

*Note to Reader: This administrative draft document is being released prior to the public draft version that will be released for formal public review and comment later in 2018. The administrative draft incorporates comments by the lead agencies on prior versions, but has not been reviewed or approved by the lead agencies for adequacy in meeting the requirements of CEQA or NEPA. All members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments on the public draft. Responses will be prepared only on comments submitted during the formal public review and comment period on the Supplemental EIR/EIS information.*

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## Appendix 17A Scenic Quality Rating Forms

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**SCENIC QUALITY RATING SUMMARY**

Date: March 7, 2018

Landscape Character Unit: N/A

Key Observation Point: KOP 259 on State Route 12

Evaluators ( <i>names</i> ): Jennifer Ban, PLA								
Scenic Quality Rating Unit (KOP): KOP 259 on State Route 12 – <b>EXISTING</b> SCENIC QUALITY								
Key Factors	Scenic Quality Rating	Explanation						
(1) Landform	1	Generally flat agricultural landscape with some raised topography where access roads grade up to meet State Route (SR) 12.						
(2) Vegetation	3	Contrast in vegetation between shorter grasses along access road and taller grasses bordering flooded fields with vegetation stubble in foreground and trees growing in groupings on upland areas and on horizon line.						
(3) Water	2.5	Water visible when fields are wet from rain or irrigated.						
(4) Color	4	Color provided by seasonal variations such as when trees in leaf, grass is green or brown, and fall colors. Strong contrast between large visible portions of blue sky against browns and greens of fields. Blue and white color of sky reflected on flooded fields. Limited amount of contrasting color from buildings.						
(5) Adjacent Scenery	4.5	Few visual intrusions and views of the Diablo Range to the southwest add to the scenic quality. Views over agricultural lands with intermittent hedgerows and vegetation and flooded fields that reflect sky add to quality of views from the roadway.						
(6) Scarcity	4	View is somewhat similar to others in the region but includes a scenic vista across ag fields. View is from a road noted for its scenic qualities.						
(7) Cultural Modification	0	Wooden transmission lines and a residence are the primary cultural modifications and fairly harmonious						
(8) Total Score	19							
(9) Scenic Quality Rating	<b>C</b>	<b>A = 29-32</b>	<b>B = 24-28</b>	<b>C = 19-23</b>	<b>D = 14-18</b>	<b>E = 9-13</b>	<b>F = 4-8</b>	<b>G = 0-3</b>

### Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart

Key factors	Rating Criteria and Score		
<b>Landform</b>	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops, or severe surface variation or highly eroded formations including major badlands or dune systems; or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers.  <b>5</b>	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins; or interesting erosional patterns or variety in size and shape of landforms; or detail features which are interesting though not dominant or exceptional.  <b>3</b>	Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms; or few or no interesting landscape features.  <b>1</b>
<b>Vegetation</b>	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns.  <b>5</b>	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types.  <b>3</b>	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation.  <b>1</b>
<b>Water</b>	Clear and clean appearing, still, or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape.  <b>5</b>	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape.  <b>3</b>	Absent, or present, but not noticeable.  <b>0</b>
<b>Color</b>	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields.  <b>5</b>	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element.  <b>3</b>	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally mute tones.  <b>1</b>
<b>Influence of Adjacent Scenery</b>	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality.  <b>5</b>	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality.  <b>3</b>	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality.  <b>0</b>
<b>Scarcity</b>	One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc.  <b>* 5+</b>	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region.  <b>3</b>	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region.  <b>1</b>
<b>Cultural Modifications</b>	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony.  <b>2</b>	Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements.  <b>0</b>	Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony.  <b>-4</b>

\* A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**Purpose:** To rate the visual quality of the scenic resource on all BLM managed lands.

**How to Identify Scenic Value:** All Bureau lands have scenic value.

**How to Determine Minimum Suitability:** All BLM lands are rated for scenic values. Also rate adjacent or intermingling non-BLM lands within the planning unit.

**When to Evaluate Scenic Quality:** Rate for scenery under the most critical conditions (i.e., highest user period or season of use, sidelight, proper atmospheric conditions, etc.).

**How to Delineate Rating Areas:** Consider the following factors when delineating rating areas.

1. Like physiographic characteristics (i.e., land form, vegetation, etc.).
2. Similar visual patterns, texture, color, variety, etc.
3. Areas which have a similar impact from cultural modifications (i.e., roads, historical and other structures, mining operations, or other surface disturbances).

**NOTE:** Values for each rating criteria are maximum and minimum scores only. It is also possible to assign scores within these ranges.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**SCENIC QUALITY RATING SUMMARY**

Date: March 7, 2018

Landscape Character Unit: N/A

Key Observation Point: KOP 259 on State Route 12

Evaluators ( <i>names</i> ): Jennifer Ban, PLA								
Scenic Quality Rating Unit (KOP): KOP 259 on State Route 12 – <b>SIMULATED</b> SCENIC QUALITY								
Key Factors	Scenic Quality Rating	Explanation						
(1) Landform	1.25	Generally flat agricultural landscape with some raised topography where access roads grade up to meet levee road remains the same. New shaft site introduce geometric raised landform in to middleground views. RTM disposal areas do not stand out/are not noticeable in this view because they're blocked by foreground and middleground vegetation.						
(2) Vegetation	3	Vegetation remains mostly the same. Contrast in vegetation between shorter grasses along access road and taller grasses bordering flooded fields with vegetation stubble in foreground and trees growing in groupings on upland areas and on horizon line.						
(3) Water	2.5	Water would be visible when field are irrigated.						
(4) Color	4	Color provided by seasonal variations such as when trees in leaf, grass is green or brown, and fall colors. Strong contrast between large visible portions of blue sky against browns and greens of fields. Blue and white color of sky reflected on flooded fields. Limited amount of contrasting color from buildings. Variety in color is not reduced by shaft sites.						
(5) Adjacent Scenery	4.5	Few visual intrusions and views of the Diablo Range to the southwest add to the scenic quality. Views over agricultural lands with intermittent hedgerows and vegetation and flooded fields that reflect sky add to quality of views from the roadway. Not affected by change.						
(6) Scarcity	4	View is somewhat similar to others in the region but includes a scenic vista across ag fields that would be opened up more. View is from a road noted for its scenic qualities would be affected.						
(7) Cultural Modification	-2	Wooden transmission lines and residence are the primary cultural modifications, are fairly harmonious, and would remain. Addition of new transmission lines introduces tall steel vertical structures that look industrial into the landscape. Raised, geometric shaft site "island" would introduce a landform not compatible with flat ag lands.						
(8) Total Score	17.25							
(9) Scenic Quality Rating	<b>D</b>	<b>A = 29-32</b>	<b>B = 24-28</b>	<b>C = 19-23</b>	<b>D = 14-18</b>	<b>E = 9-13</b>	<b>F = 4-8</b>	<b>G = 0-3</b>

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