



Dennis Acuna, P. E., T. E.
Director of Transportation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Hector D. Davila, P.E.
*Deputy for Transportation/Capital
Projects*

Russell Williams
*Deputy for Transportation/Planning and
Development*

Transportation Department

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

February 26, 2025

PROJECT TITLE: Whitewater Canyon Road Emergency Culvert
Maintenance Work Order# ZS45696 Task Code #1530

PROJECT SPONSOR: County of Riverside Transportation Department

PROJECT LOCATION: Community of Whitewater Canyon

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The County of Riverside Transportation Department will perform emergency maintenance work to clear sediment deposits from three culverts located at the Whitewater Canyon Road crossing. A recent storm event has resulted in the substantial accumulation of sediment deposits which is preventing the culverts from draining properly.

The proposed emergency maintenance work also includes clearing the accumulated sediment deposits a distance of 200 feet upstream and 500 feet downstream of the three culverts to return to preexisting storm conditions. This work is critical to allow proper flow through the culverts and prevent additional build up that could result in flooding and structural damage to Whitewater Canyon Road, the culverts, and the crossing.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Whitewater Canyon Road is an existing two-lane facility running through the Whitewater Canyon. Closure of the road prevents use of the road by the traveling public and restricts visitor access to the Wildlands Conservancy Center. The emergency work is to clear accumulated sediment deposits from the three culverts located at the Whitewater Canyon Road crossing. No additional capacity or improvements will take place beyond what the existing conditions were prior to the storm events.

This emergency repair is subject to compliance with the Coachella Valley MSHCP (CVMSHCP). In accordance with Section 7.3.3.1, emergency repairs of public infrastructure facilities by Permittees are Covered Activities. Emergency maintenance of the Whitewater Canyon Road culverts is considered an emergency repair of a public infrastructure facility; therefore, the project is considered a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP.

If tree and/or vegetation removal takes place during the migratory bird breeding season (February 1 – September 1), a preconstruction nesting survey will be conducted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The County of Riverside Transportation Department has found that the above-described project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), based on the following:

Section 15269 (b) and (d) – Statutory Exemption for Emergency Projects – Emergency maintenance work is necessary to clear sediment deposits from three culverts at the Whitewater triple culvert crossing. CEQA Guidelines Section 15269, Emergency Projects, allows emergency repairs (b) to a public facility necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare and (d) to maintain, repair, or restore an existing road damaged by flood. The proposed activities qualify to be statutorily exempt from CEQA under Section 15269 (b) and (d) because the activities consist of necessary repair and restoration of culverts and channel (damaged by flood) to maintain service essential to the public health and safety.

Section 15301(c) – Existing Facilities – The County of Riverside Transportation Department proposes to conduct an emergency maintenance repair to culverts in Whitewater Canyon Road. The proposed emergency repairs are exempt from CEQA under Section 15301 (c) because the activity does not create additional automobile lanes and involves no expansion of use of the existing roadway and associated facilities.

By: David Castro, Associate Transportation Planner

Signed: Jan Bulinski
Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager



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DATE: February 26, 2025

TO: Josefina Castillo-Avila, ACR Technician III

FROM: Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager *JB*

RE: **Whitewater Canyon Road Emergency Culvert Maintenance**
Work Order#ZS45696 Task Code #1530

The County of Riverside Transportation Department is requesting that you post the attached Notice of Exemption per County Implementing Resolution No. 82-213, Division 11, Section 205C. Attached you will find an authorization to bill by journal voucher in the amount of \$50.00 for your posting fee.

After posting, please return the document to Mail Stop #2136, Attention: David Castro. If you have any questions, please contact David at dacastro@rivco.org.

Attachment

cc: file

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE CLERK & RECORDER

**AUTHORIZATION
TO BILL
BY JOURNAL VOUCHER**

-TO BE FILLED IN BY SUBMITTING AGENCY-

537280-20000-3130500000 ZS45696 Z1530

AUTHORIZATION NUMBER: W.O.#ZS45696, Task Code Z1530

AMOUNT: \$50.00

DATE: February 26, 2025

AGENCY: County of Riverside Transportation Department

THIS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TO ISSUE A VOUCHER FOR PAYMENT OF ALL FILING AND HANDLING FEES FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT(S).

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED: One (1)

AUTHORIZED BY: Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager

Signature: *Jan Bulinski*

PRESENTED BY: David Castro, Associate Transportation Planner

-TO BE FILLED IN BY COUNTY CLERK-

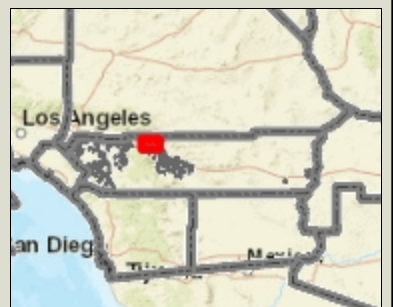
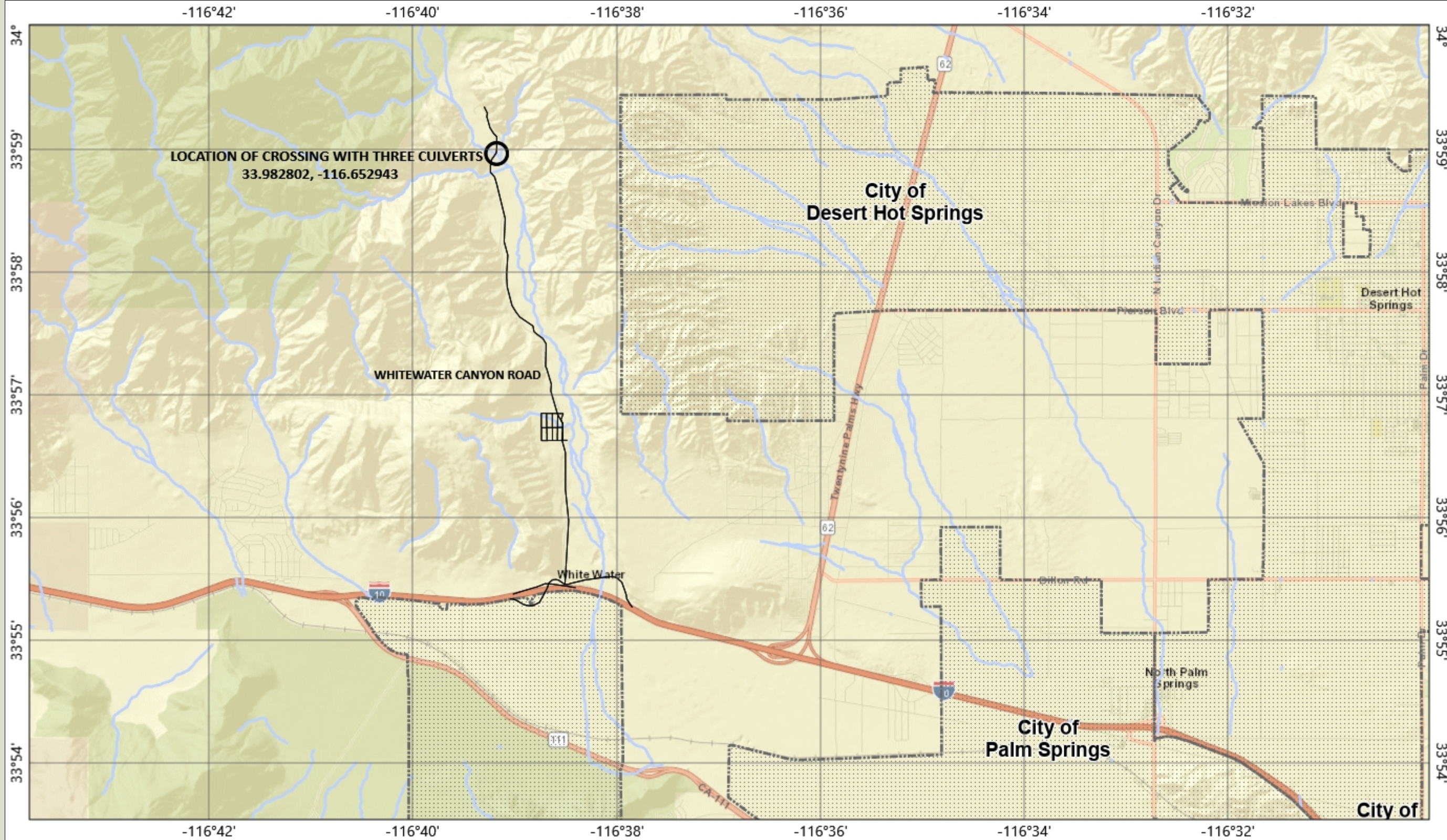
ACCEPTED BY: -

DATE: -

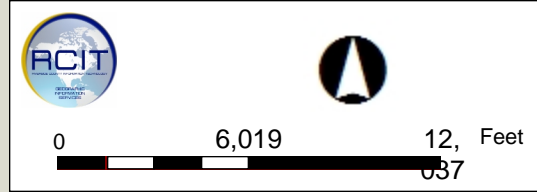
RECEIPT # (S) -

Whitewater Canyon Road Emergency Culvert Maintenance

Vicinity Map



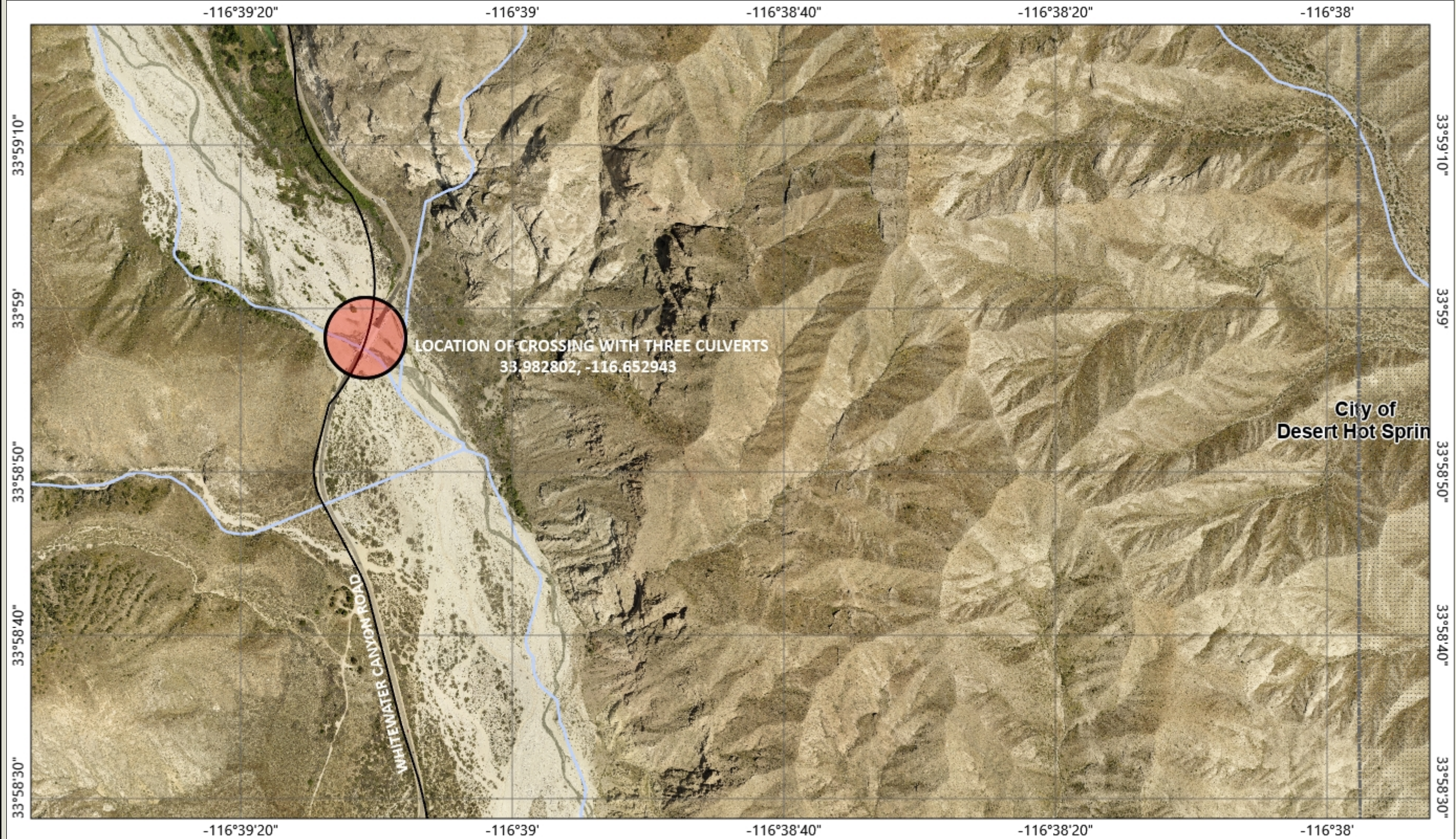
- Legend**
- County Boundary
 - City Boundaries
 - Blueline Streams
 - City Areas
 - World Street Map



IMPORTANT Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. Map features are approximate, and are not necessarily accurate to surveying or engineering standards. The County of Riverside makes no warranty or guarantee as to the content (the source is often third party), accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of any of the data provided, and assumes no legal responsibility for the information contained on this map. Any use of this product with respect to accuracy and precision shall be the sole responsibility of the user.

Notes

Whitewater Canyon Road Emergency Culvert Maintenance



- Legend**
- County Boundary
 - City Boundaries
 - City Areas
 - County Centerlines
 - Blueline Streams
 - City Areas
 - World Street Map

0 752 1,505 Feet

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Notes