010.



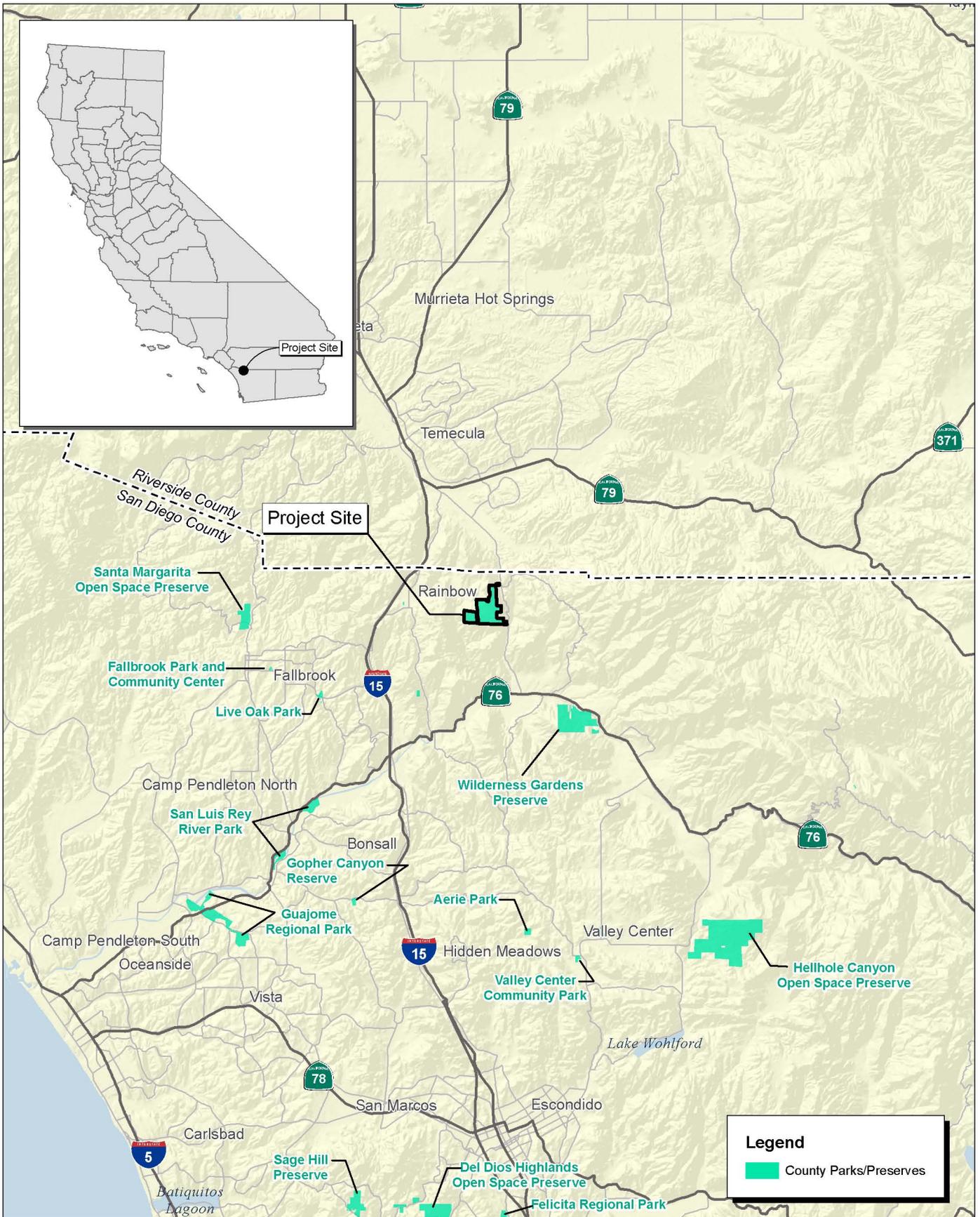
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**Legend**  
 Project Site

**Exhibit 2**  
**Local Vicinity Map**

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 MOUNT OLYMPUS PRESERVE  
 PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN



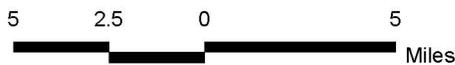


Source: Census 2000 Data, The CaSIL, MBA GIS 2009.



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## Exhibit 3 San Diego County Parks and Preserves Locations

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
MOUNT OLYMPUS PRESERVE  
PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN



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## **2.2 - ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

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The Preserve is located on and surrounding Mount Olympus in the northwestern portion of unincorporated San Diego County. The Preserve ranges in elevation from 790 to 2,224 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The lowest elevation in the Preserve occurs in the southeastern corner. The highest elevation is the top of Mount Olympus, which is located in the center of the Preserve, along the western boundary. The Preserve is approximately 20 miles northeast of the Pacific Ocean, and there are no water bodies or significant drainage features on the Preserve.

Per the North County MSCP, the Preserve is designated as Pre-Approved Mitigation Area (PAMA) and is included in the baseline preserve system. The majority of the habitat within the Preserve is designated as moderate in value based on the MSCP Habitat Evaluation Model; however, small isolated areas are designated as high to very high in value. The Preserve contains both Tier I and Tier III habitats. Three special-status plant species and 13 special-status wildlife species were detected in the Preserve during baseline biological surveys conducted in 2009 (MBA 2010).

The Preserve contains both historic and prehistoric resources that were documented in 2009 (MBA 2009). The historic resources on the Preserve date to the 1930s through 1960s and consist of a series of structures associated with what appears to be recreational facilities. Limited prehistoric resources have been identified within the Preserve. These resources have been determined to be significant according to CEQA guidelines. Locations of the prehistoric resources are protected from public disclosure and the Plan takes into consideration the protection of the prehistoric resources.

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## **2.3 - LAND USE**

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### **2.3.1 - On Site Land Use**

The Preserve is currently not open to the public; however, there is evidence of illegal, motorized use, as well as evidence of hikers as reported by rangers who patrol this area. DPR rangers routinely patrol the Preserve and conduct minor vegetation clearing to provide access to certain Preserve features (Holt, personal communication, 2009).

### **2.3.2 - Adjacent Properties**

The Preserve is bordered by rural residences along the eastern boundary and vacant undeveloped land along the western and southern boundaries. The northern boundary abuts land owned by BLM. The eastern boundary of the Preserve follows Pala Temecula Road, a heavily used County roadway that provides a connecting route between the Pechanga Resort and Casino, and Pala Casino Resort and Spa. The westernmost parcel of the Preserve is separated from the central portion of the Preserve by property owned by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), which contains a transmission line and associated access road.

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## 2.4 - TRAILS

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### 2.4.1 - Site Access

Access for ranger patrol purposes is from the eastern, western, and southern boundaries. The eastern access point is from Pala Temecula Road, and requires unlocking a pipe gate to enter the Preserve. Access from the west is from a road that provides access to a transmission line owned and operated by SDG&E. Southern access is from Farra Street, which is reachable via Arouba Road off Pala Temecula Road. There are BLM lands on the northwest side of the unit, and those lands are under a special use permit with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for the Rainbow (Women's) Correctional Facility. The County does not currently have an easement for the portion of an existing disturbed trail that traverses these BLM lands.

### 2.4.2 - Existing Roads and Trails

#### Dirt Access Roads

The Preserve currently contains two main access roads located near the northeast and southwest corners of the Preserve. The dirt access roads are frequently used and easily accessible, and have little to no vegetation within the access road footprint and/or have been recently cleared by DPR or SDG&E. Generally, the access roads are compacted and wide enough to allow vehicular access.

Dirt Access Road 1 is located at the northeast corner of the Preserve, near the compound site, which consists of an area of historic structures built in the mid-part of the 20th century. This access road is the main point of access to the Preserve from Pala Temecula Road and connects to Disturbed Trail (DT) 1 that crosses the entire Preserve.

Dirt Access Road 2 is located near the southwestern boundary of the Preserve adjacent to the SDG&E property that bisects the Preserve. This access road travels south to north and allows access to the small western parcel of the Preserve and to the southern extent of DT 1. Dirt Access Road 2 occurs both on-site and off-site, and connects to DT 6 from its northern off-site route.

#### Disturbed Trails

There are a number of disturbed areas throughout the Preserve that show evidence of previous use and clearing, potentially for the purpose of creating trails. These disturbed trails traverse the entire Preserve (Exhibit 4). The disturbed trails are generally more vegetated, narrower and less disturbed than the dirt access roads. Vegetation and canopy cover on the disturbed trails range from sparse and very open, to dense with a closed canopy of tall chaparral species.

DT 1 is located at the northeast corner of the Preserve and begins at Dirt Access Road 1. DT 1 allows access to a majority of the Preserve, traveling from the northeast corner to the southwest portion of the Preserve. This is the main disturbed trail within the Preserve, as all other disturbed trails initiate from DT 1.

DT 2 begins at DT 1 and allows access to the central eastern portion of the Preserve. This disturbed trail is located approximately 175 feet south from the intersection of DT 1 and DT 6. Portions of DT 2 are visible on aerial photographs in 2005, but currently are covered with dense stands of chaparral.

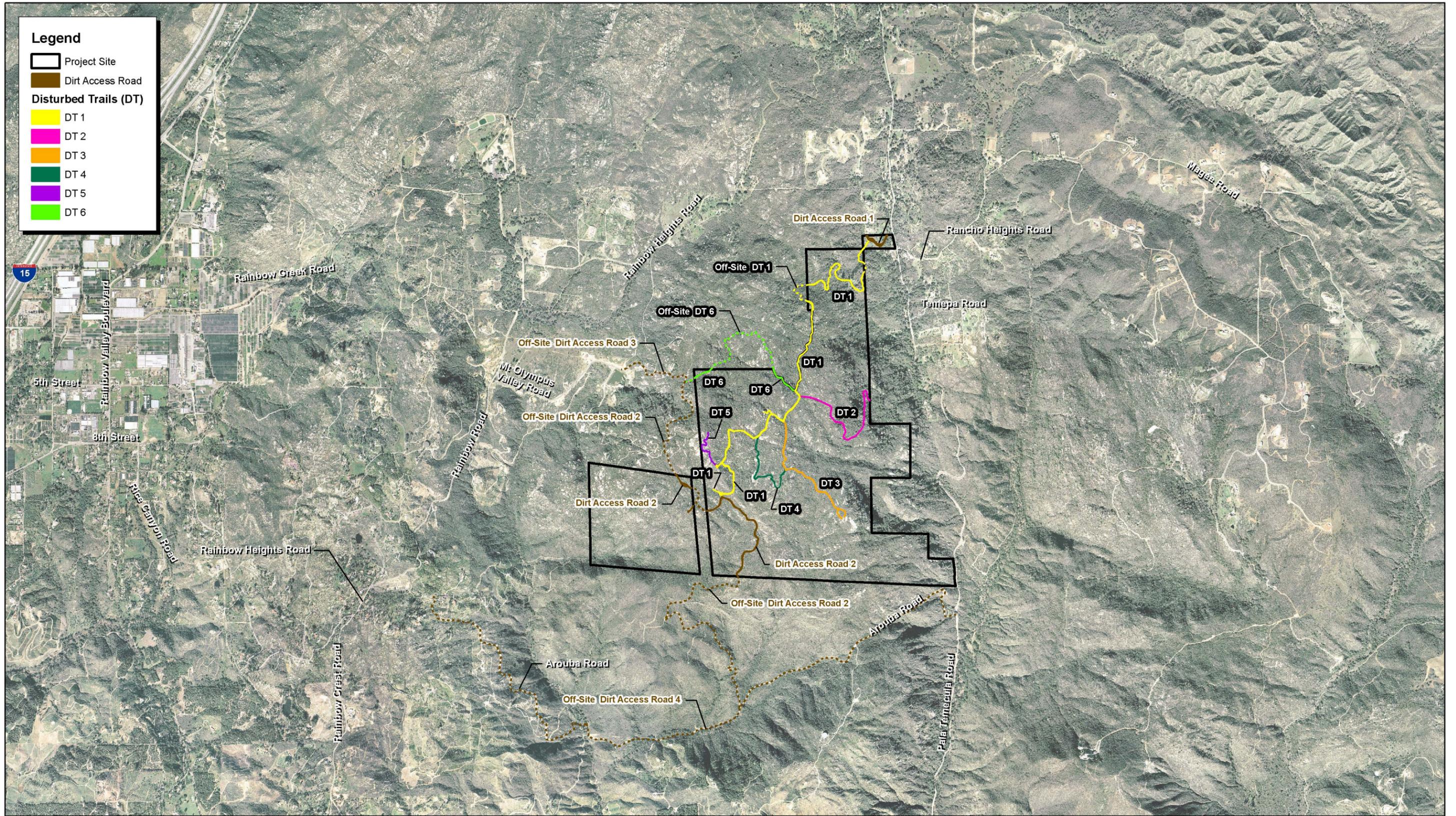
DT 3 extends from the central portion of the Preserve, from DT 1, and continues southeast. Near the southeast terminus of DT 3, there is a fork in the disturbed trail, with both routes terminating at a large rocky outcrop with a scenic view to the south. This disturbed trail used to form a complete loop at the base of DT 3, but is currently covered with a dense stand of chaparral.

DT 4 originates at a rocky outcrop area that once contained a small structure, off DT 1. The disturbed trail travels to the south and is somewhat difficult to follow, but does have evidence of previous use. This disturbed trail connects to a small trail spur that breaks off from DT 3. These two disturbed trails meet in the central portion of the Preserve.

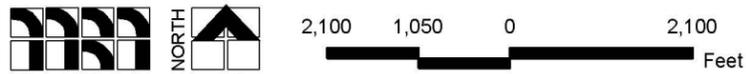
DT 5 stems off DT 1 along the western edge of the eastern parcel of the Preserve. This disturbed trail travels to the north, following a rocky outcrop, and is difficult to follow in some places. DT 5 terminates at a rocky outcrop near the western boundary of the Preserve.

DT 6 originates approximately 215 feet north of the intersection of DT 1 and DT 2, and travels northwest along the northern boundary of the Preserve. A majority of this disturbed trail travels through off-site locations, but crosses the Preserve in two locations and connects to Dirt Access Road 2 at the northwest corner of the Preserve.





Source: San Diego North Aerial, 2005. MBA Field Survey and GIS Data, 2009.



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## Exhibit 4 Existing Trails Map

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
MOUNT OLYMPUS PRESERVE  
PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN



## SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS

### 3.1 - BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Baseline biological surveys conducted in 2009 identified four sensitive vegetation types, and detected three special-status plant species and 13 special-status wildlife species within the Preserve (MBA 2010). While none of these species are State or federally listed, they are considered sensitive by the County and/or are covered under the North County MSCP. As such, any impacts to these resources resulting from recreational use of the existing trails and/or any proposed improvements or new development would need to be analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A summary of the occurrences of each species in relation to the existing trails are provided in Tables 1 and 2 below.

**Table 1: Sensitive Plant Species in Proximity to Disturbed Trails**

Plant Species	Number of Occurrences	Distance/Location
Engelmann Oak	1	125 feet from DT 1
Heart-leafed Pitcher Sage	4	Along DT 4
Orcutt's Brodiaea	9	151 feet along DT 1 and Along DT 4

**Table 2: Sensitive Wildlife Species Occurrences in Proximity to Disturbed Trails**

Wildlife Species	Number of Occurrences	Distance/Location(s)
California Pocket Mouse	2	28 feet from DT 1, 68 feet from DT 1
Coast Horned Lizard	2	Along DT 3
Cooper's Hawk	1	Along DT1
Greater Western Mastiff Bat	1	Along DT1
Northern Harrier	1	183 feet from DT 6
Orange-throated Whiptail	1	Along DT 1
Pallid Bat	1	Along Dirt Access Road 1
San Diego Ring-neck Snake	1	52 feet from DT 1
Small-footed Myotis	1	158 feet from DT 1
Turkey Vulture	1	344 feet from DT 1
Western Red Bat	1	48 feet from DT 1
Western Skink	1	Along DT 1
Yuma Myotis	1	Along DT 1

### 3.1.1 - Vegetation Communities/Habitat

Vegetation communities within the Preserve consist of both Tier I (native grassland and oak woodland) and Tier III (southern mixed chaparral and non-native grassland) habitats. Impacts to these sensitive habitats resulting from any proposed improvements or new development would be considered significant under CEQA and would require habitat-based mitigation in accordance with the North County MSCP Appendix A, Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO). Per the BMO, unavoidable impacts to Tier I and Tier III habitats within the Preserve would require mitigation at a 2:1 and 1:1 ratio, respectively. Utilization of existing trails and locating new development outside of these areas will avoid and/or minimize impacts to sensitive resources. Any unavoidable impacts may be mitigated to a less than significant level by adhering to the BMO mitigation requirements.

In addition, oak woodlands are protected under the California Oak Woodland Conservation Act. Any ground disturbance or compaction within mapped oak woodland or the oak root protection zone would be considered a significant impact under CEQA and would require mitigation at a 3:1 ratio with oak woodland habitat. Proposed trail improvements and any new development should be located outside of oak woodland to avoid this habitat. If this habitat cannot be avoided, trail work should avoid the 50-foot oak root protection zone and be conducted by hand as to avoid any ground disturbance. Any unavoidable impacts may be mitigated to a less than significant level by adhering to the specified mitigation.

### 3.1.2 - Plants

The occurrence of Engelmann oak on the Preserve consists of a solitary tree located at the “compound” area in the northern portion of the Preserve (see MBA 2009 for details on this cultural resource). While oak woodlands are protected under the California Oak Woodland Conservation Act, impacts to a single tree within disturbed habitat would not be considered significant under CEQA. However, this tree is located approximately 125 feet from DT 1 and as long as no improvements or new development are proposed within the 50-foot oak root protection zone, no impacts are anticipated.

Heart-leaved pitcher sage and Orcutt’s brodiaea are both County Group A and North County MSCP covered species. These species occurred either along or within approximately 150 feet of DT 4 (Exhibit 5). In total, these species occur along approximately 530 feet of existing trail. Per County Guidelines (2009b), impacts to five percent or more of a Group A population on site are generally considered significant. Per the BMO, impacts to sensitive plant species in County Group A shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Where complete avoidance is infeasible, encroachment may be authorized provided that the population will remain viable. Where impacts from such encroachment are allowed, in-kind mitigation shall be required within the PAMA at a 2:1 ratio.

In addition, Orcutt’s brodiaea is also considered a narrow endemic and, per the BMO, impacts to this species must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Where complete avoidance is infeasible, encroachment may be allowed provided the population will remain viable (impacts shall not exceed

20% of the on-site population). Where impacts from such encroachment are allowed, at least 80% of the population must remain viable and be conserved. In order to ensure less than significant impacts resulting from recreational use, existing trails adjacent to existing populations may be realigned and any new trail improvements or development should be located as to completely avoid these species.

### **3.1.3 - Wildlife**

Thirteen special status wildlife species were detected within the Preserve during the 2009 surveys (Table 2). None of these species are federally or state listed, nor are they considered narrow endemic species. However, impacts that would have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on these species would be considered significant under CEQA. Per the BMO, impacts to sensitive species shall be mitigated through habitat-based mitigation requirements as described above.

According to County Guidelines (2009b), the following potential adverse effects to special status species resulting from a project are considered significant:

- a.) Impacts to more than five percent of sensitive species habitat;
- b.) Impacts to the local long-term survival of a County Group II species;
- c.) Loss of more than five acres of functional foraging habitat for raptors;
- d.) Indirect impacts that would likely harm sensitive species over the long term; and
- e.) Impacts to nesting success of raptors through grading, clearing, and/or other noise generating activities.

Utilization of existing trails, and locating improvements and new development outside of sensitive species habitat (including foraging habitat, breeding habitat) will avoid and/or minimize impacts to sensitive resources. Where avoidance is infeasible, design elements should be incorporated such that less than five percent of the total sensitive species habitat on site is affected. Avoidance and/or minimization considerations for indirect impacts should include the development of appropriate management directives for the trail system, such as installing appropriate fencing and signage to deter users from going off trail in sensitive areas, and conducting work outside of the bird-breeding season. Any unavoidable impacts may be mitigated to a less than significant level by adhering to the BMO habitat-based mitigation requirements.

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## **3.2 - CULTURAL RESOURCES**

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Historic cultural resources are present along DT 1 at the northern extent of the Preserve. This series of historic structures from the 1930s to 1960s are in disrepair, but provide an interesting aspect to the trail (see MBA 2009 for details on this complex of structures known as the “Compound”). Another historic structure (possibly associated with the above-mentioned structures) is present along DT 4. This structure is completely collapsed and probably represents activities from the 1950s. Neither of

these sites were considered significant resources (MBA 2009) and, therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

One prehistoric site has been identified approximately 350 feet from DT 1. The prehistoric site has been determined to be significant (MBA 2009) and any damage to or substantial adverse changes in the significance of this resource resulting from recreational use of the existing trails, and/or any proposed improvements or new development, would be considered a significant impact under CEQA. Therefore, any proposed trail system should avoid this resource and the immediately surrounding area. Closure of a small trail spur that departs from DT 1 should be considered to further obscure the location of this prehistoric resource.

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### **3.3 - EASEMENTS OR RIGHTS**

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San Diego County owns and manages the Preserve; however, several of the existing disturbed trails and dirt access roads that traverse the Preserve are also partially located off site. A small portion of DT 1 along the northwestern boundary of the Preserve crosses through BLM lands. DT 6 along the western boundary of the main block of the Preserve is located primarily off site on BLM land. Any proposal for recreational use of the off-site portions of these trails, as part of a Preserve trail system, would require granting of a trail easement from BLM.

Dirt Access Road 2 runs along the western boundary of the Preserve and is within the right-of-way of the SDG&E transmission line. This road serves as the main access point for SDG&E to service transmission towers. The road could be used as a main access point into the Preserve either from the south or west. Utilizing this road for public access to the Preserve would encroach on both SDG&E and privately owned property, and would require granting of trail easements from multiple adjacent landowners.

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### **3.4 - TOPOGRAPHY**

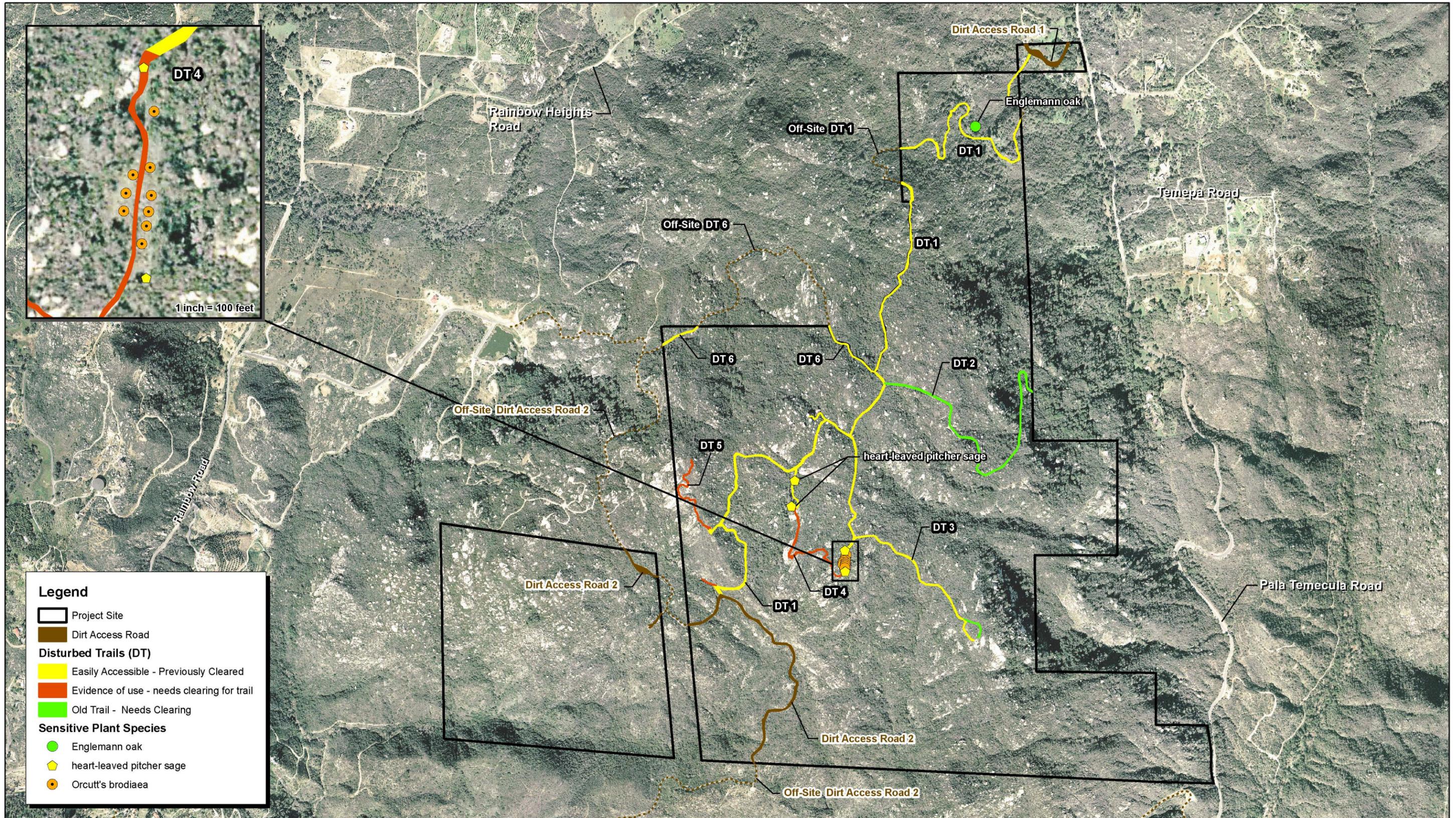
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Topography within the Preserve is very rugged. The elevation ranges from 800 feet AMSL on the southeast at Pala Temecula Road to 2,224 feet AMSL at Mount Olympus. The Preserve consists of an extremely steep escarpment on the eastern side overlooking Pala Creek. The elevation change is from 800 feet AMSL at the southeast corner to 1,900 feet AMSL over a distance of 3,000-feet for a 36 percent grade at the central portion of the Preserve. Per the CTMP, the optimum grade range for primitive trails within a wilderness setting (Type C) is less than 30 percent. Type C trails may exceed 20% grade due to existing conditions or environmental constraints, but this should only be for brief distances. One small segment of existing disturbed trail exceeds this parameter of greater than 20 percent. Construction of any new trails should adhere to the CTMP Type C - Primitive Trail guidelines.

The majority of the soils within the Preserve are rated as having an erosion hazard of high to very high and portions of the existing dirt access roads and disturbed trails show evidence of significant

erosion. Surface erosion from improper drainage will have a detrimental impact on the trail surface, causing damage to the natural environment and increasing maintenance requirements. Therefore, erosion control is of the utmost importance in trail design, and maintenance related to erosion prevention should be factored into any trail planning efforts. Any proposed existing trail maintenance and/or new trail construction should adhere to the erosion control measure guidelines provided in the CTMP.

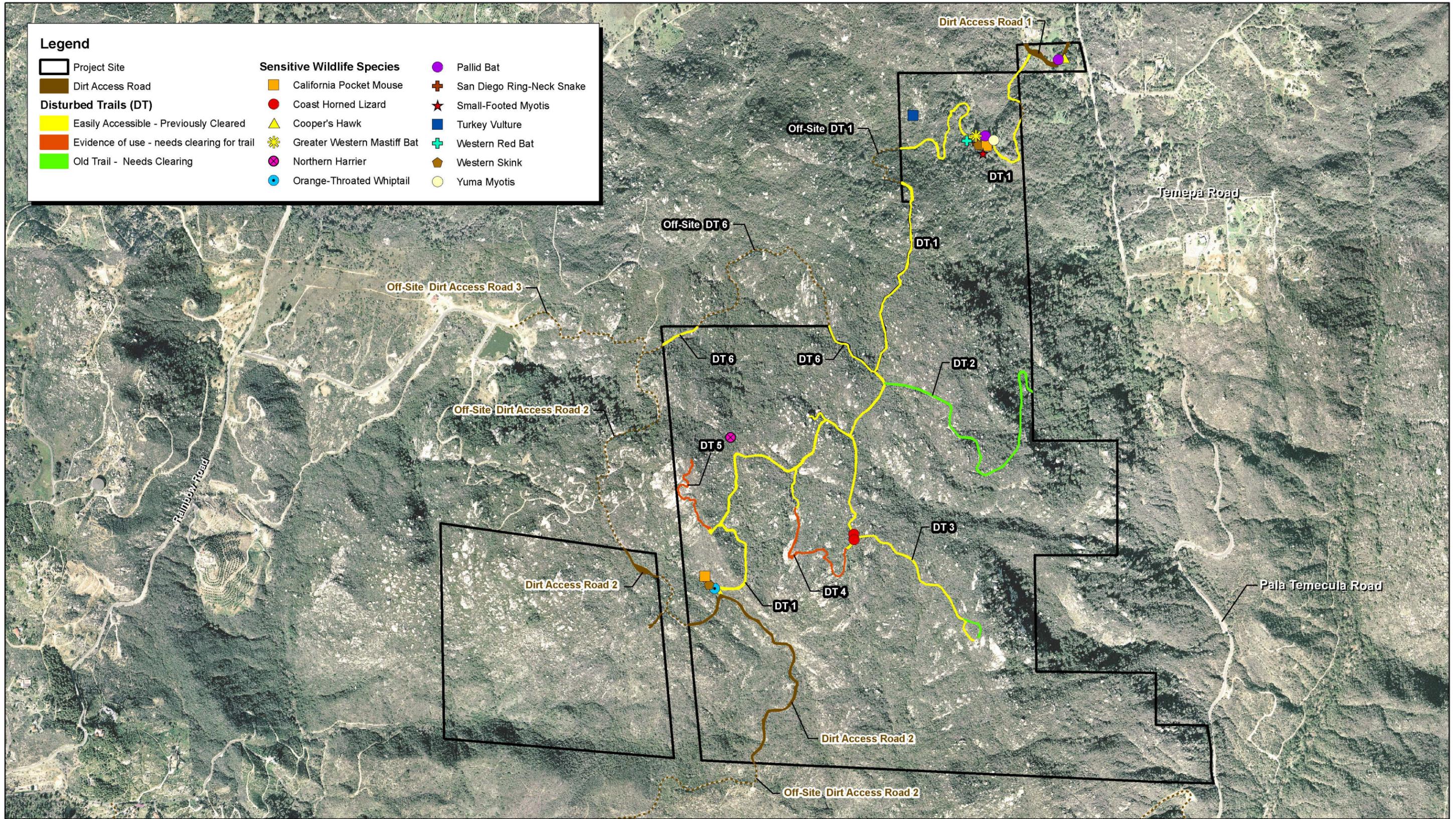




Source: San Diego North Aerial, 2005. MBA Field Survey Data, 2009. MBA GIS Data, 2010.







Source: San Diego North Aerial, 2005. MBA Field Survey Data, 2009. MBA GIS Data, 2010.



Michael Brandman Associates  
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## Exhibit 6 Sensitive Wildlife Species Map

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
MOUNT OLYMPUS PRESERVE  
PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN



## SECTION 4: RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for public access improvements were made by estimating current and future visitor demand, inventorying existing trails and scenic viewpoints, and identifying biological, cultural, easement, and topographical constraints. Potential opportunities and alternatives were then identified and evaluated (see Appendix A) in order to formulate specific recommendations for the Preserve.

Based on the analysis in Appendix A, three trail corridors have been selected as proposed Type C trails under the CTMP. These trails would follow Community Trails Master Plan Design Guideline Matrices for a Type C Primitive Trail (CTMP - Table DCG-1). They would range in width from three to ten feet; would be composed of natural soil; and would have an overall gradient of under 30 percent, with short sections at or under a 20 percent gradient. The current disturbed trails generally meet all of these criteria with one exception on Trail A, where a small portion of the existing trail is at a gradient of 23 percent. As proposed, limited disturbances for further trail development would be necessary.

Trail A is a 2.14-mile long Type C trail comprised of the entirety of DT-1 described in Section 2.4.2, Existing Roads and Trails. The trail ranges from three to five feet in width with vegetation cleared back from the active trail to up to ten feet in places. Trail A has an elevation range from 1,285 feet AMSL at the low point at the proposed staging area on the northeastern side of the Preserve to 2,156 feet AMSL at the highest, for an average grade change of ten percent. One segment of the trail (between the 2,100 and 2,400 foot marker has a grade change of 23 percent. The steepest climb along Trail A is between the 1,200 and 4,200 foot segment with an average grade of 14.8 percent.

Trail B departs from Trail A 1.46 miles from the staging area. Trail B would be established from DT-3 discussed in Section 2.4.2, Existing Roads and Trails. This trail starts at an elevation of approximately 2,108 feet AMSL and traverses 3,000 feet with an ending elevation of 1,985 feet AMSL. The existing trail width is from three to five feet and based on existing trail width and grade changes and easily meets Type C trail guidelines according to CTMP guidelines.

Trail C also departs from Trail A 1.64 miles from the staging area at Pala-Temecula Road. This trail would be established from DT-4 as described in Section 2.4.2, Existing Roads and Trails. It starts at an elevation of 2,098 feet AMSL and runs south toward Trail B where a proposed loop connection is proposed. Trail C is approximately three to five feet in width but would require some vegetation clearing to meet CTMP standards. Grade changes on Trail C are all under ten percent.

Recommendations for specific public access features, alignments, and improvements are provided below.

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## 4.1 - TRAILS AND ACCESS POINTS

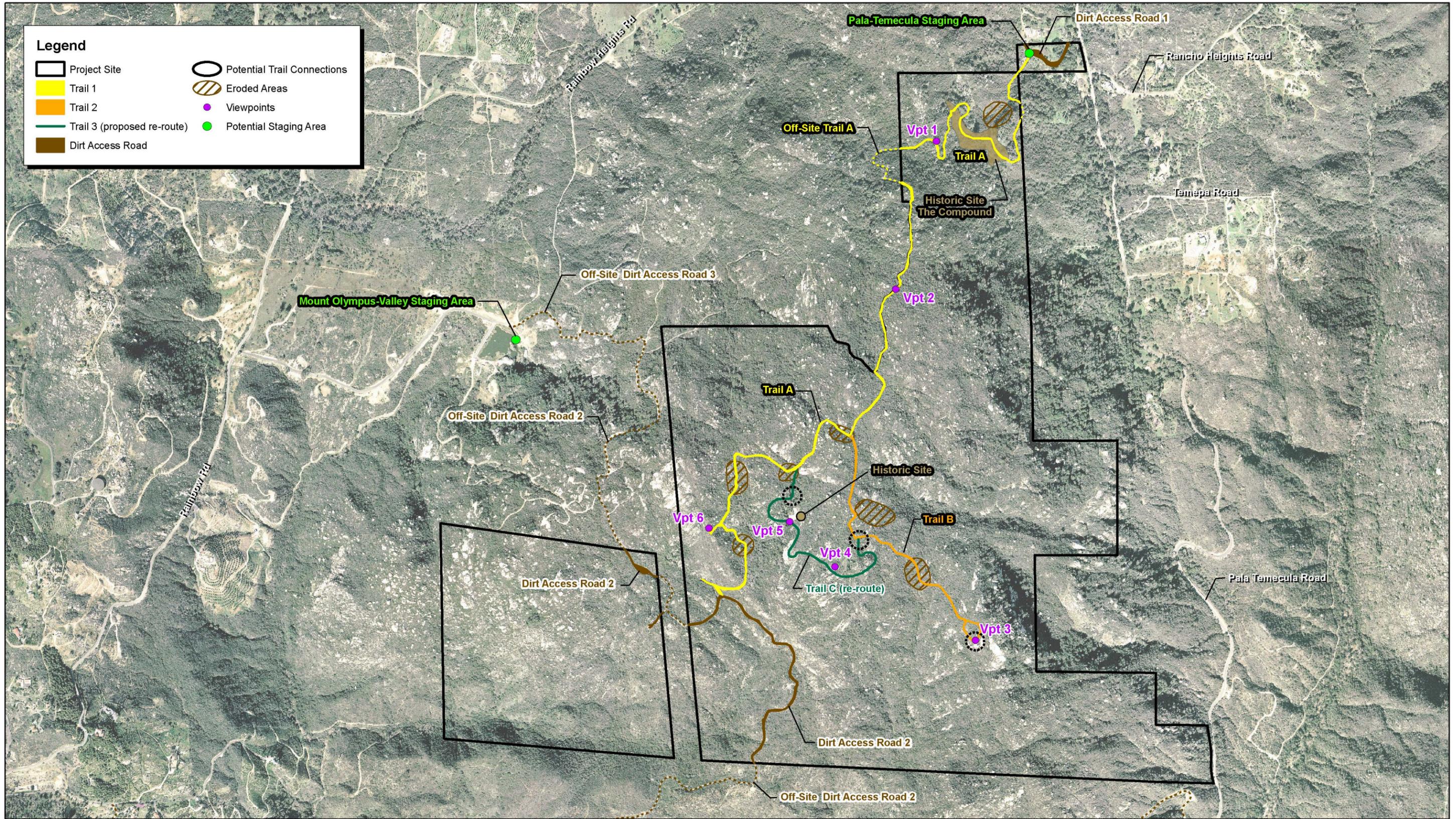
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### 4.1.1 - Staging Areas and Other Trailheads

In order to accommodate public access of the Preserve, it is recommended that a staging area be located on Pala Temecula Road at the eastern access point currently used for ranger patrol purposes (Exhibit 7). This staging area should be large enough to accommodate both equestrian use as well as other day uses. The staging area should include other basic features such as waste receptacles, an information kiosk, a portable toilet, and a water trough. The equestrian staging area may also require additional signage placed along Pala Temecula Road to indicate the location in advance of the turn. Due to limited views along this portion of Pala Temecula Road, and to accommodate vehicles turning left into the staging area, widening of Pala Temecula Road to accommodate a turning lane should be considered in consultation with County Department of Public Works and a traffic management consultant. Other considerations include speed limit reductions in the area and signage warning of turning and slow-moving vehicles.

The proposed staging area location is nearly devoid of vegetation. Based on what is currently known about this area, there would not be any significant impacts to biological resources because there does not appear to be suitable habitat for any sensitive species inventoried during the 2009 baseline surveys. No impacts to cultural resources would occur at the proposed Pala Temecula Road Staging Area. However, full CEQA analysis would require development of design details of the staging area features and potential turnout lane from Pala Temecula Road. It would also require consultation with the County Department of Public Works to ensure safe ingress and egress to the staging area.

A second staging area/trailhead should be considered on the western side of the Preserve. This proposed area at the juncture of Mount Olympus Valley Road and Valley Road could serve residents in the Rainbow area. Access to the staging area would be along paved roads and would allow for slightly easier entry for horse trailers. Easements would be needed to establish the staging area, and an easement along an existing unpaved road to join with the Preserve would be required. This area has not been analyzed for any biological or cultural resources concerns. These issues and potential concerns with traffic would need to be addressed if the staging area feasibility were to proceed.



Source: San Diego North Aerial, 2005. MBA Field Survey and GIS Data, 2010.





#### 4.1.2 - Trail Alignments and Features

Current demand for trail use is low to nonexistent. Trail A, discussed above would provide a 2.14-mile long trail (4.28 miles round trip) that meets CTMP standards as a Type C Primitive Trail with no further modification. This trail would allow the public to hike from north to south along the trail from the Pala-Temecula Road staging area and fully experience the Preserve (Exhibit 7).

As use develops, it may be prudent to implement two projects that connect trails to form loops (Exhibits 4 and 7). One such opportunity is located in south central portion of the Preserve associated with Trail B at its terminus. The would require removal of approximately 0.02 acre of south mixed chaparral to connect the two spurs of Trail B at the proposed location of Viewpoint 3.

Another project would create a loop from Trail B to Trail C. The amount of trail to be connected from Trail B to Trail C and back to Trail A is approximately 1,200 feet. To avoid locations of sensitive species, a longer connector segment (original recommendation in Exhibit A-1 is 600 feet) is recommended along Trail C (Exhibit 7) to avoid any potential impacts associated with sensitive plants identified along DT-4 (Exhibit 5). Prior to construction of this connector segment, if the area where construction would occur contains suitable habitat for any sensitive species, then protocol level surveys would be required for heart-leafed pitcher plant and Orcutt's brodiaea, to ensure no new occurrences are found for either species. Until surveys confirm negative findings, impacts to these sensitive species would be considered potentially significant under CEQA. The trail connector proposed for a loop on Trail B would also require CEQA clearance. However, no sensitive species or cultural resources were found in this area during the biological surveys (MBA 2010).

Exhibit 7 shows multiple erosion areas on the existing trail system. Areas of concern include the juncture of Trail A and B, two areas along Trail B and the juncture of Trail A and C. It is recommended that erosion control measures such as water bars or drainage dips, either be implemented (if there are none) or improved in these areas along existing trails. If monitoring indicates that the implemented measures fail to control erosion, more stringent measures will be needed (i.e., re-routing or possible closure of the trail segment). Installation of all erosion devices should be completed in accordance with CEQA and requirements established in the CTMP.

#### 4.1.3 - Destinations and Viewpoints

Concurrent with the recommended trail alignment options presented above, should be development of six viewpoints.

Viewpoints #1, #2, #5, and #6 are proposed along Trail A as identified on Exhibit 7. Viewpoint #3 is located at the terminus of Trail B, while Viewpoints #4 and #5 are along Trail C.

Viewpoint #1 is located on Trail A as it climbs from the Pala Temecula Staging Area/Trailhead. This destination is a difficult hike approximately 0.6 mile from the Pala Temecula Staging Area/Trailhead. This segment contains the steepest climbs along Trail A and for a short distance (less than 300 feet)

exceeds the CTMP Type C trail gradient recommendations. The scenery along this route primarily consists of 10-foot tall chaparral, 30-foot tall woodlands and rock outcrops, which open up at the top of the ridge for a clear unobstructed eastern view of the Pala Creek valley and Pala Temecula Road. Rolling foothills and Palomar Mountain can be observed in the distance.

Viewpoint #2 is the northern portion of the Preserve along the northwestern boundary, on a hilltop southwest of the Pala Temecula Staging Area. The route to this destination occurs along the northern reach of Trail A for approximately 1.1 miles and is a moderate to difficult hike from the Staging Area. The vegetation along this route is very dense with areas of closed canopy chaparral. The viewpoint occurs on a rock outcrop on a hilltop that provides views of the northern extent of the Preserve and follows a ravine that continues further north.

Viewpoint 3 (Exhibit 7 and Exhibit A-2) is located in the southeastern portion of the Preserve, on a large rock outcrop at the terminus of Trail B. The viewpoint overlooks the Pala Creek valley and Pala Temecula Road to the southeast. Viewpoint 4 is also on a large rock outcrop, and provides unobstructed views of the southeastern portion of the Preserve. Viewpoint 5 is located on a hilltop and provides a southern view of ridge tops and valleys along the southern portion of the Preserve. Viewpoint 5 is near one of the historic structures recorded within the Preserve. Documentation of the site has been completed and the resources has been determined to be not significant (MBA 2009). The remnants of the structure should be removed to improve the safety of the area and reduce liability. A placard marking the location is recommended.

Viewpoint 6 is located off Trail A near the connection to Dirt Access Road 2 southwest of the Staging Area. This destination is a moderate hike approximately 2.14-miles south from the Pala Temecula Staging Area along a relatively cleared trail. Vegetation along this trail is dense to the east at lower elevations and sparser to the west along the hillsides. The vantage point provides scenic views of the Preserve to the east and an open view of the adjacent hillsides to the west. Overall canopy cover along Trail A is relatively open, providing views of the peaks to the north and west.

Each overlook would require a feeder trail to be constructed from the main trail, and may include a cleared area to support additional features such as benches and/or shade structures. These overlooks would be developed concurrently with the above-recommended trail alignments. In terms of CEQA analysis, potentially sensitive vegetation communities, two sensitive plant species and the coast horned lizard are found within the “footprint” of these proposed public access improvements. Prior to construction of feeder trails and/or clearing of habitat for trail features, including viewpoint construction, site-specific surveys would need to be conducted to assure that sensitive species would not be impacted. Until surveys confirm negative findings, impacts to these sensitive species would be considered potentially significant under CEQA. Mitigation could include relocation of sensitive wildlife, a rerouting of the feeder trails to avoid impacts, or selection of another viewpoint location.

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## 4.2 - FENCING AND GATES

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The majority of the Preserve consists of old-growth southern mixed chaparral. This plant community is characteristically tall, very dense, and hard to travel through, even with all-terrain vehicles, and provides a natural barrier effectively restricting access into the Preserve. Therefore, no perimeter fencing is recommended surrounding the Preserve.

Portions of the Preserve are fenced, and the eastern Pala Temecula access point is currently gated. Conversations with DPR field staff (Holt, personal communication, 2009) indicate there is evidence of trespass by off-highway vehicle (OHV) users within the Preserve. Field staff are in the process of identifying points of entry by OHV users so they can be barricaded in some fashion to prohibit entry into the Preserve, which may include some limited fencing. However, MBA recommends limited use of fencing for the Preserve due to the high cost of installation and maintenance. A gate system to prevent OHV access to the Preserve is recommended at the juncture of Dirt Access Road 2 and the southern terminus of Trail A and at the juncture of Dirt Access Road 2 and DT 6. Gate designs should be accessible to equestrian, bikes and hikers, but designed to preclude OHV use.

The proposed Pala Temecula and Mount Olympus/Valley staging areas are adjacent to private property so the County should consider fencing and signing these particular property boundaries to avoid parking on or otherwise impacting these adjacent lands.

The historic cultural resources within the Preserve, while not considered significant under CEQA, might pose a hazard to the public. There is glass, nails and collapsed structures with both the “Compound” and the historic site near proposed Viewpoint #5. There are two options to address these hazards: 1) removal of the structures to protect the public or 2) fencing of both the “Compound” area and the site at Viewpoint #5. Removal of the structures would eliminate hazards and potential liability, but would also remove an interesting aspect to the Preserve for people interested in history of the region.

The native grassland area along Trail 4 should be monitored on a regular basis by park rangers if the Preserve is opened to the public. If the native grassland area is impacted by human activities, fencing may be necessary to protect the resource and restrict access to this area.

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## 4.3 - SIGNAGE

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Natural history kiosks are currently in place at the main access point of many of the existing preserves within San Diego County. Similar kiosks should also be included at the proposed staging area(s) and at other strategic locations within the Mount Olympus Preserve if the Preserve is opened to the public. These kiosks should be maintained and updated to provide the public with valuable information about the Preserve. Information should include, but not be limited to, common native plant and wildlife species that occur within the Preserve as well as poisonous plant and wildlife species. Information regarding wildlife encounters and safety issues should be provided in these kiosks to ensure the

**Recommendations**

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protection of plant and wildlife species and visitors of the Preserve. Signage should be placed in locations along trails identifying conservation goals, advising to stay on trails and keep pets on leash, and including safety instructions with regard to rattlesnakes and poison oak.

A series of interpretive signs should be installed throughout the historic archaeological site known as the "Compound" (MBA 2009) adjacent to Trail A (Exhibit 7). These signs should interpret the historical background of the site and also inform visitors about rules pertaining to destruction of cultural resources.

A series of interpretive signs should be placed along Trail A and Trail C to highlight biological resources contained within the Preserve. The signs could be of species that could be found along the trail, signs warning of poison oak and the potential for snakes and warning people to stay on the trails. Finally signs should be placed along Trail C in the vicinity of the native grasslands found within the Preserve. The sign should provide information on the uniqueness of the habitat as well as informing the public of the fragileness of the habitat.

Signs should also be installed at access points to the Preserve along the western and southern access to the Preserve. They should clearly delineate the Preserve boundary, provide a map of the Preserve boundaries, and include regulations about prohibited and permitted activities.

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#### **4.4 - VISITOR SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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The Preserve is an extremely rugged area with safety hazards such as poison oak, rattlesnakes, extreme weather conditions, and steep and rocky terrain. Given the minimal level of development of the Preserve that is anticipated in the near future (five to 10 years), it is not likely that built safety features (e.g., handrails on steep trail sections, steps, telephone) will be installed. Access for emergency equipment is limited to existing access roads that can accommodate emergency vehicles. A majority of the disturbed trails are not wide enough to support emergency vehicles. The vegetation associated with the existing disturbed trails and access roads is mostly chaparral habitat and removal of the habitat would not result in a significant impact. However, the dirt access roads within the Preserve are wide enough for vehicular use and occur within open vegetation, therefore, little to no clearing of vegetation would be required. Signage, discussed above, should provide information to the public on heat, wildfire potential and limited cell phone coverage. Emergency service personnel can access the Preserve from the eastern access point on Pala Temecula Road, and from the west from Mount Olympus Valley Road that provides access to a transmission line owned and operated by SDG&E. If necessary, San Diego County's Sheriff Department Search and Rescue Team could be dispatched to the area.

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## **Appendix A: Potential Alternatives Considered**



## INTRODUCTION

The existing trail system was hiked and inventoried to identify: 1) areas where trails should be either closed or rehabilitated due to resource damage, 2) areas where loop trails could be easily created, 3) trail corridors where new trails could be constructed or existing trails could be modified to provide viewing opportunities, and 4) potential viewpoints that could be developed concurrent with new trail development.

To analyze opportunities and constraints, the Preserve was divided into five trail corridors, which represent areas 100-meters wide on both sides of a given trail where additional public access improvements could occur, based on slope considerations alone. Exhibit A-1 illustrates all reasonable developments based on cost of construction, operations and maintenance, and anticipated visitor demand. Exhibit A-1 represents possible public access improvements, without consideration of biological or cultural resource constraints.

### **Corridor A**

Corridor A begins at the northeast corner of the Preserve along Pala Temecula Road on Dirt Access Road 1 and ends at the western boundary of the main Preserve on Dirt Access Road 2, which serves the SDG&E transmission lines. The corridor contains Disturbed Trail (DT) 1 and DT 5.

### **Corridor B**

Corridor B is a spur off Corridor A and consists of 3,500 feet of trail. Corridor B represents areas in the east-central portion of the Preserve. It does not have any erosion issues or sensitive species constraints. There is an opportunity to reconstruct an old trail (DT 2) that would end at the Preserve's eastern boundary and provide outstanding views to the east overlooking the Pala Valley.

### **Corridor C**

Corridor C is represented by the area in the central portion of the Preserve. Elevation changes in this corridor are minimal. DT 3 is a spur from DT 1 in Corridor A and extends approximately 3,000 feet and providing views to the southeast overlooking the Pala Valley. There is a potential to create a small loop at the end of the trail. Also within Corridor C is a potential for a loop off DT 3 to reconnect to DT 1. This trail (DT 4), which is approximately 2,100-feet long, would reconnect to DT 1 about 985 feet southwest of the juncture with DT 3 creating a 1.15-mile-long loop.

### **Corridor D**

Corridor D represents areas mostly outside the Preserve. There is an opportunity to connect DT 6 on Preserve property with a trail on the adjacent property. This 4,090-foot-long trail would extend from the eastern boundary of the Preserve from Dirt Access Road 2 to DT 1. The majority of DT 6 (3,245 feet) is outside of the Preserve and utilization of this trail as part of the Preserve's trail system would require granting of trail easements from the adjacent property owners.

## POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

### Staging Areas and Trailheads

A number of staging areas and trailheads are potentially possible for the Preserve.

A **staging area/trailhead at Pala Temecula Road** located at the northeastern corner of the Preserve within lands currently owned by the County could be constructed. An area has been previously cleared and is used by DPR personnel to conduct activities within the Preserve associated with patrol and maintenance activities. This staging area would connect to DT 1, which runs through the entire north to south length of the Preserve as discussed below.

Advantages to the Pala Temecula Road staging area/trailhead include:

- Area is already within Preserve boundary
- The area has been cleared to an extent and contains a single sensitive plant species
- There is ample space to park vehicles
- It would provide access for all potential Preserve users (equestrians, hikers and bikers)
- The “compound” area is very close to the staging area and could be the closest resource of interest to the public

Disadvantages to the Pala Temecula Road staging area/trailhead include:

- Access off of Pala Temecula Road may be difficult for vehicles towing horse trailers without potential traffic issues (e.g., may require widening of road to accommodate a turn lane)
- The staging area is within close proximity of two residences

A **staging area/trailhead at Arouba Road and Farra Street** at the southern border of the Preserve could be constructed. This staging area would require access off either Pala Temecula Road from the east, or off Rice Canyon Road to Rainbow Heights Road to Rainbow Heights Lane to connect to Arouba Road.

Advantages to the Arouba Road and Farra Street staging area/trailhead include:

- Access from two directions
- It would provide access to North county residents from the Rainbow Valley as well and the San Luis Rey Valley.

Disadvantages to the Arouba Road and Farra Street staging area/trailhead include:

- Access off Pala Temecula Road would be difficult. Access from the north is obscured by a large tree and from the south, a more than 90 degree left turn would be required.
- There is a locked gate at the intersection of Pala Temecula Road and Arouba Road.
- The turnout area off Pala Temecula Road is very small and could place vehicles with trailers in the roadway.
- Access from the west off of Rice Canyon would require hiking, biking, or riding a horse along approximately 2.0 miles of generally unimproved dirt roads across multiple parcels and Gomez Creek to reach the Preserve.
- There is no staging area currently so an easement would be required. In addition, multiple easements for road access would be required.
- It is approximately 1.21 miles from the proposed staging area/trailhead to the Preserve boundary. The road is very steep increasing from 1,043 feet to 1,697 feet AMSL to the southern edge of the Preserve. This road is used by SDG&E to service transmission towers in the area so there would be vehicular traffic along with users of the Preserve that would be on bike, horse or foot for the 1.21 miles. The SDG&E traffic would generally be light, but with access to the Preserve other traffic may be increased, particularly on weekends.

**A staging area/trailhead at the terminus of Mount Olympus Valley Road and Valley Road** could be constructed. This staging area would be adjacent to an existing residence but could provide access to the Preserve up an existing unpaved road that is used to service the SDG&E transmission lines. The road is approximately 1.25 miles long with elevation changes from 1,600 to 1,960 feet AMSL.

Advantages to the Mount Olympus Road and Valley Road staging area/trailhead include:

- A single landowner easement would be necessary for the staging area and use of the existing unpaved road to access the Preserve proposed trail system.
- Rice Canyon Road is paved and would allow horse trailers to access the staging area.
- There is adequate space for parking.
- The staging area would be accessible from the north, south and west providing easier opportunity for the public to use the area.

Disadvantages to the Mount Olympus Road and Valley Road staging area/trailhead include:

- Potentially increased traffic on the surface streets off Rice Canyon Road. Horse trailers would move slowly up and down the road and could slow access in and out of this enclave of high-end residential homes.

- The access road would lead to the SDG&E transmission line road and would mean “sharing” of the road between vehicles, pedestrians, equestrians and bikers.

Based on the three potential alternatives, the proposed Pala Temecula Road staging area/trailhead at the northeastern boundary of the Preserve provides a useable location to have the public enjoy the Preserve. It may have some limitations, but is the most feasible to be carried forward. The Mount Olympus Road and Valley Road alternative also has merit and is feasible to be carried forward. This location, while not currently under County ownership, could provide public access to the Preserve from the west and may allow easier access for equestrian users.

The Arouba Road and Farra Street alternative has not been carried forward in the analysis. The access to this potential location from both the east and west would be restrictive. Multiple easements would be required and Farra Street would have a mixture of vehicular traffic competing with Preserve trail system users.

### Trail Alignments and Features

The proposed trail system in the Preserve is based on a series of existing disturbed trails that were created in the Preserve at some point prior to 1967 based on historic aerial photographs. The exact uses are unknown, but some of the disturbances were obviously created with mechanical equipment such as bulldozers. This disturbed trail system has seen use through time as is evidenced by modern track, footprints, etc. Some of the disturbances have not been used in a long time and the chaparral has encroached upon the disturbances.

**Disturbed Trail 1 (DT 1)** is a 11,704-foot-long trail that starts at an elevation of 1,285 feet AMSL on the northeast portion of the Preserve at the proposed Pala Temecula Road Staging Area/Trailhead, and climbs to the highest point in the Preserve at 2,156 feet AMSL and descends to 1,790 feet AMSL at the juncture with Dirt Access Road 2 on the southwestern corner of the main portion of the Preserve. There are opportunities for creating interpretive exhibits along the portion of DT 1 where it traverses the historic archaeological site known as the “compound” area. Sensitive species issues along DT 1 are generally confined to the “compound” area where a number of sensitive species were identified during the 2009 biodiversity surveys (MBA 2010). Use of this trail would allow for a full experience of the Preserve and, at a 4.4-mile round trip (from the Pala Temecula Staging Area/Trailhead to the end at Dirt Access Road 2 and back), could provide an excellent outdoor experience. The current width of disturbance would be acceptable as a CTMP Type C - Primitive Trail and would require limited horizontal and vertical trimming to meet County requirements. The trail could easily be used by hikers, bikers and equestrians.

**Disturbed Trail 2 (DT 2)** consists of 3,500 feet of trail. The trail is a spur off DT 1 and could be accessed at approximately the foot point at an elevation of 2,085 feet AMSL. DT 2 would provide access to the east-central portion of the Preserve and would provide views of the Pala Creek Valley. The trail is currently obscured by dense vegetation and would require clearing, at a minimum, and

possibly other construction activities. The existing trail does not have any erosion issues or sensitive species constraints, nor are there any cultural resources issues.

**Disturbed Trail 3 (DT 3)** is another spur from DT 1 and extends for approximately 3,000 feet and provides views to the southeast overlooking the Pala Creek Valley. There is potential to create a small loop at the end of the trail. There are some erosion issues associated with DT 3 that may need correction before the trail could be used. The current width is suitable as a Type C - Primitive Trail. Vertical and horizontal trimming to meet County trail requirements would be necessary. This trail would provide access to viewpoints overlooking the Pala Creek Valley to the southeast.

**Disturbed Trail 4 (DT 4)**, which is approximately 2,100-feet-long, would connect to DT 1 about 985 feet southwest of the juncture with DT 3 creating a loop totaling 1.15-miles-long. DT 4, however, has multiple sensitive species occurrences, so implementing this recommendation and allowing for continued public access would potentially impact two separate populations of heart-leaved pitcher sage and a single population of Orcutt's brodiaea adjacent to DT 4. A reroute around the sensitive plant populations would avoid these impacts, but would result in impacts to the southern chaparral habitat. The trail would provide access to the Preserve's only native grassland area. There are opportunities for the public to see North County native grassland habitat and the potential to see several sensitive plant species. Signage would be necessary and the trail may not be suitable for equestrian or biking.

**Disturbed Trail 5 (DT 5)** is a short (1,000 feet) trail along a large series of granite outcrops overlooking the Rainbow Valley to the west. This trail is over vegetated and would require extensive clearing to be passable. The trail would provide access to a large expanse of rocky outcrop overlooking the Rainbow Valley. This could provide an area for rock climbing activities.

**Disturbed Trail 6 (DT 6)** is a 4,090-foot-long trail that extends from the western boundary of the Preserve from Dirt Access Road 2 to DT 1. The majority of DT 6 (3,245 feet) is outside of the Preserve and utilization of this trail as part of the Preserve trail system would require granting of trail easements from adjacent property owners. The main constraint associated with utilizing DT 6 would be the need to verify landownership and obtain easements for public access. It appears that one to two landowner easements would be needed, depending on the connection point.

The six existing disturbed trails within the Preserve could serve as the basis for a designated multi-use trail system. DT 1 would be the "backbone" of the trail system within the Preserve and could be used essentially as is with some minor maintenance to meet vertical and horizontal clearance issues. The trail could easily be used for all allowed passive recreation activities. A small spur trail near the junction with DT 3 should be blocked off to restrict access to sensitive cultural resources.

DT 3 and DT 4 in combination with DT 1 provide a loop through the central portion of the Preserve. This loop would access multiple viewpoints, but would also provide access to sensitive resources that

need protection. Disturbed Trail 4 should be rerouted to avoid the sensitive plant populations in the area and adequate signage should be installed to protect the sensitive habitats in the area. In addition, DT 4 should only be open to hikers as the trail is not suitable for use by equestrians or bikers.

Disturbed Trail 6 would provide access to the main part of the Preserve from the west. If the Mount Olympus Road/Valley Road Staging Area and Trailhead were constructed, DT 6 could provide access to all portions of the Preserve from the west without requiring access on Dirt Access Road 2.

Disadvantages to DT 6 are primarily related to easement issues. The vast majority of the trail would be outside of the Preserve. These issues should be explored and development of DT 6 completed only if the Mount Olympus Road/Valley Road Staging Area and Trailhead is carried forward. For this analysis, use of DT 6 has been eliminated for further consideration.

Disturbed Trails 2 and 5 are fairly short trails which stem off DT 1. Both would require clearing and potentially other maintenance before they would be suitable for even Type C - Primitive trails. These two trails should not be considered further, unless future additional trails are deemed necessary to meet demand. For this analysis, use of DT 2 and DT 5 have been eliminated for further consideration.

### Destinations and Viewpoints

Multiple scenic viewpoints occur along the trail system throughout the Preserve and are depicted on Exhibit A-2. These viewpoints provide unobstructed views of the Preserve and surrounding hills from various vantage points. Generally, the destinations and viewpoints are located along peaks, ridgelines and rocky outcrops that provide visitors with a panoramic view of the ridges, hillsides, canyons and ravines that characterize the Preserve and surrounding area. A detailed description of identified destinations and viewpoints along the Preserve trail system is included below.

Mt. Olympus **Viewpoint #1** is located along the northern reach of DT 1, on a ridgeline west of the eastern access point. This destination is approximately 0.8 mile from the proposed Pala Temecula Staging Area/Trailhead and provides a clear unobstructed eastern view of the Pala Creek Valley and Pala Temecula Road. Rolling foothills and Palomar Mountain can be observed in the distance.

Mt. Olympus **Viewpoint #2** is located in the northern portion of the Preserve on a rock outcrop along the portion of DT 1 that runs along the northwestern boundary. This destination is approximately 1.35 miles from the proposed Pala Temecula Staging Area and provides views of the northern extent of the Preserve and a ravine that continues further north.

Mt. Olympus **Viewpoint #3** is located at the southeastern portion of the Preserve, on a large rock outcrop that occurs on a south-facing slope at the terminus of DT 3. This viewpoint is approximately 2.3 miles from the proposed Pala Temecula Staging Area and provides views to the south and southeast overlooking Pala Creek Valley and Pala Temecula Road.

Mt. Olympus **Viewpoint #4** is located on a large rock outcrop, along the southernmost point of DT 4. This viewpoint is approximately 2.0 miles from the proposed Pala Temecula Staging Area and provides an unobstructed view of the southeastern portion of the Preserve.

Mt. Olympus **Viewpoint #5** is located off DT 4 along a large rocky outcrop, south of the connection from DT 1 and west of Viewpoint #4. This destination is approximately 2.1 miles from the proposed Pala Temecula Staging Area and provides a southern view of ridge tops and valleys along the southern portion of the Preserve.

Mt. Olympus **Viewpoint #6** is located off DT 1 near the connection to Dirt Access Road 2. This destination is approximately 2.15 miles from the proposed Pala Temecula Staging Area and provides scenic views of the Preserve to the east and an open view of the adjacent hillsides to the west.

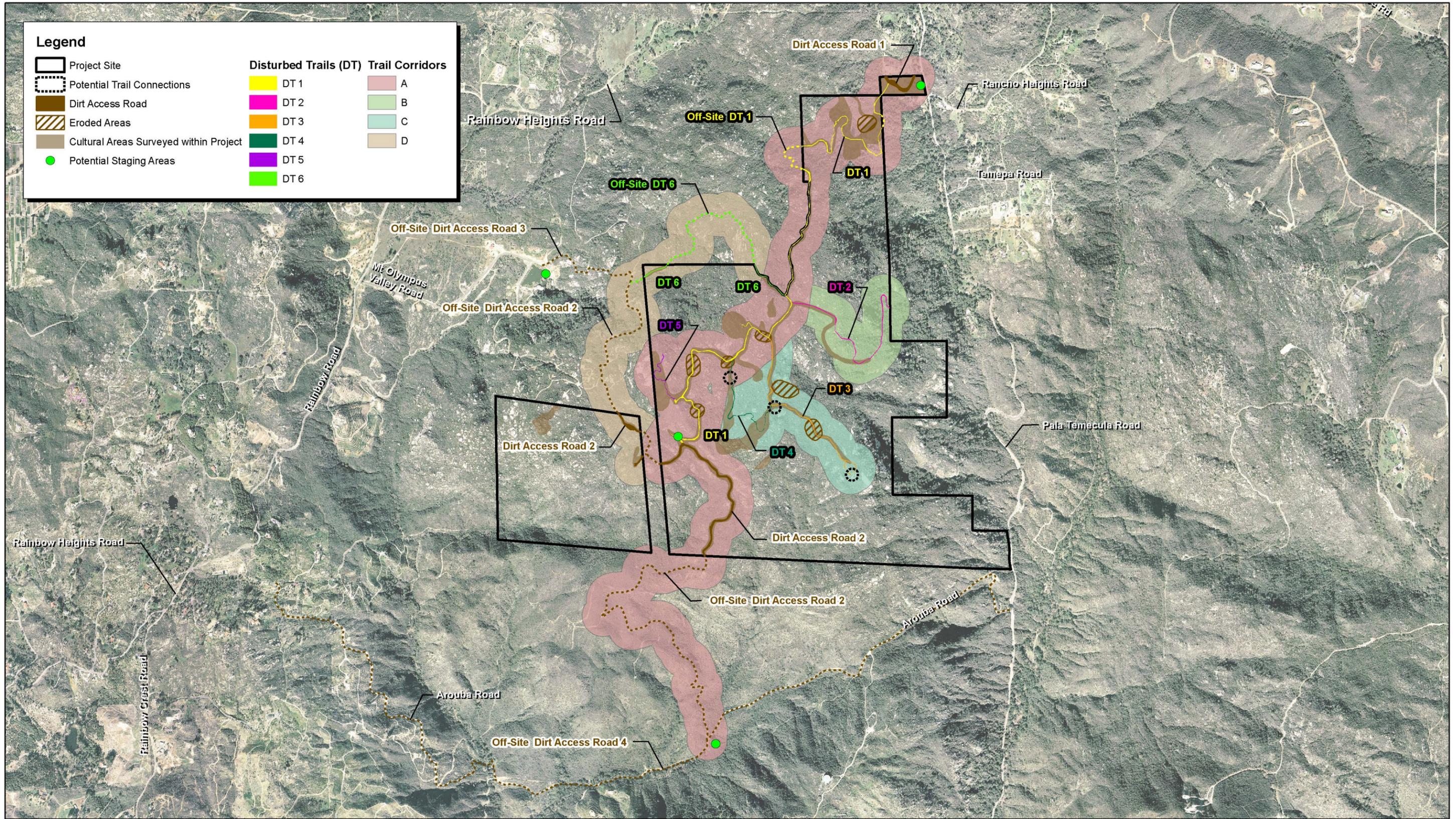
Mt. Olympus **Viewpoint #7** is located at the terminus of DT 5 at the peak of Mt. Olympus, north of the connection from DT 1. This destination is approximately 2.3 miles from the proposed Pala Temecula Staging Area. The peak of Mt. Olympus provides a 360-degree panoramic view of the entire Preserve.

Mt. Olympus **Viewpoint #8** is located along the southern portion of Dirt Access Road 2, southeast of the connection to DT 1. This destination is approximately 2.6 miles from the proposed Pala Temecula Staging Area and provides a southern view of the Preserve and a large ravine that continues further south. Rocky outcrops, dense chaparral, and ravines are visible from this viewpoint.

Mt. Olympus **Viewpoint #9** is located along Dirt Access Road 2, in the northeast corner of the western parcel of the Preserve, adjacent to a SDG&E utility tower. This destination is approximately 2.7 miles from the proposed Pala Temecula Staging Area and provides an unobstructed view of the southwestern portion of the Preserve, including the rolling hills, valleys, and orchards to the southwest and peaks to the northwest.

Of the nine viewpoints identified, Viewpoint #7 has been eliminated from consideration because it can only be reached via DT 5, which has been eliminated from consideration due to potential maintenance and construction issues. Viewpoints #8 and #9 are not located along trails, but rather are associated with Dirt Access Road 2. While the road will continue to be used by SDG&E and potentially local traffic, maintenance of the road and sharing the road with Preserve users is not desirable. The remaining six viewpoints (Viewpoints #1 through #6) remain viable alternatives and are feasible to be carried forward.





Source: San Diego North Aerial, 2005. MBA Field Survey and GIS Data, 2009.



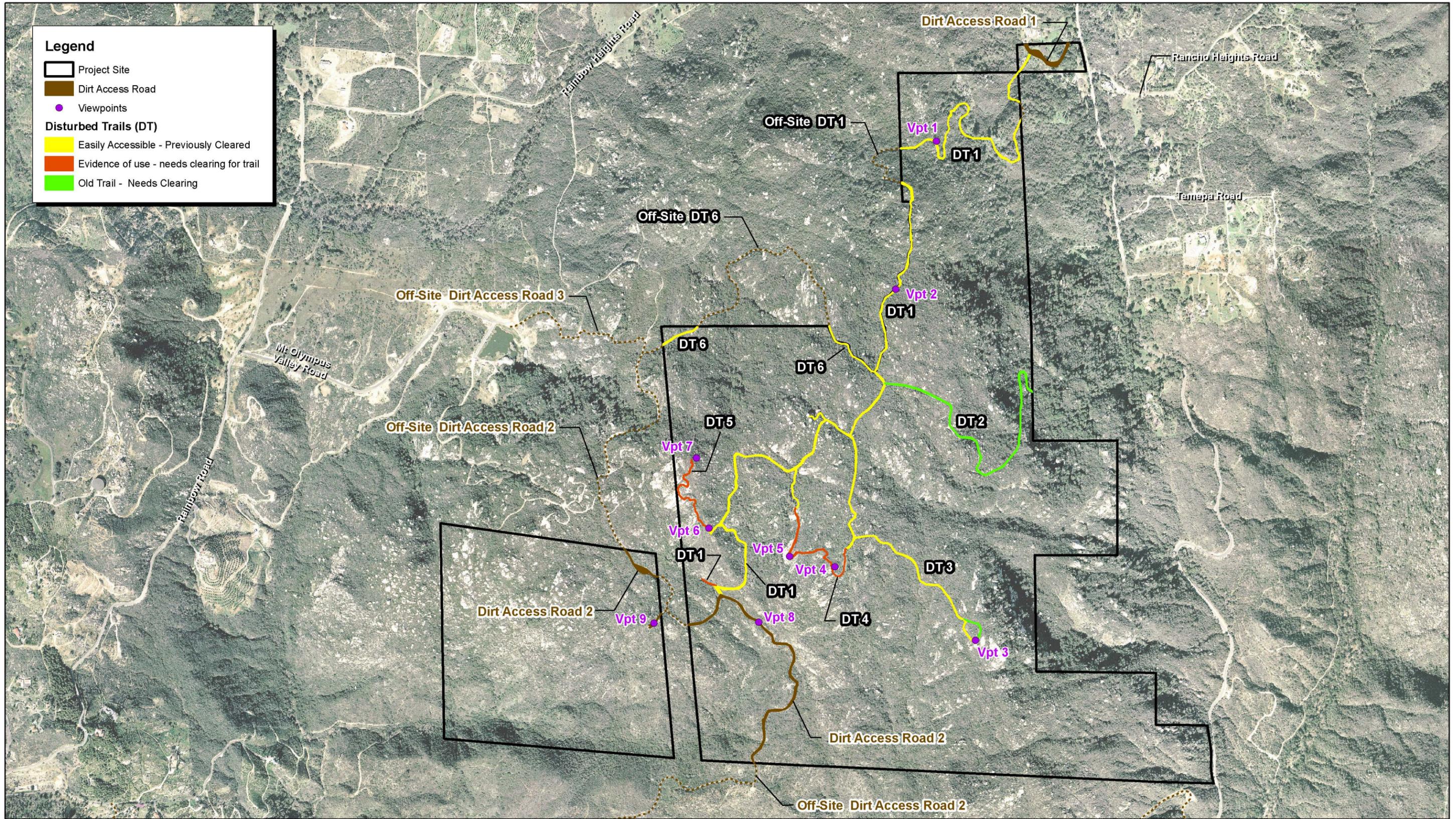
Michael Brandman Associates

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**Exhibit A-1  
Potential Alternatives Considered**

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
MOUNT OLYMPUS PRESERVE  
PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN





Source: San Diego North Aerial, 2005. MBA Field Survey and GIS Data, 2009.



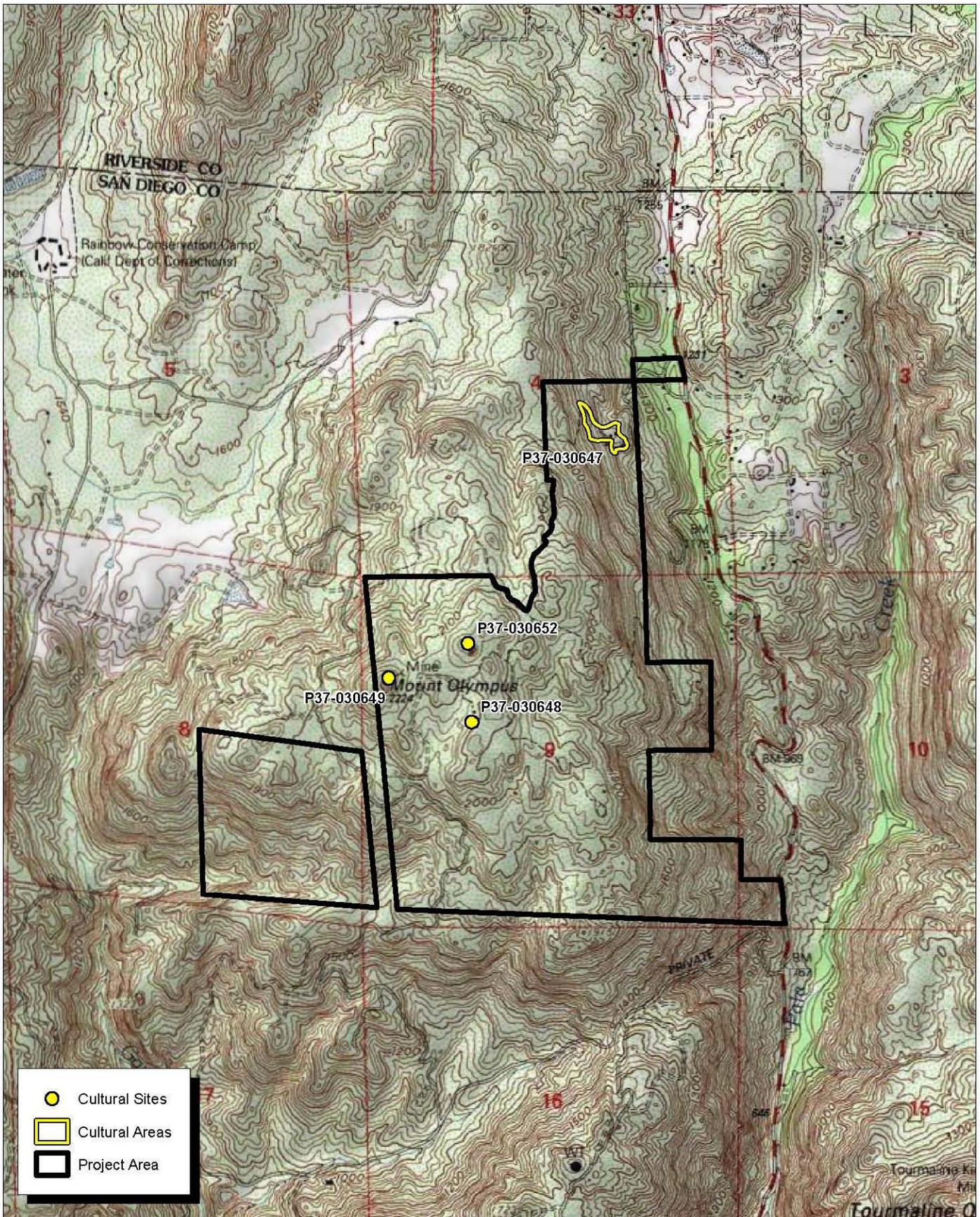
Michael Brandman Associates  
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## Exhibit A-2 Viewpoints



**Appendix B:  
Cultural Site Locations  
(Confidential)**





Source: TOPO! USGS Pechanga (1997) 7.5' DRG.



Michael Brandman Associates

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## Exhibit 11 Cultural Site Locations

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
MT OLYMPUS PRESERVE  
CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

