

## DOCKETED

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Appendix 5.13A  
FHWA Visual Resources  
KOP Rating Sheets



Visual Resource Survey:		Existing Conditions	
KOP Location:	<b>Eastbound State Route 126</b>	Viewpoint:	<b>KOP 1</b>
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Existing view from State Route 126 looking southeast toward the proposed project site. SR 126 is elevated above grade in this location as it crosses a railroad alignment.		
Photo Orientation:	Southeast		
Viewer Position:	_____ Inferior _____ Level _____ X _____ Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	The area in the immediate foreground is a large, open dirt lot currently used to store semi-trailers. Greenhouses and row-crop agriculture fill in much of the remaining landscape between the semi-trailers and the hills.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	The undeveloped hills and ridge in the distance are approximately 1.5 miles from the viewer location and serve as a backdrop to the mix of industrial and agricultural uses seen in near middleground.		
Background (> 4 miles)	NA		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	6	The flat Santa Clara River Valley plain extends out from the viewer location for one mile, at which point the land abruptly rises to an elevation of approximately 1,000 feet. This east-west trending low mountain range bounds the valley on its southern side and provides a relatively dramatic backdrop to the view.	
Vegetation	5	Agriculture-related vegetation, such as row-crops, eucalyptus wind breaks, and ornamental landscaping are seen throughout the valley floor. Brown chaparral and shrubs on the hillsides.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	4	From this view, the valley floor is dominated by various human-made features. There is a dirt lot used for semi-trailer storage directly in front of the viewer that attracts attention. Agricultural fields, including large plots of greenhouses, and the green towers of the Granite asphalt plant are also visible.	
Overall	<b>5.0</b>		
Intactness			
Overall	<b>4</b>	The ridgeline in the distance is intact and the hillsides are undeveloped; however, this contrasts with the valley floor, which is heavily utilized for industrial and agricultural purposes. These human-made features, in particular the open lot and semi-trailers in the foreground, detract from overall intactness.	
Unity			
Overall	<b>4</b>	The human-made features in this view, including the semi-trailers, rows of greenhouses, and the Granite facility are oriented in a satisfying alignment, pointing toward the mountains in the distance. However, these features contrast with the undeveloped hillsides.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	<b>4.3</b>		

Visual Resource Survey:		With Project	
KOP Location:	<b>Eastbound State Route 126</b>	Viewpoint:	<b>KOP 1</b>
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Simulated view from State Route 126 looking southeast toward the constructed MREC facility.		
Photo Orientation:	Southeast		
Viewer Position:	_____ Inferior _____ Level _____ X _____ Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	No change.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	MREC is seen in the center of the simulation, approximately 0.5 mile from the viewer location. MREC will be painted green and black to match the existing structures of the neighboring Granite asphalt plant. The new transmission line extends from MREC to the right side of the photograph; a limited number of eucalyptus trees are likely to be removed to allow for passage of the line. A new transmission structure is visible at the far right.		
Background (> 4 miles)	NA		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	6	No change.	
Vegetation	5	No change.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	4	No change.	
Overall	<b>5.0</b>		
Intactness			
Overall	<b>3.5</b>	The presence of the MREC facilities and new transmission line have a slight effect on the intactness of this view. However, given the distance from the viewer location to the new project features and the choice of paint color for the facility, the impact is low to moderate.	
Unity			
Overall	<b>4</b>	The industrial appearance of the MREC facility is not out of place among the other industrial uses in the Mission Rock Area. Similar to the existing built features, the MREC exhaust stacks draw the eye up and toward the mountains in the distance. In this way, the proposed project is consistent with the overall pattern of the landscape.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	<b>4.2</b>	Slight decrease to overall visual quality.	

\*Score Key:

1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High

\*Score Key:

1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High

Visual Resource Survey:		Existing Conditions	
KOP Location:	<b>Southbound Todd Road</b>	Viewpoint:	<b>KOP 2</b>
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Existing view from Todd Road near the entrance to the Todd Road County Jail looking southeast toward the proposed project site.		
Photo Orientation:	Southeast		
Viewer Position:	_____ Inferior _____ X _____ Level _____ Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	In the immediate foreground, Todd Road curves to the right side of the photo as it heads toward the Todd Road County Jail and visitor center parking lot (not visible). A driveway to a residence is seen on the left side of the view; this residence is one of the nearest to the MREC site. A fenced row-crop agricultural field lies beyond the roadway and the Todd Road County Jail is visible in the distant foreground.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	The undeveloped hills and ridge in the distance are approximately 1.5 miles from the viewer location and serve as a backdrop to the view from KOP 2.		
Background (> 4 miles)	NA		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	6	The flat Santa Clara River Valley plain extends out from the viewer location for one mile, at which point the land abruptly rises to an elevation of approximately 1,000 feet. This east-west trending low mountain range bounds the valley on its southern side and provides a relatively dramatic backdrop to the view.	
Vegetation	5.5	Agriculture-related vegetation, such as row-crops, eucalyptus wind breaks, and ornamental landscaping are seen throughout the valley floor. Brown chaparral and shrubs on the hillsides.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	4.5	The valley floor is dominated by various human-made features, which generally lack vivid qualities. The black pavement of Todd Road and the residential driveway are seen near the viewer location, as are associated roadway light poles. The Todd Road County Jail, which is attractively designed with red and beige siding and a green roof, is a prominent structure in the center of the view.	
Overall	<b>5.3</b>		
Intactness			
Overall	<b>4.5</b>	The ridgeline in the distance is intact and the hillsides are undeveloped; however, this contrasts with the valley floor, which is developed for industrial and agricultural purposes. These human-made features, in particular the light poles, fencing, and wood poles in the foreground, detract from overall intactness.	
Unity			
Overall	<b>4.5</b>	Though built elements cover the valley floor, these features are well integrated with the undeveloped hillsides in the distance. There are layers of road, agricultural field, mountain, and sky. The row of eucalyptus trees seen at the base of the hills serve as a transitional element between the valley floor and ridge.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	<b>4.8</b>		

\*Score Key:  
1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High

Visual Resource Survey:		With Project	
KOP Location:	<b>Southbound Todd Road</b>	Viewpoint:	<b>KOP 2</b>
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Simulated view from Todd Road near the entrance to the Todd Road County Jail looking southeast toward the constructed MREC facility.		
Photo Orientation:	Southeast		
Viewer Position:	_____ Inferior _____ X _____ Level _____ Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	No change.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	MREC is barely noticeable and seen through the eucalyptus trees on the left side of the simulation, approximately 0.5 mile from the viewer location. MREC will be painted green and black to match the existing structures of the neighboring Granite asphalt plant. The new transmission line extends from MREC to the right side of the photograph; a limited number of eucalyptus trees may be removed to allow for passage of the line. A new transmission structure is visible toward the right side of the view, past the jail facility.		
Background (> 4 miles)	NA		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	6	No change.	
Vegetation	5.5	No change.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	4.5	No change.	
Overall	<b>5.3</b>		
Intactness			
Overall	<b>4.5</b>	The new MREC facility and transmission line are barely noticeable through the trees and in the distance beyond the jail. There would be no appreciable effect on overall intactness.	
Unity			
Overall	<b>4.5</b>	The new MREC facility and transmission line are barely noticeable through the trees and in the distance beyond the jail. There would be no appreciable effect on overall unity.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	<b>4.8</b>	No change to overall visual quality.	

\*Score Key:  
1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High

Visual Resource Survey:		Existing Conditions	
KOP Location:	Eastbound State Route 126	Viewpoint:	KOP 3
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Existing view from State Route 126 looking northeast toward the proposed transmission line alignment.		
Photo Orientation:	Northeast		
Viewer Position:	Inferior      X      Level      Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	The SR 126 roadway and adjacent landscaping dominate the view from KOP 3. The road surface is smooth and gray. Associated metal guard railing and signage border the road. To the right of the highway corridor, there is a slight view of the trees of a nearby orchard.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	A highway overpass is visible in the distance, approximately 0.75 miles ahead of the viewer. There is a glimpse of the low hills south of the valley on the right side of the photograph.		
Background (> 4 miles)	The range of mountains north of the valley are barely visible in the center of the photo, far in the distance.		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	3	Terrain in the view from KOP 3 is mostly flat, with just a hint of interest from the hills seen in the distance and to the right.	
Vegetation	4	Large oleander bushes are planted in the SR 126 center median area, screening views of oncoming traffic. There are numerous trees, including tall eucalyptus, in the right-of-way bordering the highway. Brown chaparral and shrubs on the hillsides.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	3	The view is dominated by the built environment of the roadway and adjacent landscaping, which lack vivid qualities in this location.	
Overall	3.3		
Intactness			
Overall	5	Aside from the presence of the roadway, there are few intrusive elements in the view. The orange and blue road signs along the highway are small at this distance and have a minor effect on overall intactness.	
Unity			
Overall	5	The roadway, lined with attractive flowering vegetation and tall trees, draws the eye toward the mountains in the distance; a pleasant highway scene.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	4.4		

\*Score Key:  
1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High

Visual Resource Survey:		With Project	
KOP Location:	Eastbound State Route 126	Viewpoint:	KOP 3
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Simulated view from State Route 126 looking northeast toward the constructed transmission line.		
Photo Orientation:	Northeast		
Viewer Position:	Inferior      X      Level      Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	The top half of a new transmission structure is visible beyond the tall eucalyptus trees north of the highway corridor. The new conductors are skylined and cross the view from left to right.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	The conductors are seen to pass in front of the low hills at right.		
Background (> 4 miles)	No change.		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	3	No change.	
Vegetation	4	No change.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	3	No change.	
Overall	3.3		
Intactness			
Overall	4	The presence of the new transmission structure and conductors affects the view's overall intactness. What had been a roadway view with few intrusive elements now includes a 100-ft tall structure and skylined conductors; however, the impact is lessened because the lower half of the structure is screened by tall trees.	
Unity			
Overall	4.5	Overall visual unity is slightly reduced with the addition of the transmission line to the view. The eye is now drawn away from the roadway and distant mountains and toward the new structure.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	3.9	Low to moderate decrease in overall visual quality.	

\*Score Key:  
1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High

Visual Resource Survey:		Existing Conditions	
KOP Location:	Westbound Telegraph Road	Viewpoint:	KOP 4
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Existing view from Telegraph Road looking southwest toward the proposed transmission line alignment.		
Photo Orientation:	Southwest		
Viewer Position:	_____ Inferior _____ X _____ Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	Telegraph road travels straight ahead, toward the center of the view. On each side, the road is bordered by lines of wood utility poles. An orchard of low trees occupies the space to the left of the road. Driveways to two homes as well as abundant landscaping in the front yards of these homes is seen on the right-hand side of the road. The yards of the homes are secured by chain-link fences, which are partially visible through vegetation. These two homes are old and considered historic, and are also among the residences nearest the new transmission line alignment. The road is seen to cross the Ellsworth Barranca (a small stream) in the center of the view.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	NA		
Background (> 4 miles)	NA		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	3	The land is mostly flat, though the road gently slopes down toward the Ellsworth Barranca and then gently gains elevation as it travels into the distance.	
Vegetation	5.5	Abundant and varied vegetation is the most vivid component of this view. There's a well-maintained orchard of attractively shaped trees left of the road and a mix of taller palm, pine, and eucalyptus in the distance. The yards of the homes right of the road are planted with low shrubs and medium-sized evergreen trees.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	3.5	The road and adjacent utility poles are prominent human-made elements of the view but they are not particularly memorable.	
Overall	4.0		
Intactness			
Overall	5	There are a number of intrusive elements in the view, the utility poles and conductors being the most obvious. But there are also mailboxes and a roadside utility box that slightly encroach on the viewer.	
Unity			
Overall	5	Cris-crossing utility conductors detract from the relative unity of this view along a road through Ventura County agricultural lands.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	4.7		

\*Score Key:  
1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High

Visual Resource Survey:		With Project	
KOP Location:	Westbound Telegraph Road	Viewpoint:	KOP 4
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Simulated view from Telegraph Road looking southwest toward the constructed transmission line.		
Photo Orientation:	Southwest		
Viewer Position:	_____ Inferior _____ X _____ Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	A new 130-ft transmission structure is located just to the right of Telegraph Road near Ellsworth Barranca. The lower third of the structure is screened by vegetation but the remaining two-thirds towers above the road and neighboring residential lots. New conductors cross the view from left to right.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	NA		
Background (> 4 miles)	NA		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	3	No change.	
Vegetation	5.5	No change.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	3.5	No change.	
Overall	4.0		
Intactness			
Overall	3.5	The addition of the new transmission structure and conductors has a substantial impact on the overall intactness of the view. Both the pole and lines are skylined and tower over the existing human-made and natural features of the image.	
Unity			
Overall	4.5	The metal transmission structure contrasts with the existing wood poles and rural setting. This project feature is out of scale compared to the existing environment. Unity will be reduced with the addition of the transmission line features.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	4.0	Moderately high level of impact to overall visual quality.	

\*Score Key:  
1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High

Visual Resource Survey:		Existing Conditions	
KOP Location:	Eastbound Foothill Road	Viewpoint:	KOP 5
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Existing view from Foothill Road looking northeast toward the proposed transmission line alignment.		
Photo Orientation:	Northeast		
Viewer Position:	_____ Inferior _____ Level _____ X _____ Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	Foothill road travels straight ahead, toward the center of the view, and then makes a sharp turn to the left. The right side of the road is lined with a row of tall, wood utility poles. Orchards of large, bushy trees surround the road on both sides, these orchards are secured by chain-link fences topped with barbed wire.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	The middleground is not readily visible, aside from some taller trees seen beyond the turn in the road.		
Background (> 4 miles)	The hills and mountains north of the Santa Clara River Valley are visible in the distance.		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	5.5	The land in the foreground slopes gently down toward the curve in the road. The distant hills and mountains, which are of varying textures and colors, provide an attractive backdrop to the scene.	
Vegetation	5	Abundant vegetation in the view, though not particularly vivid. The trees in the surrounding orchards are similar colors and shapes.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	3.5	Human-made elements of the view, including the roadway, utility poles, and fencing provide a moderately low level of interest.	
Overall	4.7		
Intactness			
Overall	5	The tall utility poles are intrusive elements in a view that is otherwise relatively intact.	
Unity			
Overall	5.5	The image offers moderately high visual unity as a view down a backcountry road through Ventura County agricultural lands, with impressive topography in the distance.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	5.1		

Visual Resource Survey:		With Project	
KOP Location:	Eastbound Foothill Road	Viewpoint:	KOP 5
Landscape Unit:	N/A	Date:	10/7/15
Viewpoint Description (Figure Caption):	Simulated view from Foothill Road looking northeast toward the constructed transmission line.		
Photo Orientation:	Northeast		
Viewer Position:	_____ Inferior _____ Level _____ X _____ Superior		
View	Notes		
Foreground (0 - 1/2 mile)	A new 106-ft transmission structure is located just to the left of Foothill Road as the road curves out of sight. The lower half of the structure is screened by vegetation but the remainder is seen rising above the trees of an orchard. The new conductors are difficult to see at this distance and with the mountains behind them but they cross the view from left to right, over the existing row of utility poles.		
Middleground (1/2 - 4 miles)	No change.		
Background (> 4 miles)	The new transmission structure slightly obstructs the view toward the distant hills and mountains.		
Vividness			
Feature	Score*	Notes	
Landform	5.5	No change.	
Vegetation	5	No change.	
Water Feature	NA		
Human-Made	3.5	No change.	
Overall	4.7		
Intactness			
Overall	4.5	The addition of the new transmission structure moderately impacts the overall intactness of the view. However, the existing wood utility poles appear much larger and more intrusive from this KOP location than would the new structure. The new structure and conductors are back-dropped by the distant mountains, as opposed to being skylined, which helps preserve the intactness of the view.	
Unity			
Overall	5	The metal transmission structure is somewhat out of place in this rural setting. Unity will be modestly reduced with the addition of this feature.	
Overall Visual Quality Score	4.7	Moderate level of impact to overall visual quality.	

\*Score Key:

1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High

\*Score Key:

1 - Very Low; 2 - Low; 3 - Moderately Low; 4 - Average; 5 - Moderately High; 6 - High; 7 - Very High