Map Reference: USGS Laguna Gatuna Quadrangle, 15 Minute Series, 1963.

Terrain

The proposed facilities are situated on an undulating plain at an elevation of 3699.3 ft. Locally, the area is characterized by stabilized dunes and deflation basins. Calcareous sandy clay loams underlie the area as a whole. Pea-sized caliche and quartzite inclusions constitute less than 1% of the soil individuals. Local soils belong to the Haplargid-Torripsamment-Association.

Floristics

The floral assemblage in this area is moderately dense and averages between 25 and 30%. Among the shrubs encountered are Quercus havardii, Artemisia filifolia, Prosopis Juliflora, Yucca spp., and Opuntia spp. (cylindropuntia and platyopuntia). Two forbs are present: Schrankia occidentalis and Chamasearacha sordida. Graminae in the vicinity include Bouteloua spp., Distichlis stricta, Hilaria mutica, and Scleropogon brevifolius.

Cultural Resources

ACA did not encounter any archaeological sites, or isolated manifestations, within or near the proposed access road or well location.

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for the proposed well pad and access road and suggests that construction be allowed to proceed in accordance with current plans.