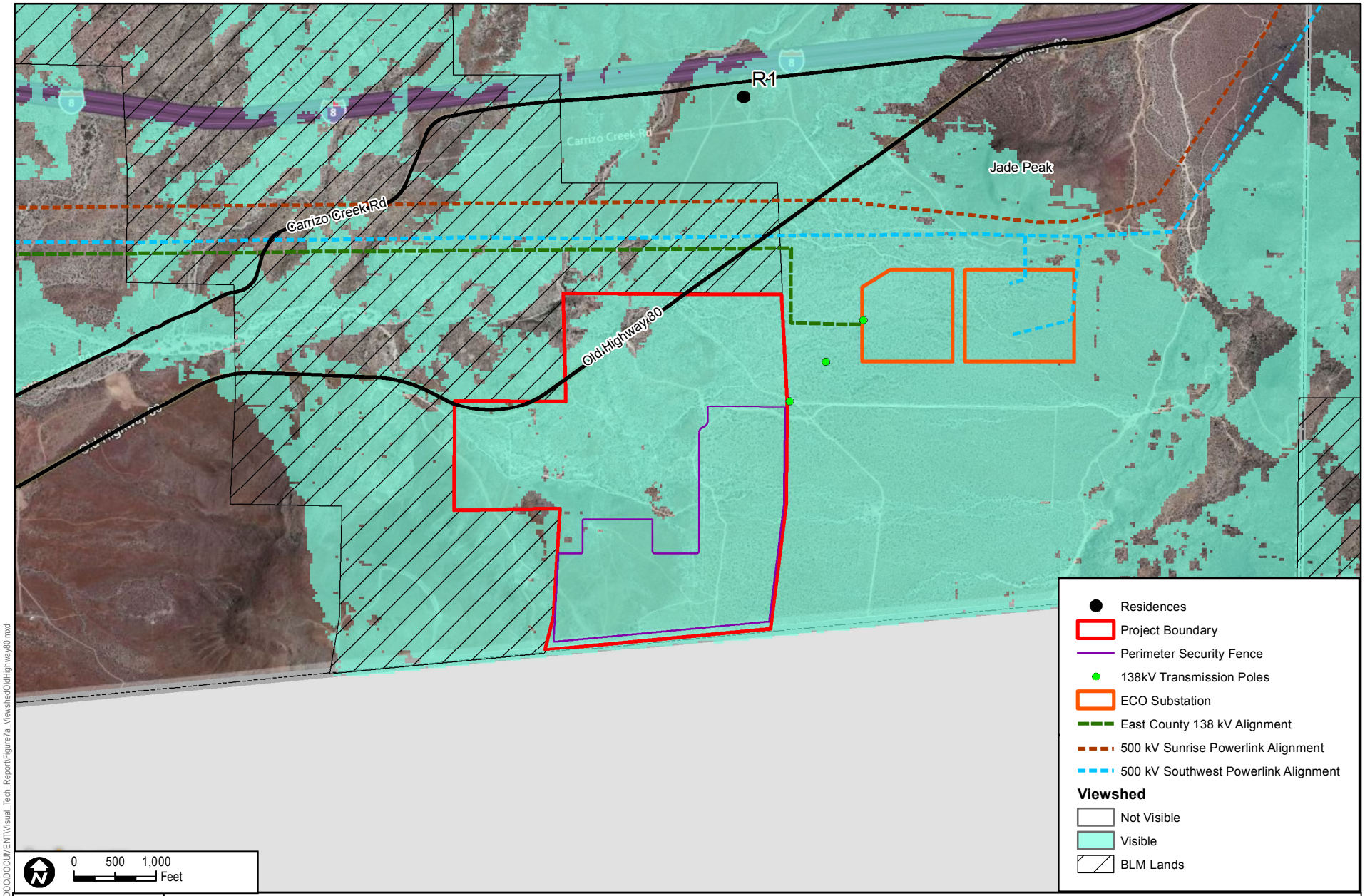

SOURCE:Bing 2014

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FIGURE 7a

Viewshed - Old Highway 80

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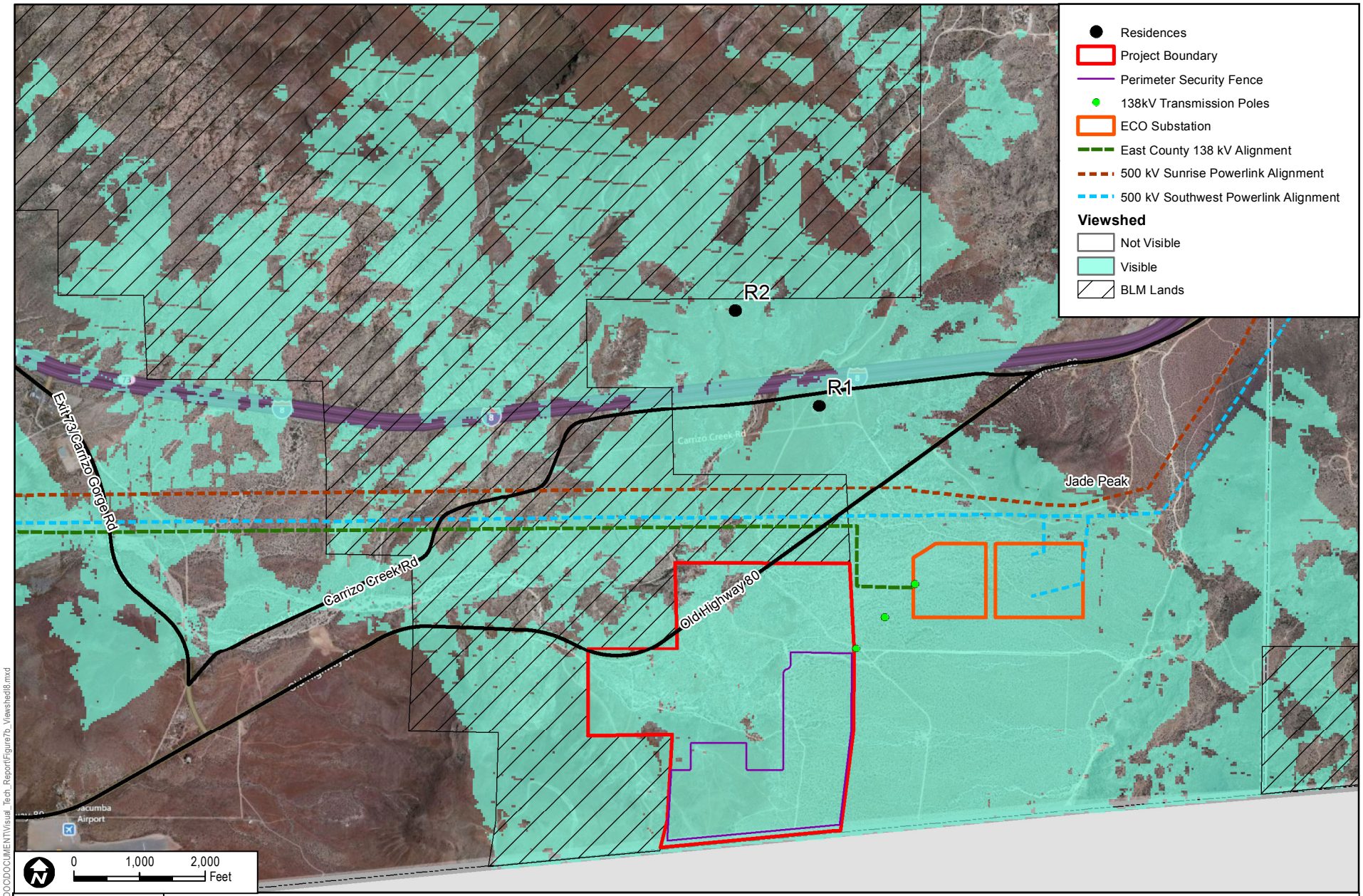

SOURCE:Bing 2014

FIGURE 7b

Viewshed - Interstate 8

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6.2 Key Views

Methodology

Key Views of the Project site were selected that typify the likely effects on visual resources as experienced by a range of expected viewers in a dynamic experiential setting. Locations in the Project viewshed from which views of the Proposed Project site would be available were identified on aerial photography prior to the initial site visit conducted by Dudek's visual resources team in June 2014. Subsequent site visits were conducted in October 2014 and January 2015 to assess and catalog the visual environment. Once identified, candidate Key View locations were field verified to confirm orientation and visibility to the Proposed Project site. Initial locations were modified and/or new locations were established based on field conditions. Photographic images from each candidate Key View location were taken and the existing conditions including time of day, weather, vegetation, topography and visual character were noted and recorded. Initially, photographic images were captured using a high-resolution digital Cannon camera with a fixed focal length 50mm lens. Further, two or more digital images were digitally spliced together to produce a final image that accurately characterizes the resource area available to viewers. Multiple images create a wider image that is comparable to the view available to the normal unconfined range of motion of a human scanning an open landscape.

Key View locations are depicted on Figure 8.

Two Key Views were submitted to the County of San Diego for review in June 2014 and were approved for use in this visual resource assessment. The selected Key Views provide a static image of the Proposed Project site from westbound I-8 and eastbound Old Highway 80 where conditions afford generally unimpeded visibility to the Project site. It should be noted that as motorists pass through the Jacumba Valley, views of the Project site from both I-8 and Old Highway 80 are interrupted by intervening terrain and road cuts. Therefore, the relatively clear views of the Project site presented in Figure 9, Key View 1 – Westbound Interstate 8, and Figure 10, Key View 2 – Eastbound Old Highway 80, are not entirely representative of the range of available views afforded to motorists along these roadways. Instead, Figures 9 and 10 are used to provide a before and after depiction of the Project as experienced by mobile viewers from particular vantage points to help assess the overall visual change resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project. Also, while not conveyed in Figures 9 and 10, views of the Proposed Project from Key Views 1 and 2 would be made in passing at approximately 70 mph from I-8 and 55 mph from Old Highway 80.

In response to comments received in December 2014 from the County of San Diego and the public, two additional Key Views from which to assess the Proposed Project were identified and

are included in this assessment. These Key Views are situated to the west of the Project site atop the Airport Mesa landform and to the north of the Project site atop prominent mesa terrain located within the Table Mountain ACEC. Existing photos and proposed visual simulations from Airport Mesa and the Table Mountain ACEC are included in Figure 11, Key View 3 – Airport Mesa, and Figure 12, Key View 4 – Table Mountain ACEC.

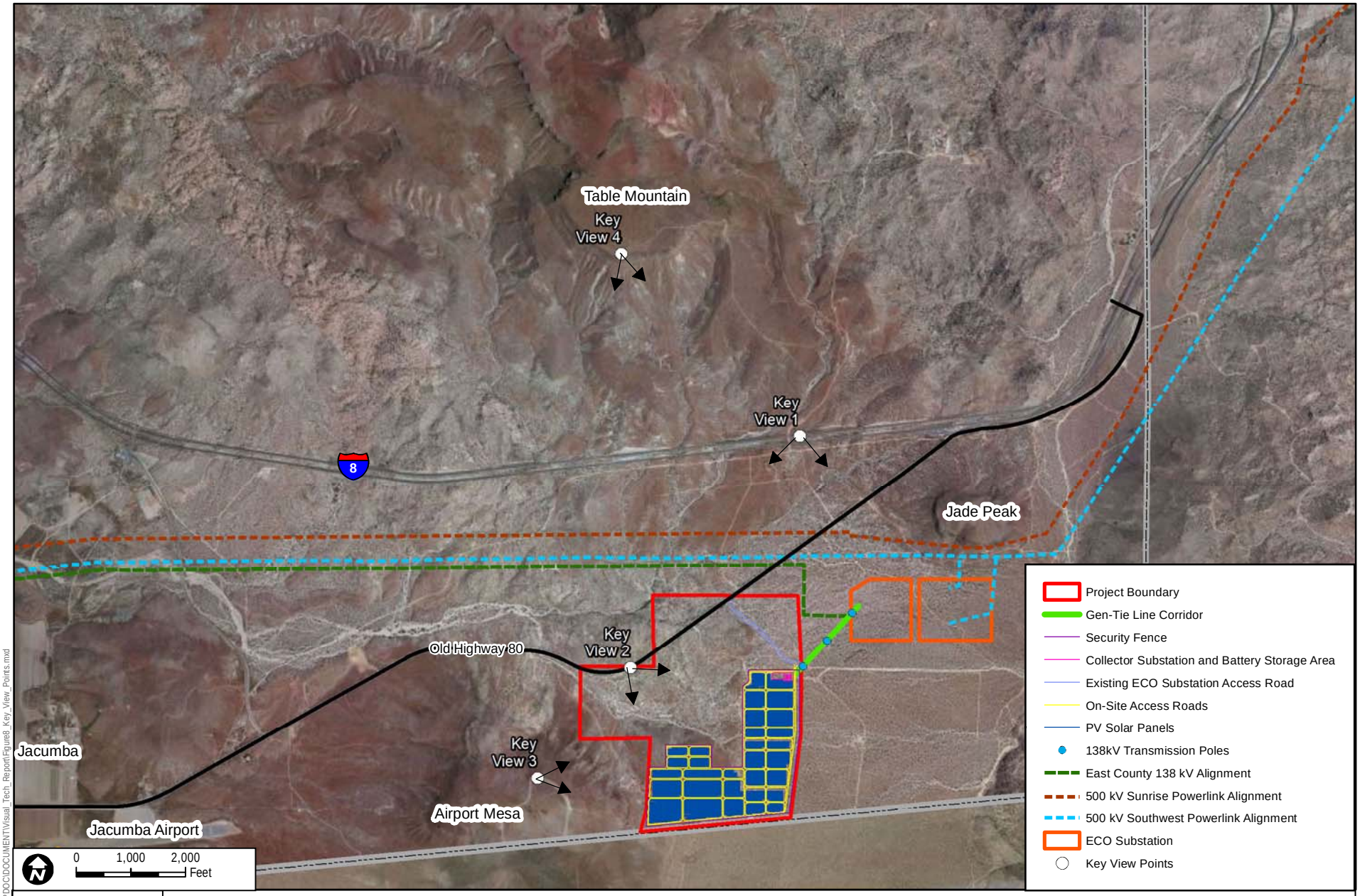
Consistent with visual resource reports prepared for other energy-related discretionary projects in the County of San Diego, a numerical rating for each contributing factor (vividness, intactness, and unity) to visual quality at each representative Key View is provided below. A rating scale of 0 to 5 is used, with a rating of 0 equating to a landscape with an utter lack of vividness, intactness, or unity and a rating of 5 describing a highly vivid, intact, and unified landscape. Ratings are provided for each individual contributing factor of visual quality.

6.2.1 Key View 1 – Existing Conditions

Orientation

Key View 1 provides a southerly view to the Project site for westbound motorists on I-8. From Key View 1, the landscape to the south is framed by Airport Mesa to the west and the Jacumba Mountains to the east. The Sierra de Juarez are visible to the south in Mexico. The Key View is situated at an approximate elevation of 3,200 feet and the high point of the Project site sits at an approximate elevation of 3,120 feet. The northernmost boundary of the proposed solar facility is located approximately 0.8 mile south of Key View 1.

The ECO Substation was under construction during field work conducted for this analysis and the facility appears on the left side of the Key View 1 photograph. A single monopole associated with the ECO Substation 138 kV line and installed outside of the substation yard was also observed during fieldwork conducted in June 2014. Features of the ECO Substation observed during June 2014 fieldwork contribute to the existing conditions as viewed from Key View 1.



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SOURCE:Bing 2014

FIGURE 8

Key View Points

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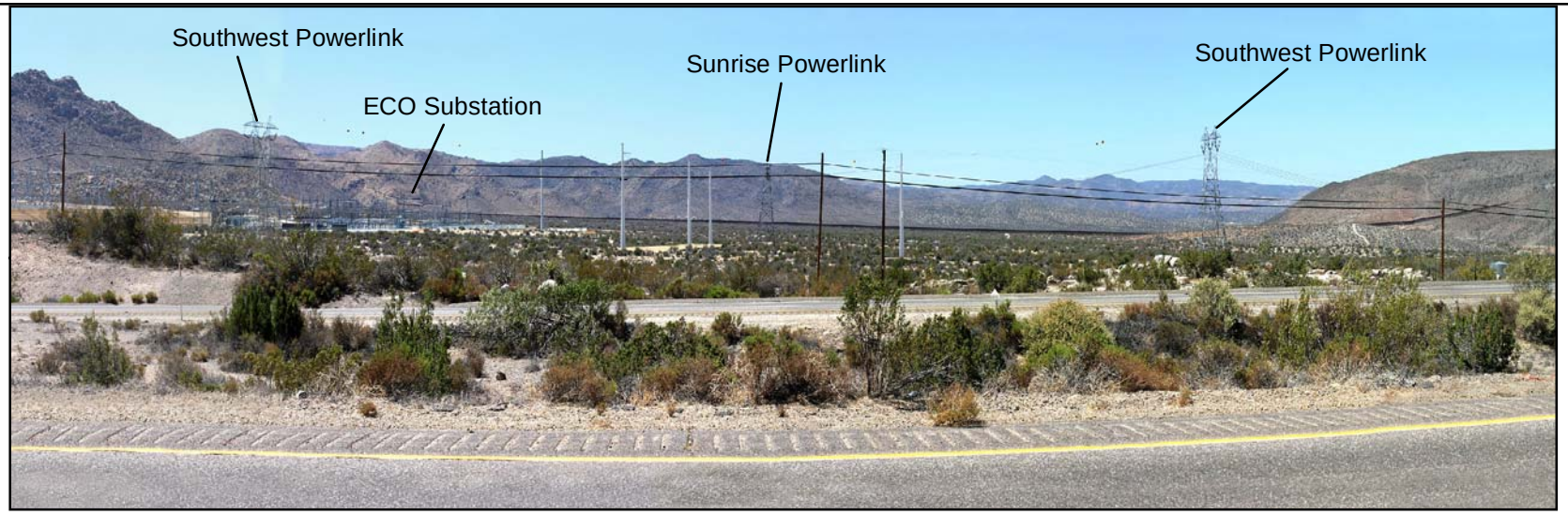

Existing Conditions

Proposed Conditions

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FIGURE 9

Key View 1 - Westbound Interstate 8

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