

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SUBSEQUENT EIR FOR THE
USG PLASTER CITY QUARRY EXPANSION AND WELL NO. 3 PROJECT
APRIL 18, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, as lead agency, is circulating for public review a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the USG Plaster City Quarry Expansion and Well No. 3 Project.

PROJECT TITLE: USG Plaster City Quarry Expansion and Well No. 3 Project (SCH No. 2001121133).

PROJECT LOCATION: The USG Plaster City Quarry (Quarry) holdings consist of 2,048 acres and are located in the northwestern portion of Imperial County adjacent to the Imperial County/San Diego County line. Well No. 3 would be located east of the existing Quarry on a USG-owned parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 033-020-009). The proposed pipeline would be approximately 3.5 miles in length and would be developed within an existing right-of-way over an additional 12.7 acres (30 foot wide by 3.5 miles long) of land, most of which (7.25 acres) is managed by the BLM. A portion of the right-of-way (3.75 acres) is located within the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The proposed pipeline would be developed within the existing narrow-gauge railroad right-of-way that is already disturbed by an existing unpaved access road. The approximately 207-acre Viking Ranch restoration site is located in San Diego County about 26 miles northwest of the USG Quarry (APNs 140-030-05-00; -07-00, -09-00, -10-00, and -11-00). The approximately 121-acres Old Kane Springs Road preservation site is located in San Diego County approximately 10 miles northwest of the USG Quarry (APN 253-150-34-00).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project consists of approval of a Conditional Use Permit from the County for the development of a new production well, Well No. 3, and an associated pipeline to provide water to the USG Quarry. The locations of the Quarry, Well No. 3, and the associated pipeline are shown on Figure 1, "Regional Location," and on Figure 2, "Plaster City Quarry and Well No. 3 Location."

Additional land use entitlements from the County are not needed for mining and reclamation activities under the Quarry expansion. However, because Well No. 3 and the associated pipeline would provide water to support Quarry operations, the Draft Subsequent EIR evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with mining and reclamation activities under the Quarry expansion, for full disclosure and to provide the appropriate CEQA review for use by responsible agencies.

The Draft Subsequent EIR also evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with the restoration of the Viking Ranch site and preservation of the Old Kane Springs Road site. USG identified the approximately 207-acre Viking Ranch site for restoration and the 121-acre Old Kane Springs Road site for preservation to provide compensatory mitigation for the impacts to 139 acres of waters of the United States at the Quarry. The locations of these sites are shown on Figure 1, Figure 3, "Viking Ranch Restoration Site," and Figure 4, "Old Kane Springs Road Preservation Site." Although the Viking Ranch restoration site and Old Kane Springs Road preservation site would not require entitlements from Imperial County, this Draft Subsequent EIR evaluates the environmental impacts of these actions for full disclosure and to provide the appropriate CEQA review for responsible agencies.

Implementation of the project requires the following:

- Conditional Use Permit (Imperial County for well permit)
- Major Grading Permit (San Diego County for restoration project)

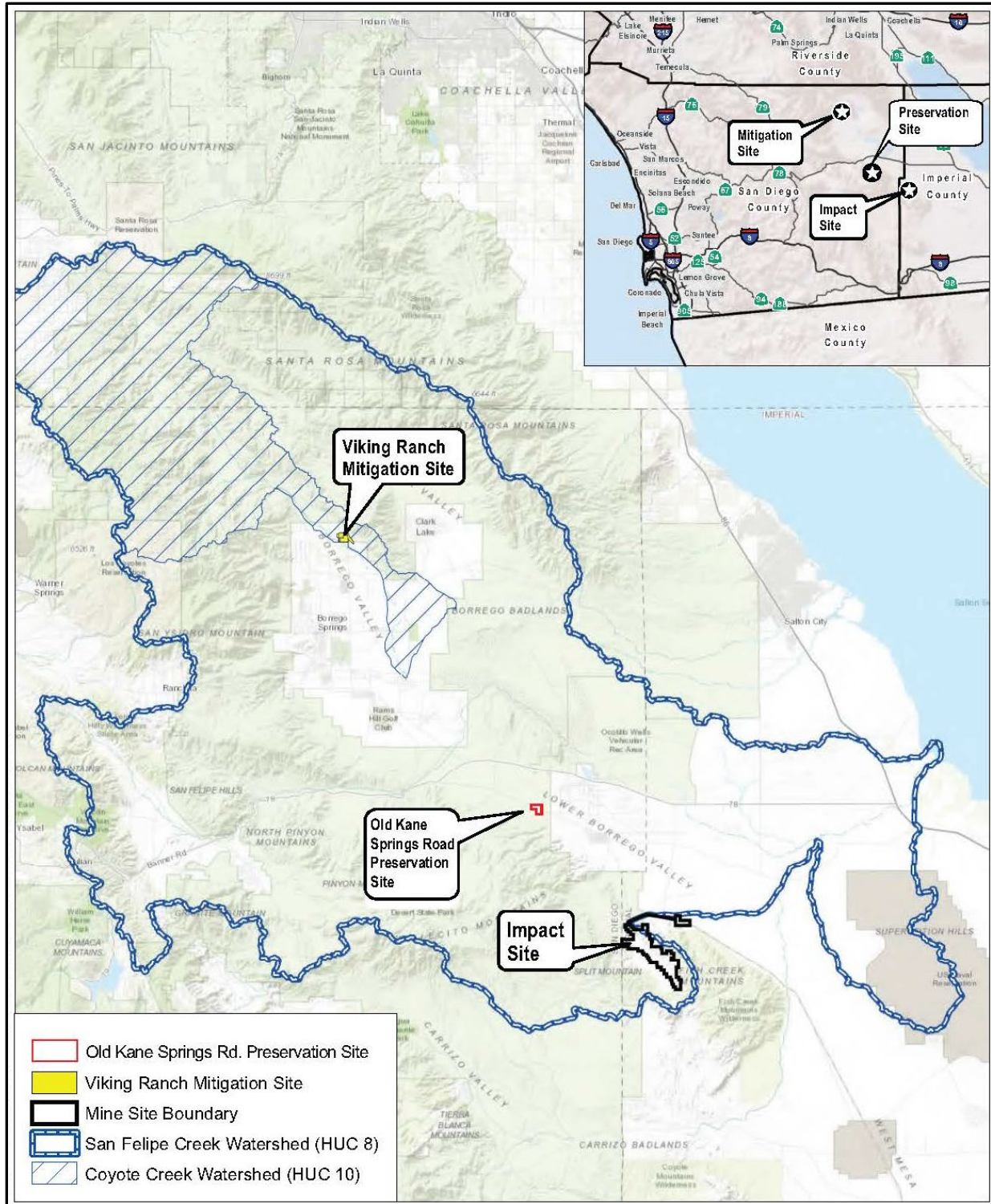
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 5, Supervisor, John Hawk

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Tribal Cultural Resources.

AVAILABILITY: The Draft Subsequent EIR can be reviewed by appointment at the following location: Imperial County Planning and Development Services, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. To make an appointment please contact Diana Robinson at (442) 265-1736. The document can be reviewed online at: <https://www.icpds.com/planning/environmental-impact-reports/draft-eirs/usg-deir-2006>.

COMMENTS: Written comments regarding the Draft Subsequent EIR should be directed to Diana Robinson, Planning Division Manager, Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and must be received **no later than June 2, 2023** (public review period is from April 18, 2023, through June 2, 2023). A Final Subsequent EIR incorporating public input will be prepared for consideration by the Imperial County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors at a future public meeting. For environmental review information for this project, please contact Diana Robinson at (442) 265-1736.

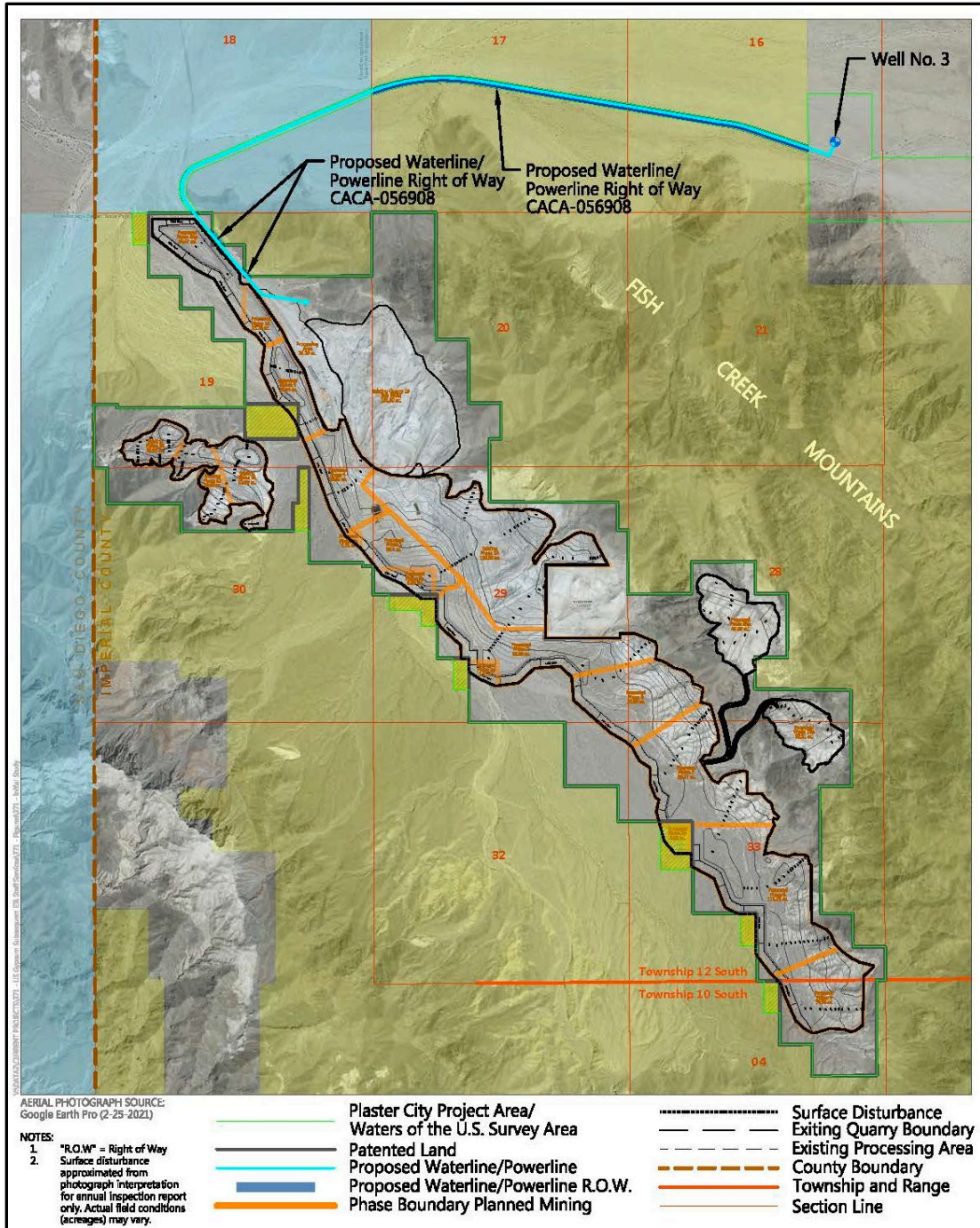
This notice was published in the Imperial Valley Press on April 11, 2023.



SOURCE: Dudek, 2021; Basemap USGS

NOTE: Image has been altered by Benchmark Resources and is not printed to scale.

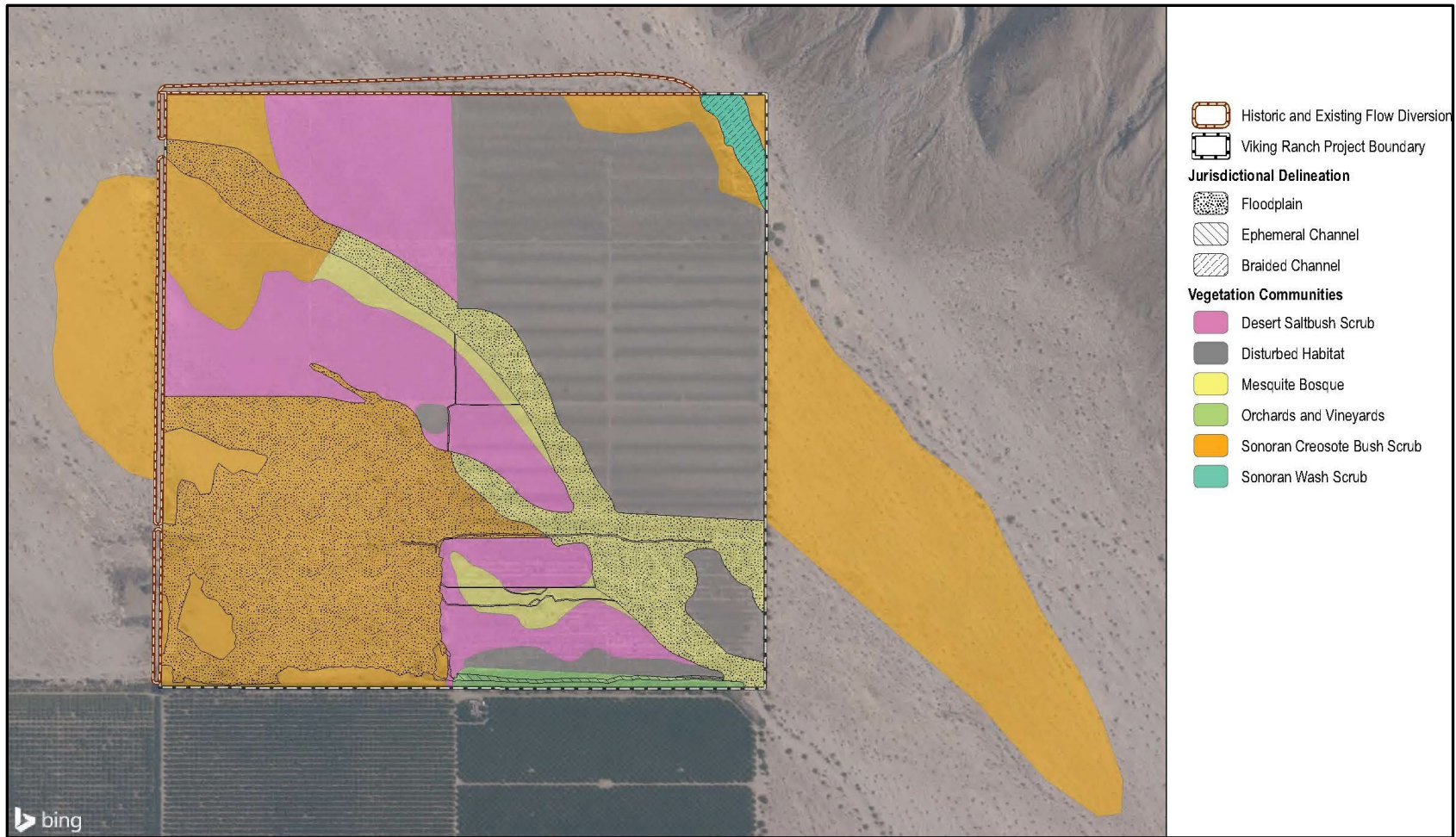
Figure 1
Regional Location



SOURCE: Benchmark Resources, 2021

NOTE: Image is not printed to scale.

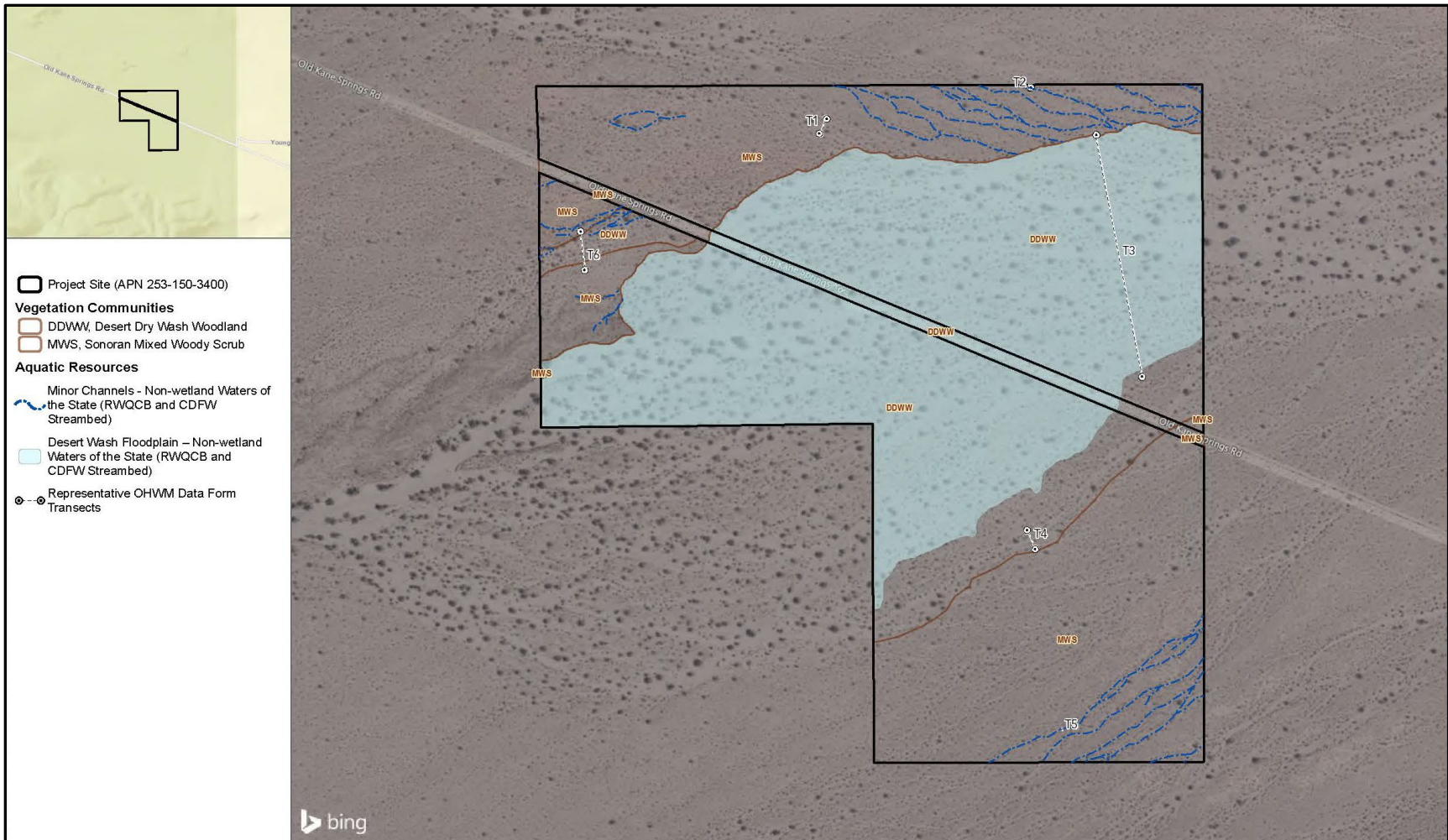
Figure 2
Plaster City Quarry and Well No. 3 Location



SOURCE: Dudek, 2021; Aerial-Bing Mapping Services, 2018

NOTE: Image has been modified by Benchmark Resources and is not printed to scale.

Figure 3
Viking Ranch Restoration Site



SOURCE: Dudek, 2021; Aerial-Bing Mapping Services, 2020

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Figure 4
Old Kane Springs Road Preservation Site