

MAP REFERENCE: USGS WEST CARLSBAD QUADRANGLE, 15 MINUTE SERIES, 1943

(FIGURES 3 AND 4)

TERRAIN

THE PROPOSED WELL PAD AND ACCESS ROAD ARE LOCATED IN THE HACKBERRY HILLS AND IS 2640 FEET NORTH OF LITTLE MCKETTRICK DRAW. THEY ARE SITUATED ON A NARROW LIMESTONE RIDGE. THE ELEVATION IS 3500 FEET. THE SOILS ENCOUNTERED IN THE AREA ARE PREDOMINANTLY CALCAREOUS LOAMS, WHICH INCLUDE LARGE VOLUMES OF FRAGMENTED LIMESTONE. TAXONOMICALLY THIS SOIL CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS A MEMBER OF THE CALCIUSTOLLS--ROCK LAND ASSOCIATION.

FLORISTICS

ACA ENCOUNTERED A MODERATE FLORAL ASSEMBLAGE IN THIS LOCATION. THE DENSITY OF THE VEGETATION IN THE AREA IS APPROXIMATELY 15 PERCENT, CONSISTING PRIMARILY OF SHRUBS. THE DOMINANT SPECIES IS LECHEGUILLA AGAVE (AGAVE LECHEGUILLA). AMONG OTHER SPECIES PRESENT ARE AGAVE (AGAVE SCABRA), CANE CHOLLA (OPUNTIA SPINOSIOR), CHRISTMAS CACTUS (OPUNTIA LEPIDOCALUS), ENGLEMAN PRICKLYPEAR (OPUNTIA PHAECANTHA), OCCOTILLO (FOURQUIERA SPLENDENS), PARRY AGAVE (AGAVE PARRYI), PLAINS YUCCA (YUCCA CAMPESTRIS), PURPLE PRICKLYPEAR (OPUNTIA MACROCENTRA), SOAPTREE YUCCA (YUCCA ELATA), SOTOL (DAZYLIRION WHEELERI), AND YUCCA (YUCCA GLAUCA).

CULTURAL RESOURCES

ACA DID NOT ENCOUNTER ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OR ISOLATED MANIFESTATIONS, EITHER WITHIN OR NEAR THE PROPOSED FACILITIES. A REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DID NOT FIND ANY PROPERTIES LISTED FOR THIS LOCATION.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACA RECOMMENDS CLEARANCE FOR THE WELL PAD AND ACCESS ROAD AND SUGGESTS THAT CONSTRUCTION BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED AS CURRENTLY PLANNED.