

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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**Project Lead:**J. Hufnagle  
**Field Office:** Sierra Front  
**Lead Office:** Sierra Front

**Case File/Project Number:** NVN082011/2800

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion** (cite section): *516 DM 11.9 E. Realty* (16) Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-2012-C020-0520-CX

**Project Name:** Sun Mesa Electric Line ROW

**Project Description:** In 2006, Sierra Pacific Power Company applied for a right-of-way (ROW) to extend buried electric service to a new cell tower located on the Summit Church property on the west side of Pyramid Highway approximately 2.5 miles north of the intersection of Pyramid Highway and McCarran Blvd in Washoe County, Nevada. During the processing of the application, BLM discovered that the line had recently been installed on private and public lands. BLM issued a trespass notice to Sierra Pacific Power Company for unauthorized disturbance and use of public lands. Sierra Pacific Power Company complied with BLM's proposed trespass resolution measures by providing 1) documentation of the land disturbance (1.3 acres), 2) a cultural resource assessment (reviewed and approved by BLM) and 3) by recontouring and seeding the disturbed areas on public land which included reclaiming a road as well as storage areas on public lands. The final step in trespass resolution is the issuance of a ROW for operation, maintenance and termination of the buried electric facilities on public land. The proposed ROW dimensions are 234 feet in length and 20 feet in width. Since the facilities are installed and operating, no new surface disturbance would be associated with ROW approval.

**Applicant Name:** Sierra Pacific Power Company

**Project Location:** T. 20 N., R 20 E., sec 16, S½SE¼SE¼.

**BLM Acres for the Project Area:** 234 feet by 20 feet – 0.11 acres

**Land Use Plan Conformance** (cite reference/page number): **Lands and Realty Administrative Actions 3.** All applicants for right-of-way grants, whether or not they are within corridors, are subject to standard approval procedures as outlined in the right-of-way regulations (43 CFR 2802)/ROW-4

**Name of Plan:** NV – Carson City RMP.

**Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances:** The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

(Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		JST
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		PZ AC JC nc
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		JST
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		JST
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		JST
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		JST
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (archeologist)		JC
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (wildlife biologist, botanist)		PZ B2B
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		JST
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		JST
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (archeologist)		JC
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (botanist)		B2B

**SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:** During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Jo Hufnagle, Realty Specialist

Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Niki Cutler, Hydrologist

James Carter, Archaeologist

Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife

Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants

Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

**CONCLUSION:** Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

**DECISION:** It is my decision to implement the action, as described and approve the ROW for a 30-year term, with right to renew, subject to standard terms, conditions and stipulations.

Approved by:



Alan Bittner  
Acting Field Manager  
Sierra Front Field Office

3/28/12  
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(date)

265°00'00"E

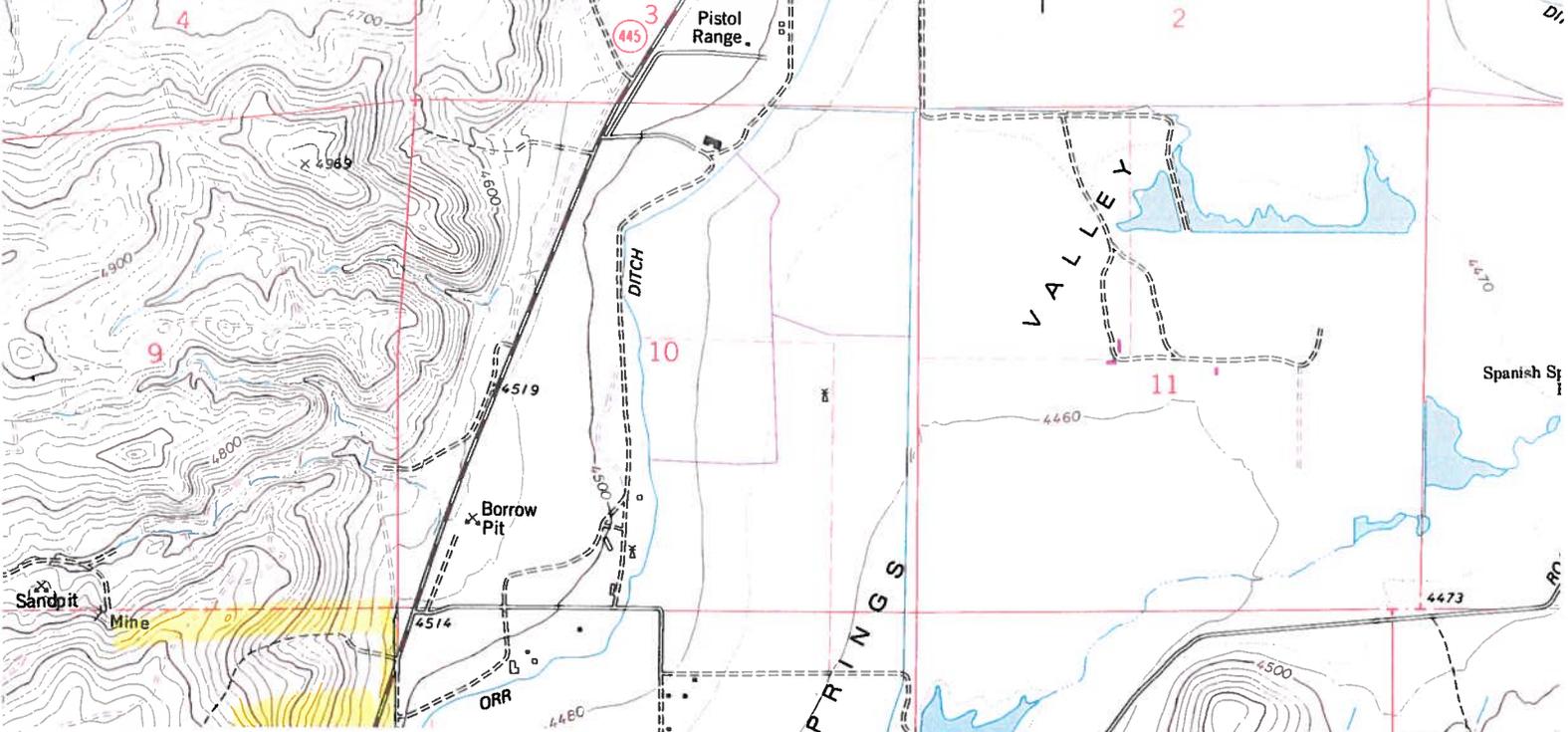
266

PYRAMID LAKE 25 MI

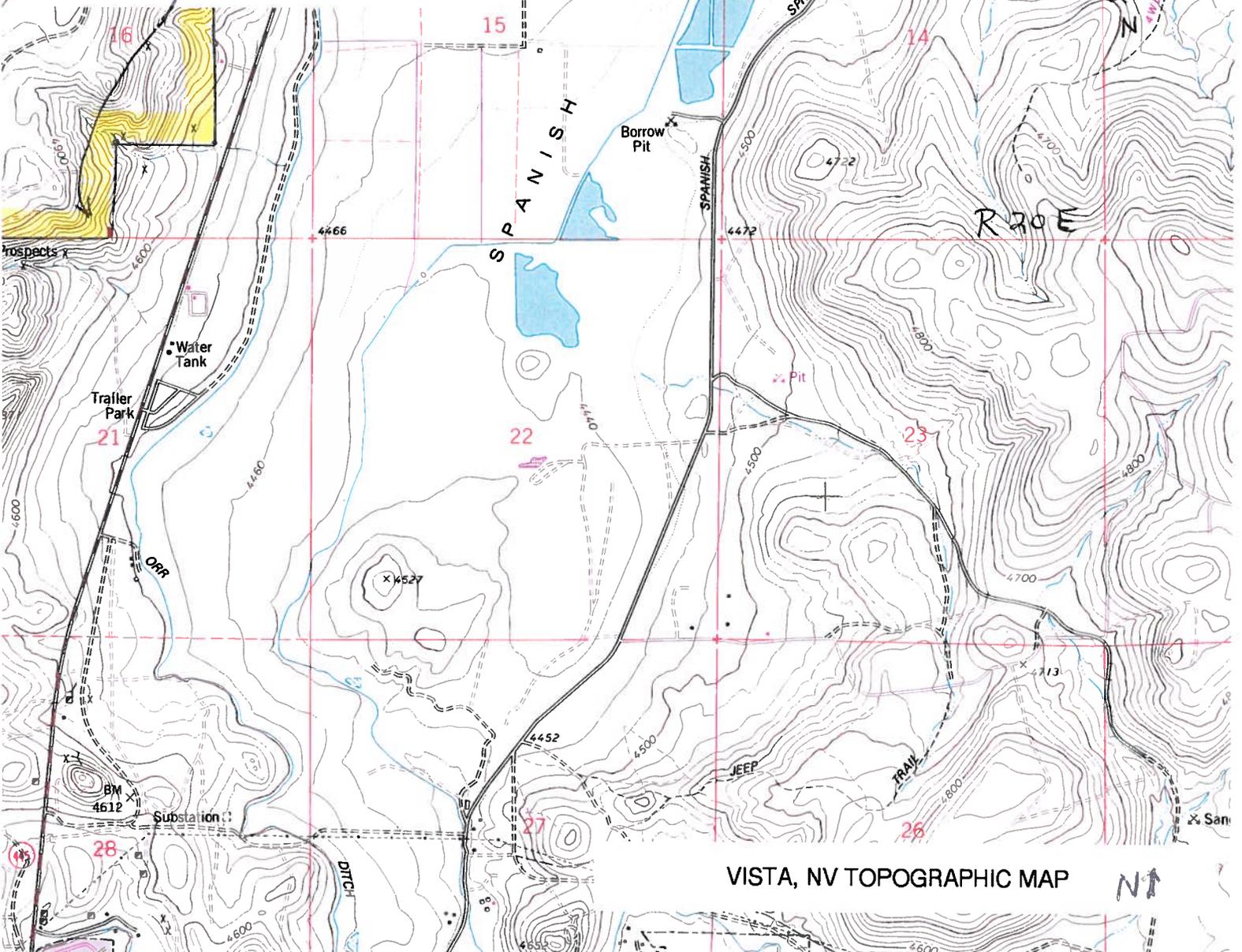
42'30"

268

(SPANISH SP)



ROW NVN082011

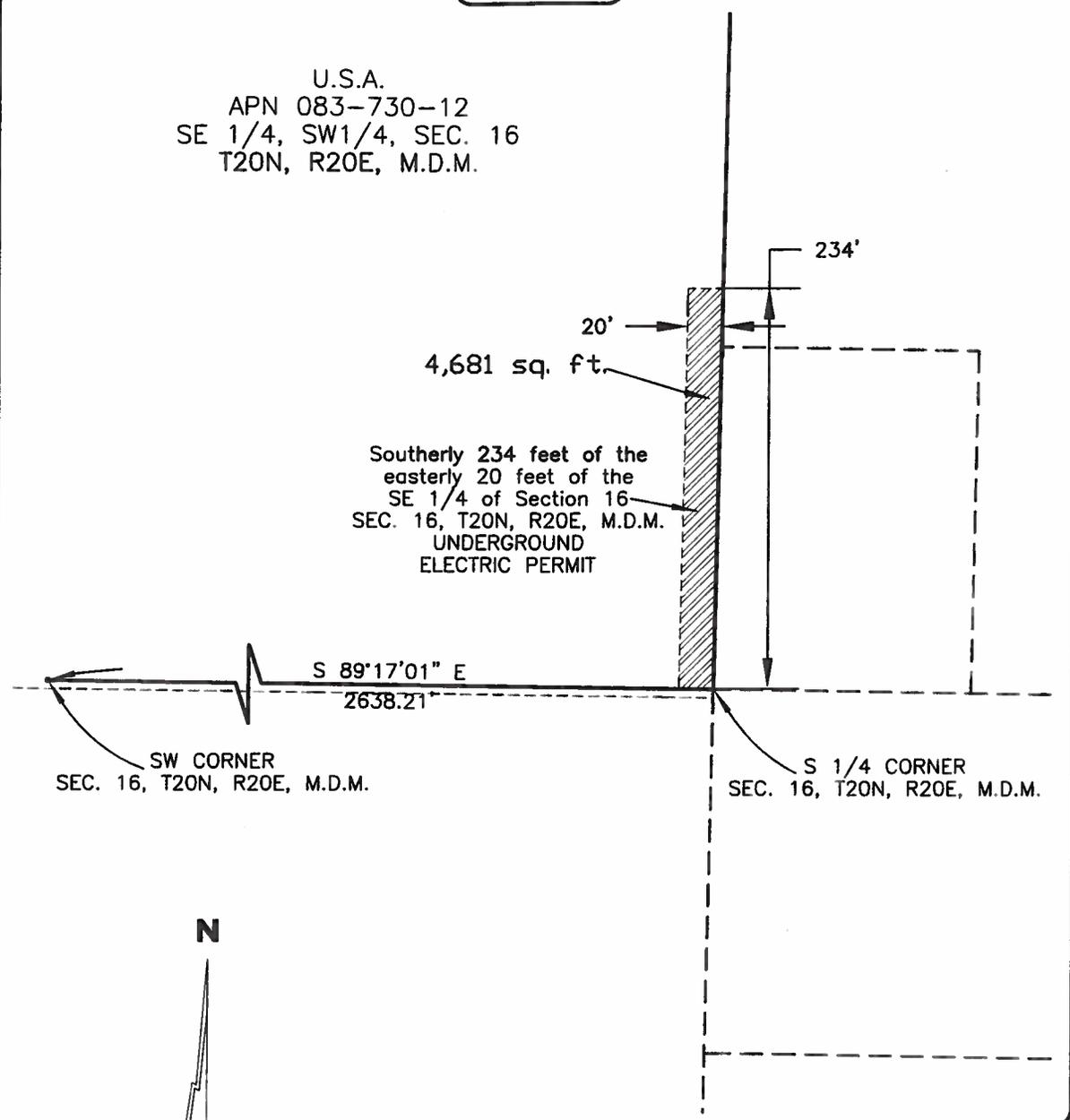


VISTA, NV TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



EXHIBIT "B"

U.S.A.  
APN 083-730-12  
SE 1/4, SW1/4, SEC. 16  
T20N, R20E, M.D.M.



SCALE: 1" = 100'

 <b>Sierra Pacific™</b>	6100 NEIL RD. RENO, NV 89511 775-834-4011 DRAWN BY: BF
	EXHIBIT MAP: WO 05-33513 U.S.A. <del>OVERHEAD</del> ELECTRIC PERMIT A.P.N. 083-730-12
SEC. 16, T. 20 N., R. 20 E., M.D.M. WASHOE COUNTY NEVADA	
January 17, 2006	PAGE 1 OF 1

