

### **3.12 Utilities**

This section describes the existing utilities in the study area, which include power transmission lines, fiber-optic telecommunication lines, and a natural gas transmission pipelines.

Most of the utilities in the study area are within utility corridors on public lands and managed by the BLM. Public lands managed by the BLM often provide suitable locations for utility transmission lines. The CDCA Plan of 1980 (as amended) provides specific corridors for locating major transmission lines. These corridors were developed to concentrate the effects of utility lines in manageable locations. The corridors contain power lines, transcontinental fiber-optic communication cables, and trans-state gas pipelines. The corridors provide utility companies with access across the California desert to meet present and future needs.

The BLM, through the CDCA Plan, currently manages two joint-use utility corridors that are partially within the study area (see Figure 3.12-1). The BLM has designated these utility corridors as Utility Corridor D (also known as the Boulder Corridor), and Utility Corridor Q. A section of the planning corridor for Utility Corridor D lies within the study area and partially within the existing Fort Irwin boundary. Utility Corridor Q is south of the existing Fort Irwin boundary and is partially within the study area.

#### **3.12.1 Utility Corridor D (Boulder Corridor)**

Utility Corridor D (Boulder Corridor) is a two-mile-wide corridor that lies partially within the study area. It runs in a northeast-southwest direction, partially along the existing Fort Irwin boundary, as shown in Figure 3.12-1. It currently contains four overhead, high-voltage transmission lines that transport a major portion of the electrical power consumed in the southern California area. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) owns and operates three alternating current (AC) transmission lines in the corridor. They are the McCullough-Victorville I 500-kV, the McCullough-Victorville II 500-kV, and the Mead-Victorville 287-kV lines. Together, these three lines provide up to 2,400 megawatts (MW) to the LADWP system, which serves the cities of Anaheim, Burbank, Glendale, Los Angeles, and Pasadena. These lines are interconnected with other transmission systems in California, as well as the western U.S. Corridor D also contains the Intermountain Power Agency (IPA) 500-kV direct current (DC) transmission line, which provides up to 1,980 MW of power to the cities of Burbank, Glendale, Los Angeles, and Pasadena.

Other types of utilities in Corridor D include underground fiber-optic telecommunication lines and underground gas transmission pipelines. WorldCom Network, Inc. was granted a fiber-optic right-of-way (ROW) in Corridor D for an underground fiber-optic telecommunications cable. Level 3 Communications was granted a ROW in March 2001 to install a fiber-optic link within its long-haul network between its terminal in San Bernardino, California and its terminal in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Level 3 fiber-optic ROW used existing utility ROWs within the corridor. The Kern River Gas Transmission (KRG T) Pipeline was installed in 1991. The pipeline starts near Opal, Wyoming and ends in Daggett, California. The KRG T Company filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the California SLC in 2001 for a utility ROW grant to expand the existing KRG T interstate natural gas pipeline. Construction of this new line is complete.

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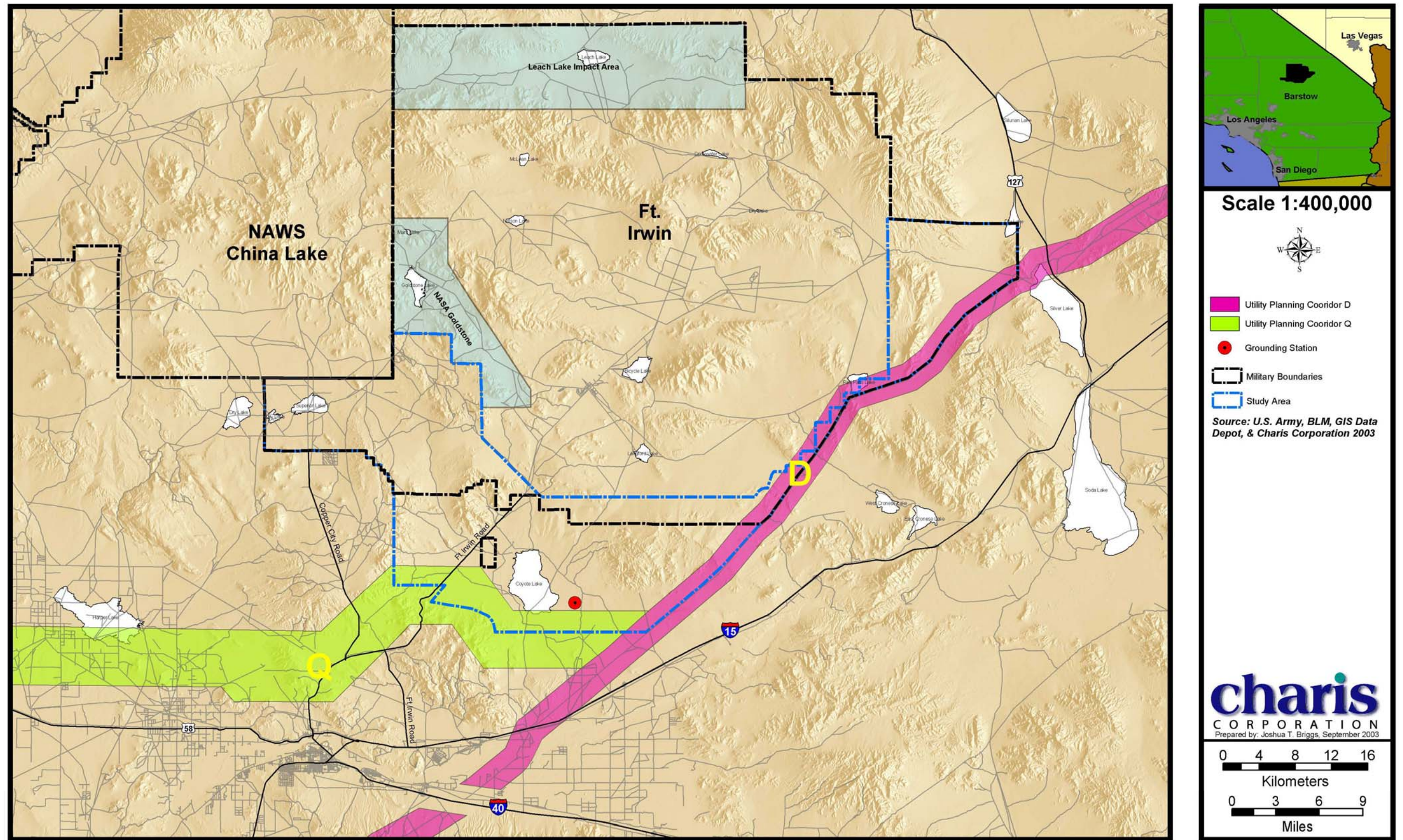


Figure 3.12-1: Utility Corridors

### 3.12.2 Utility Corridor Q

Utility Corridor Q is south and southwest of Fort Irwin and is partially located within the study area, as shown in Figure 3.12-1. This three-mile-wide corridor begins at Kramer Junction on U.S. Route 395 and extends east to join Corridor D near I-15 and the town of Harvard. LADWP owns and operates one transmission line in Utility Corridor Q. This line, the Marketplace-Adelanto transmission line, is a 500-kV AC line with a capacity of 1,200 MW. This transmission line provides power to the cities of Anaheim, Azusa, Banning, Burbank, Colton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Modesto, Pasadena, Redding, Riverside, Santa Clara, Vernon, and the West Area Power Administration.

### 3.12.3 Other Regional Utilities

There are utilities in the study area that do not occur within the BLM-designated utility corridors. They are in the vicinity of Coyote Lake (dry) and include Southern California Edison (SCE) power lines, a Verizon telecommunications fiber-optic cable, and an IPA DC grounding station. SCE owns and operates several overhead, high- and low-voltage power lines. These power lines provide power to Fort Irwin and residential units in the study area. The overhead power lines extend along approximately 12 miles of the Fort Irwin boundary and carry a range of voltage from 34kV to 115kV. Power line poles are between 250 and 550 ft apart. IPA also owns and operates an overhead, power grounding line located in the study area that terminates at a DC grounding station. A portion of the power line is below ground as it approaches the grounding station.

The DC grounding station is southeast of Coyote Lake in the study area (see Figure 3.12-1). The grounding facility comprises a building, with approximate dimensions of 15 ft x 15 ft x 10 ft, and 60 grounding wells located below ground that are approximately 1,500 ft away from the building and configured in a circular shape. This grounding station is an important part of the IPA high-voltage transmission line that delivers electricity to the Southern California area.

Verizon owns and operates a belowground telecommunication fiber-optic line along the west side of Fort Irwin Road. An Emergency Phone System (EPS) operated by the Fort Irwin Communications Support Division is along the east side of Fort Irwin Road. The EPS consists of an eight-line overhead telecommunications line located approximately 26 ft east of Fort Irwin Road and emergency call boxes located at poles approximately every two miles along Fort Irwin Road. The Verizon fiber-optic line and the Fort Irwin EPS line provide telecommunication service to Fort Irwin.

## 3.13 Transportation

The following discussion summarizes the public and military transportation systems that provide access to and throughout the study area. Figure 3.13-1 includes a graphic representation of the general transportation system in the Fort Irwin area.

### 3.13.1 National and State Road Systems

Regional access is provided to Fort Irwin and the study area by several national and state highways. The major national automobile transportation route near the study area and southeast of Fort Irwin is Interstate 15 (I-15, Mojave Freeway). It is a national highway that links San Bernardino, California and Las Vegas, Nevada. This Interstate extends from San Diego in the south, northward through Nevada, Utah, Idaho, western Montana, and ends at the Canadian border. A second major national automobile transportation route in the vicinity of Fort Irwin is