



SANTA RITA CONNECTION

AGENCY BRIEFING

Chris Ortiz y Pino – Project Manager - Siting, Outreach, & Engagement

March 2026



Agencies

Please type into the chat:

- Name
- Organization
- Title/Role

- Federal Agencies
- State Agencies
- Pima County
- City of Tucson
- Town of Sahuarita
- Tucson Airport Authority
- Telecommunication & Utility Companies
- Sunnyside Unified School District
- Sahuarita Unified School District

Agenda

1

How Power Gets to you

2

Project Description, Purpose, and Need

3

Planning and Siting Process

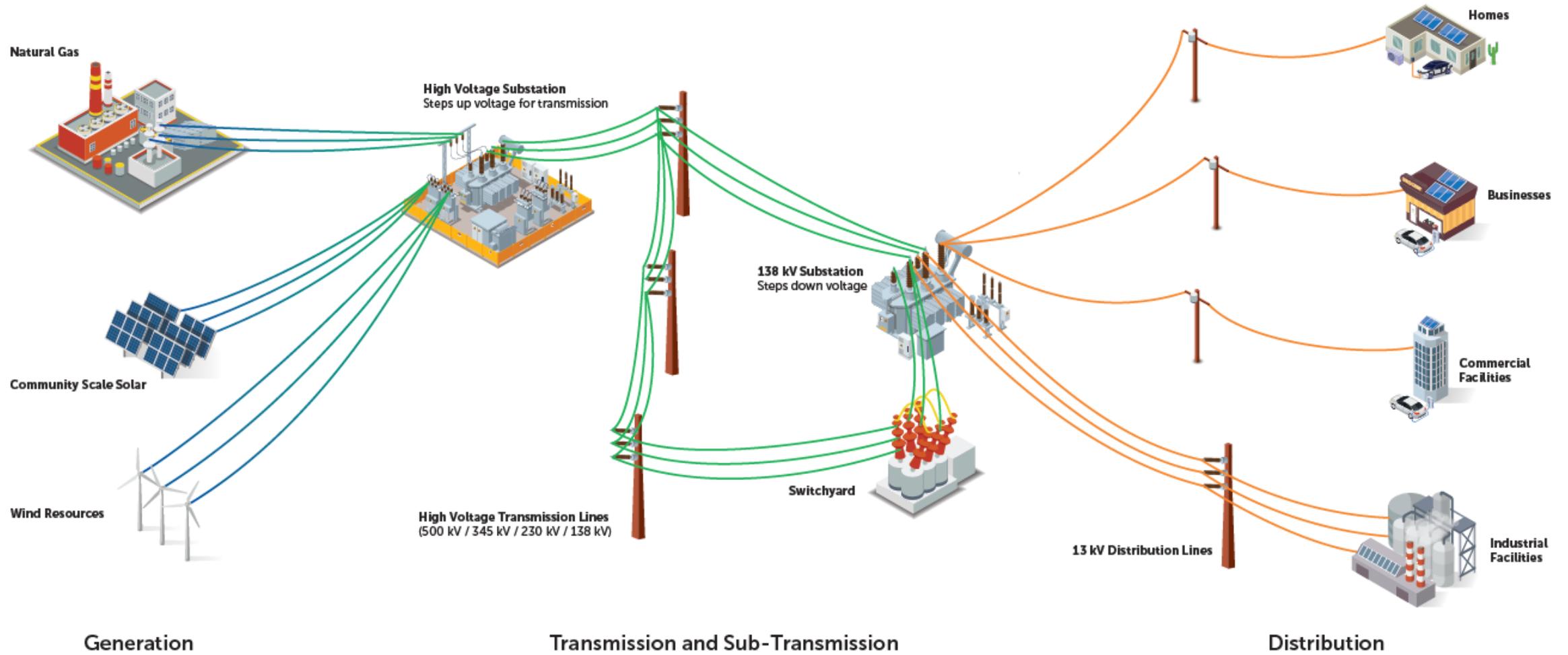
4

Compatibility Analysis – Alternative Route Selection

5

Required Approvals & Timeline

How Power Gets to You

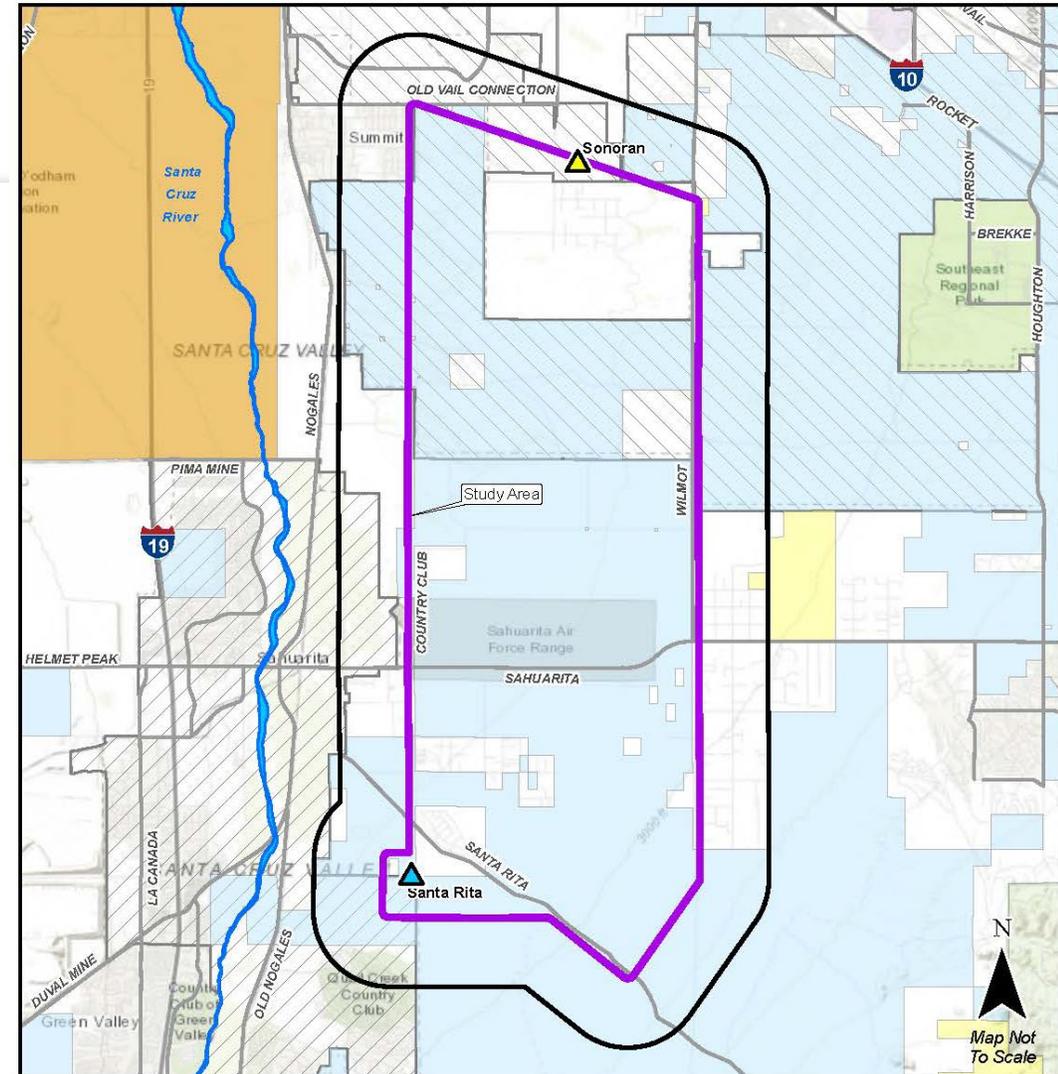


Santa Rita Connection

A new transmission line from the existing Sonoran Substation to the planned Santa Rita Substation.

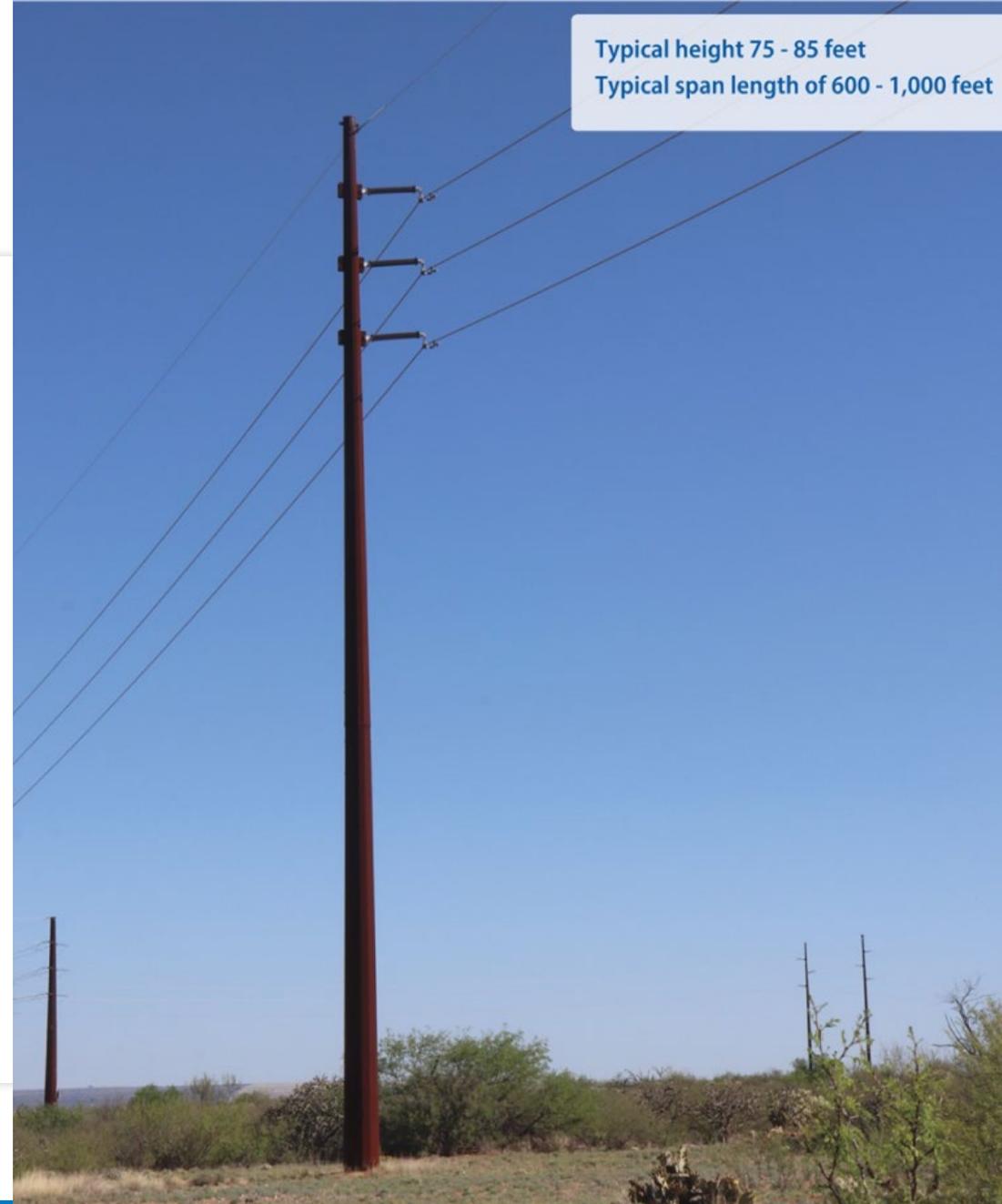
Purpose and Need

- To accommodate future load growth in the area south of Tucson
- Enhance the regional grid providing redundancy and stability
- Allow for the retirement of older 46-kV substation and removal of temporary substation at La Villita Rd and Sahuarita Rd



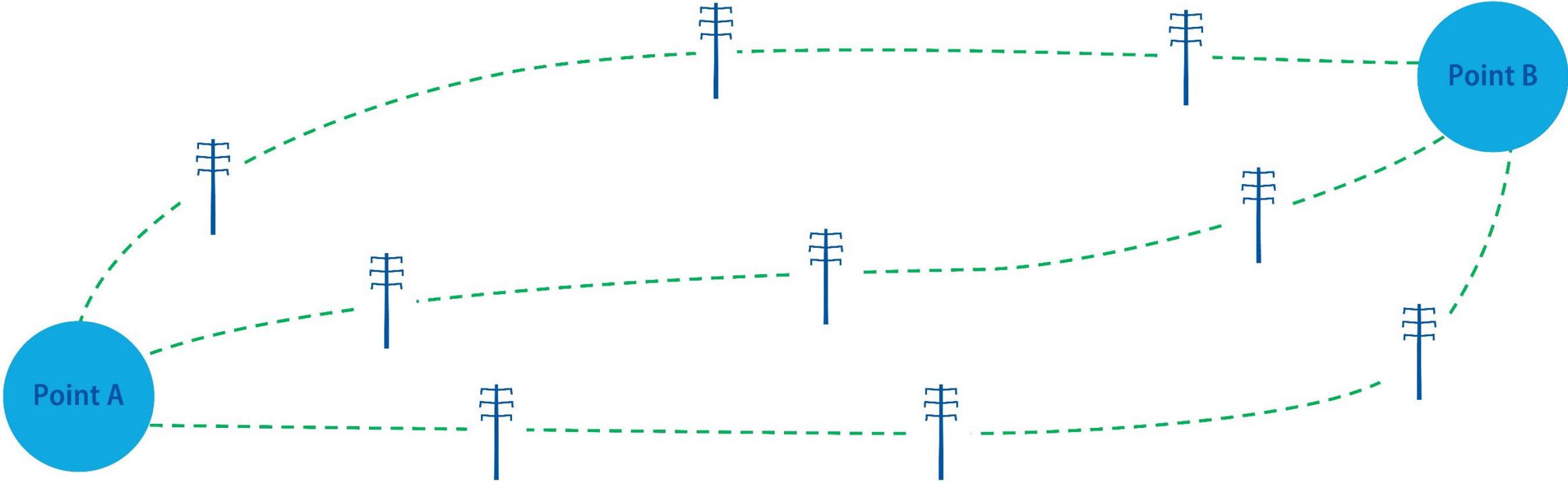
Example Pole Structure

- Tubular
- Weathering Steel
- Monopoles

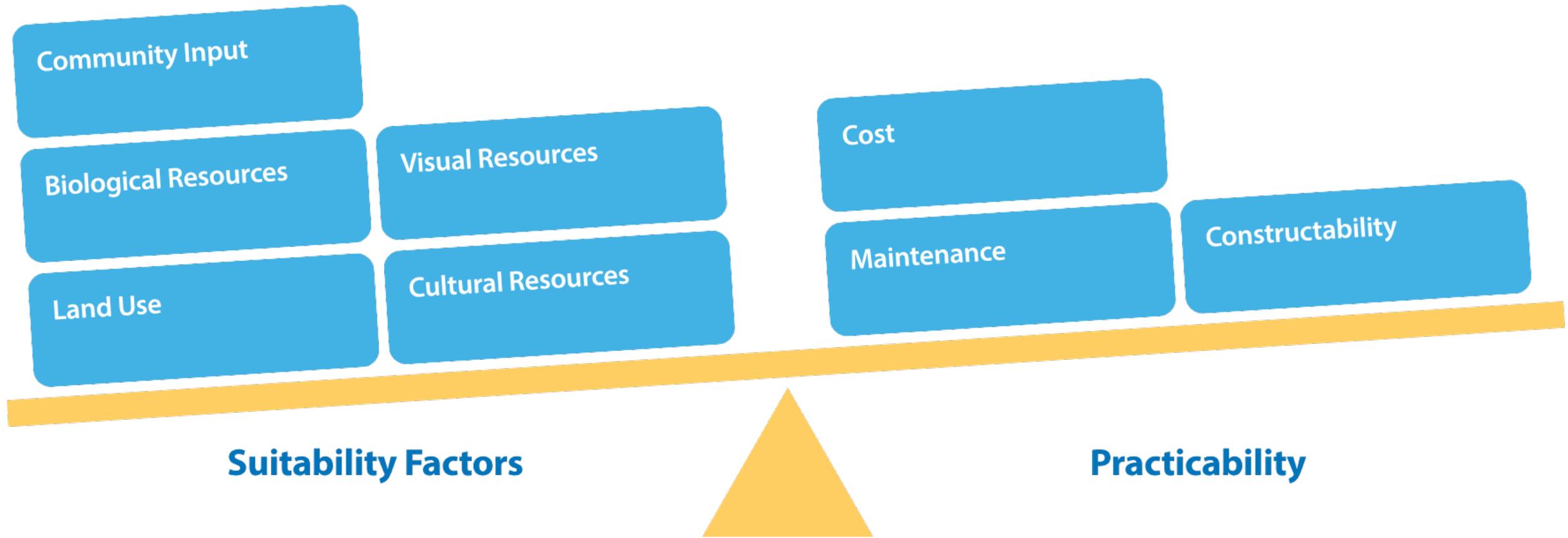


Typical height 75 - 85 feet
Typical span length of 600 - 1,000 feet

What is Siting?



Project Route Development & Evaluation



Planning & Siting Process Flowchart

Phase 1: Pre-Analysis

- Conduct Field Visits
- Develop Study Area
- Identify Opportunities and Constraints
- Conduct Public and Stakeholder Outreach
- Develop Preliminary Segments

Phase 2: Data Inventory

- Conduct Research and Collect Data

Phase 3: Suitability Assessment

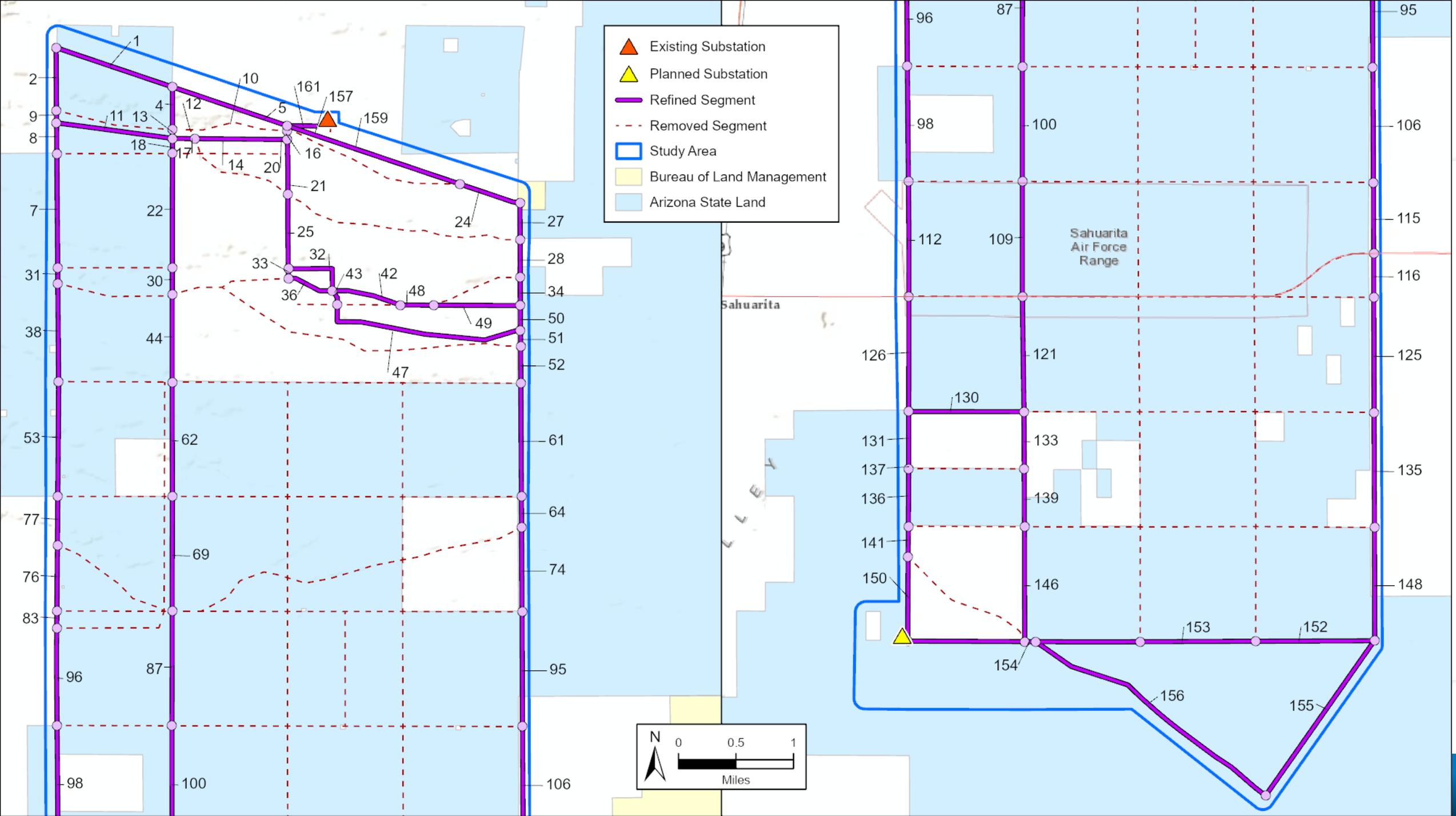
- Develop Suitability Models
- Conduct Suitability Assessment
- Field Review
- Refine Segments
- Public and Stakeholder Outreach

Phase 4: Compatibility Analysis

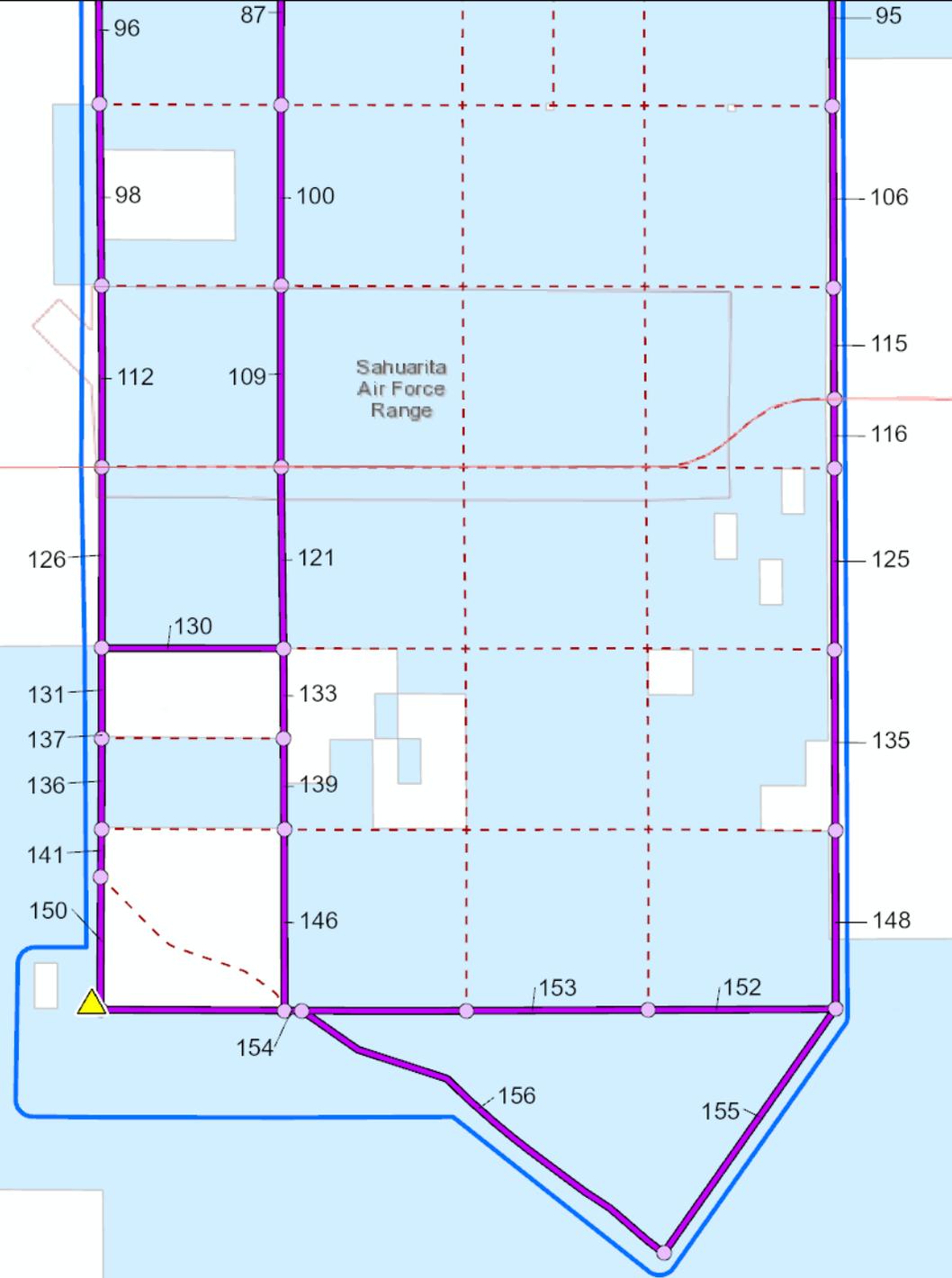
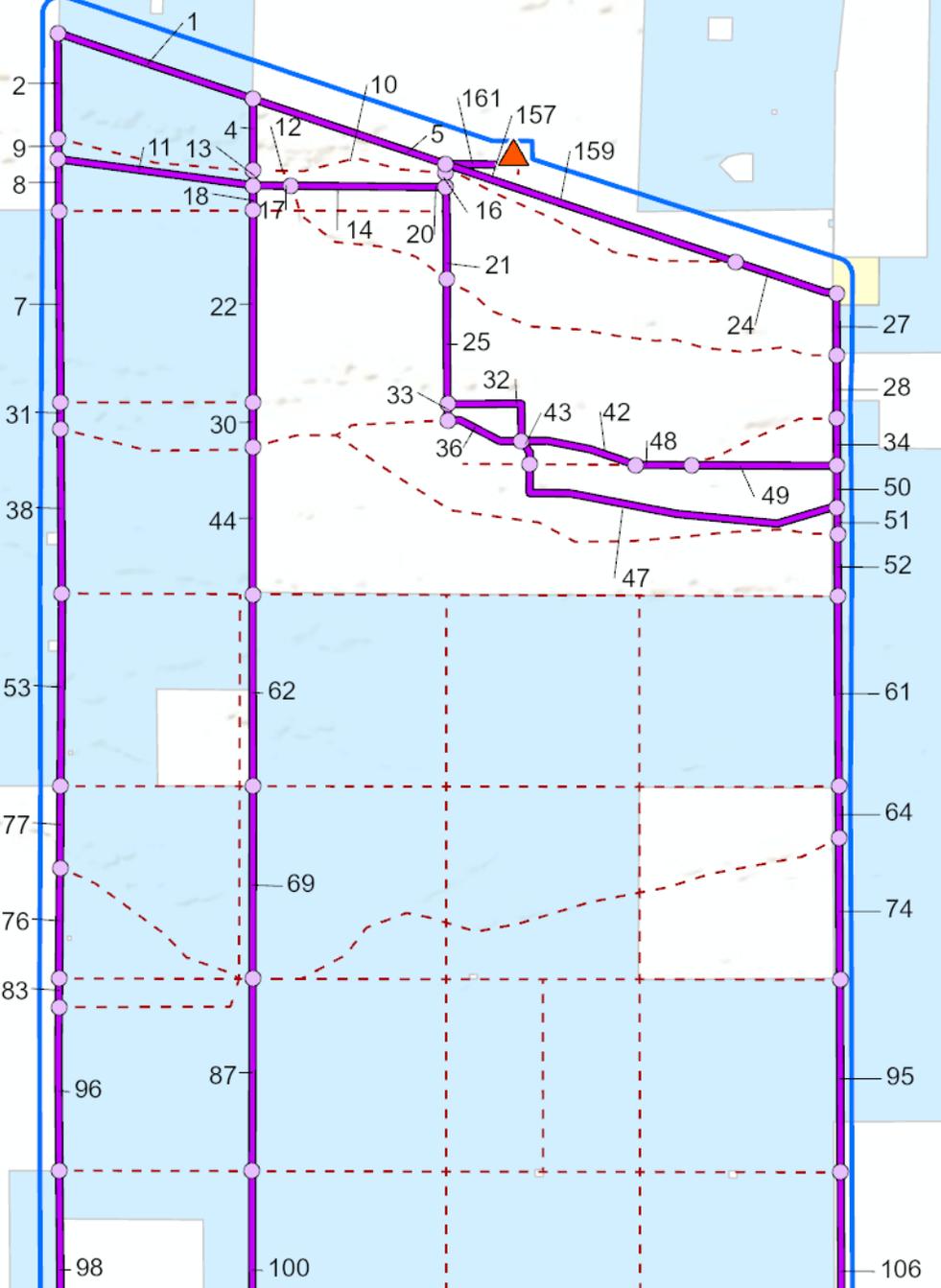
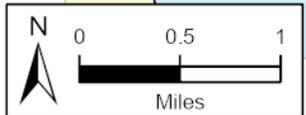
- Conduct Compatibility Analysis
- Develop Route Alternatives
- Field Review

Phase 5: Concept Evaluation

- Public and Stakeholder Outreach
- Identify Preferred Route
- Submit CEC Application
- Public Notification and Hearing



- Existing Substation
- Planned Substation
- Refined Segment
- Removed Segment
- Study Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- Arizona State Land



Siting Evaluation Criteria

Public Input

- Proximity to Residential Areas
- Impacts on mountain views from residential areas
- Recreational areas and open space
- Collocation with existing utility corridors



Public input



Wildlife & plants



Existing & planned land use



Overall environment



Noise emission levels & interference with communication signals



Historic & cultural sites



Scenic vistas



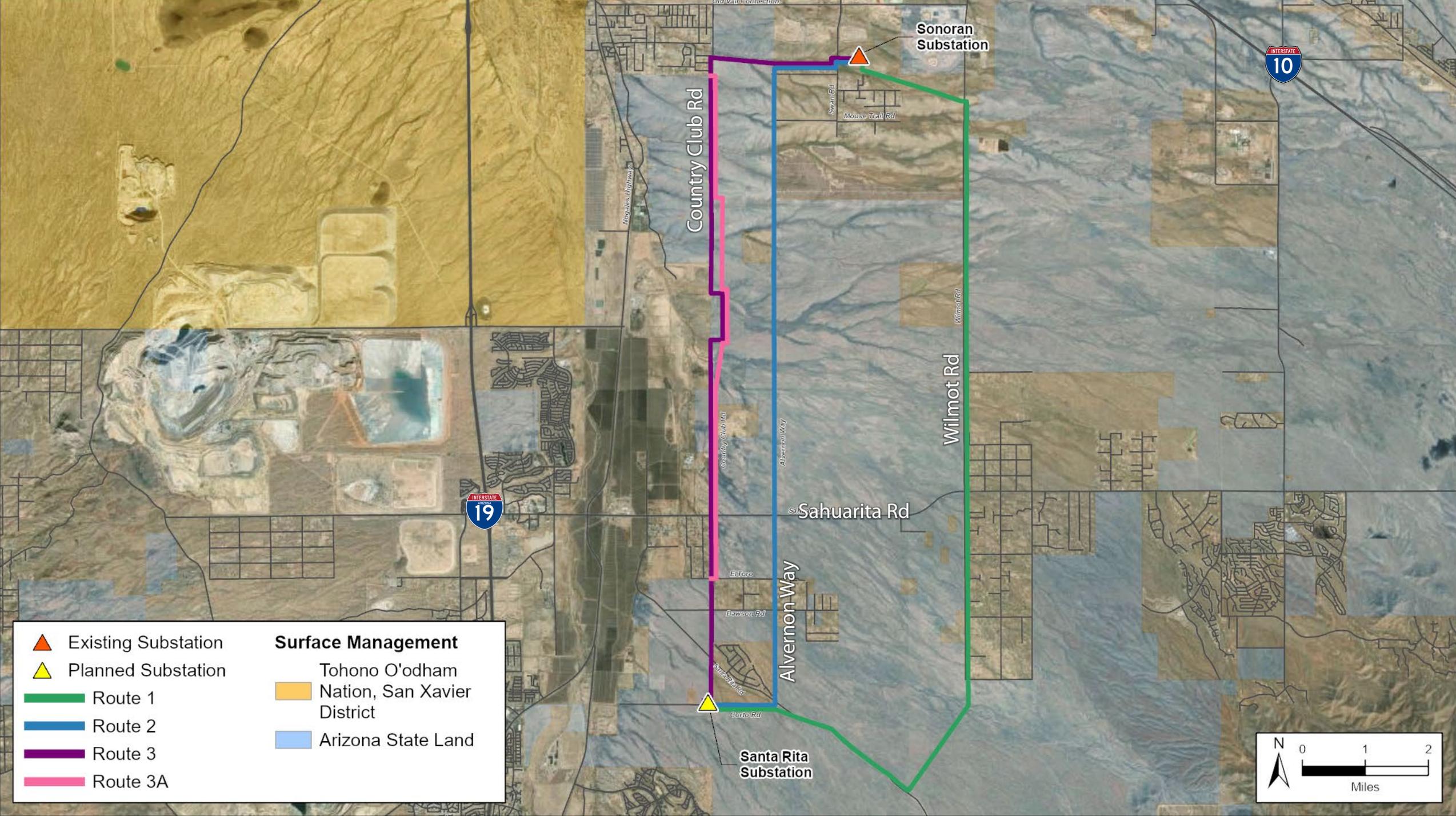
Current or potential recreation areas



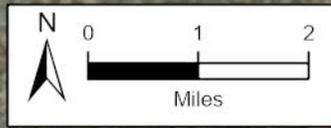
Engineering & construction feasibility

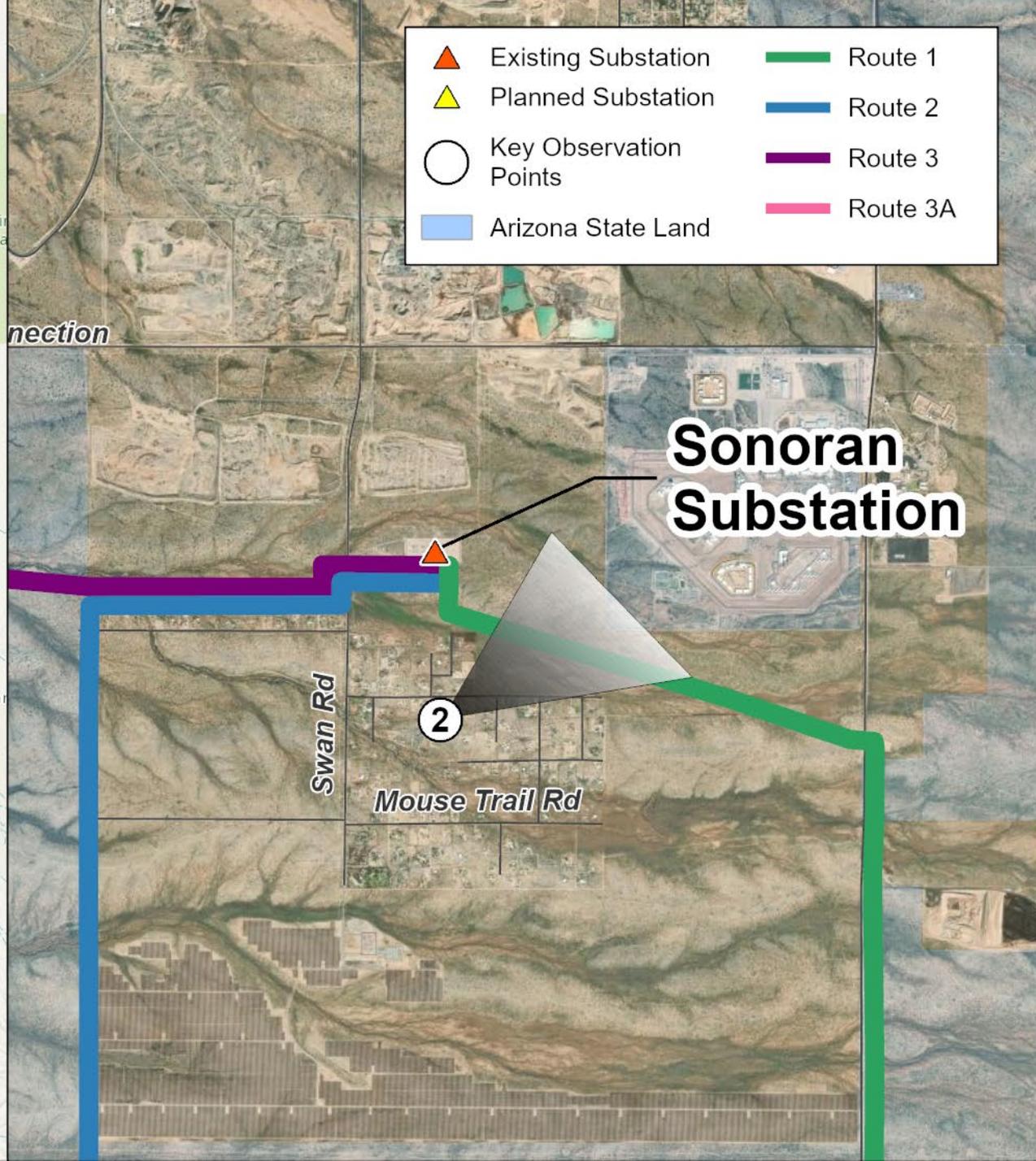
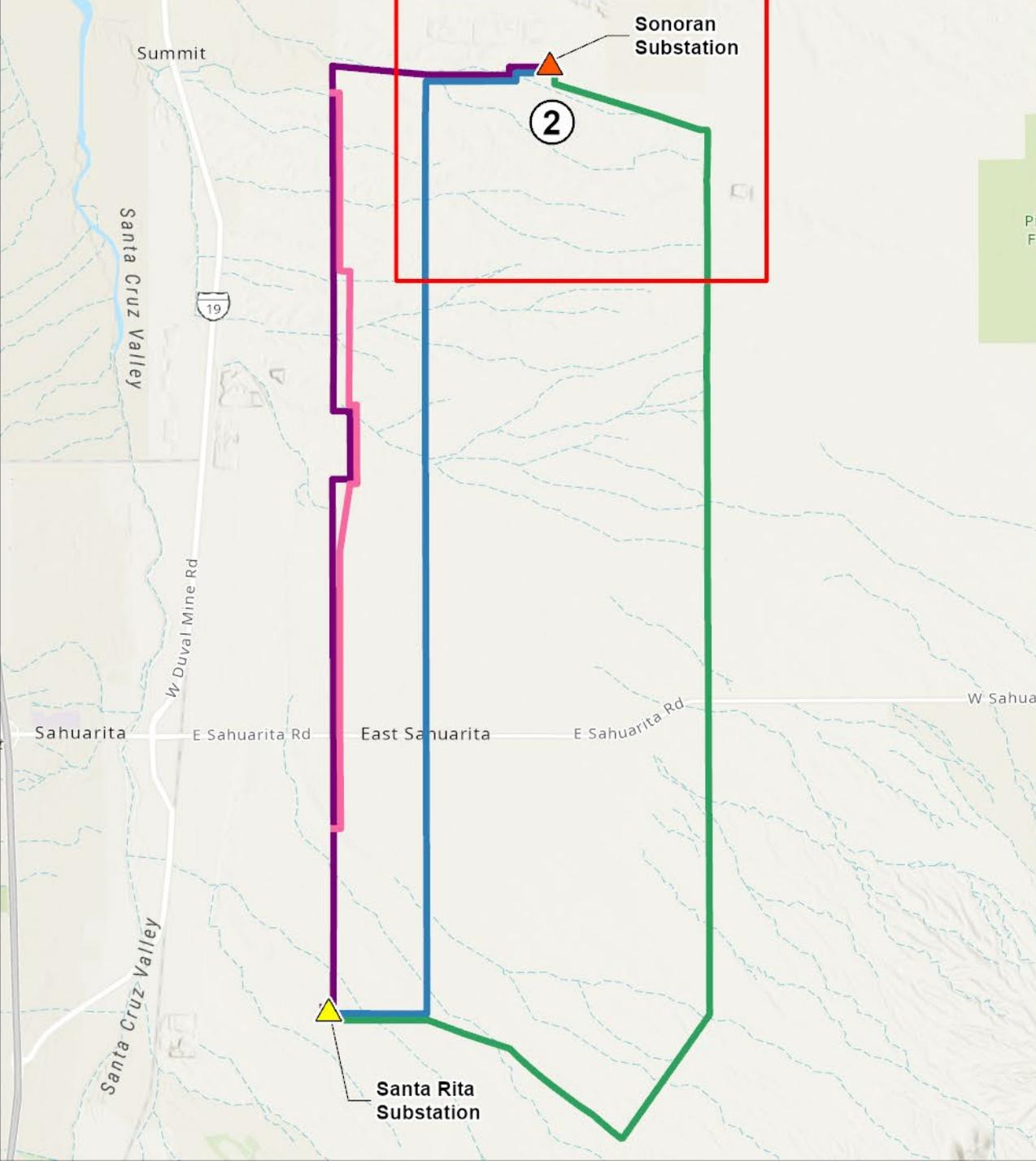


Project costs & potential impact on customer rates



	Existing Substation	Surface Management
	Planned Substation	 Tohono O'odham Nation, San Xavier District
	Route 1	 Arizona State Land
	Route 2	
	Route 3	
	Route 3A	



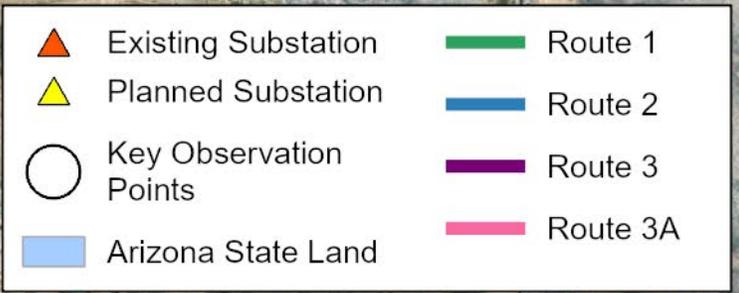
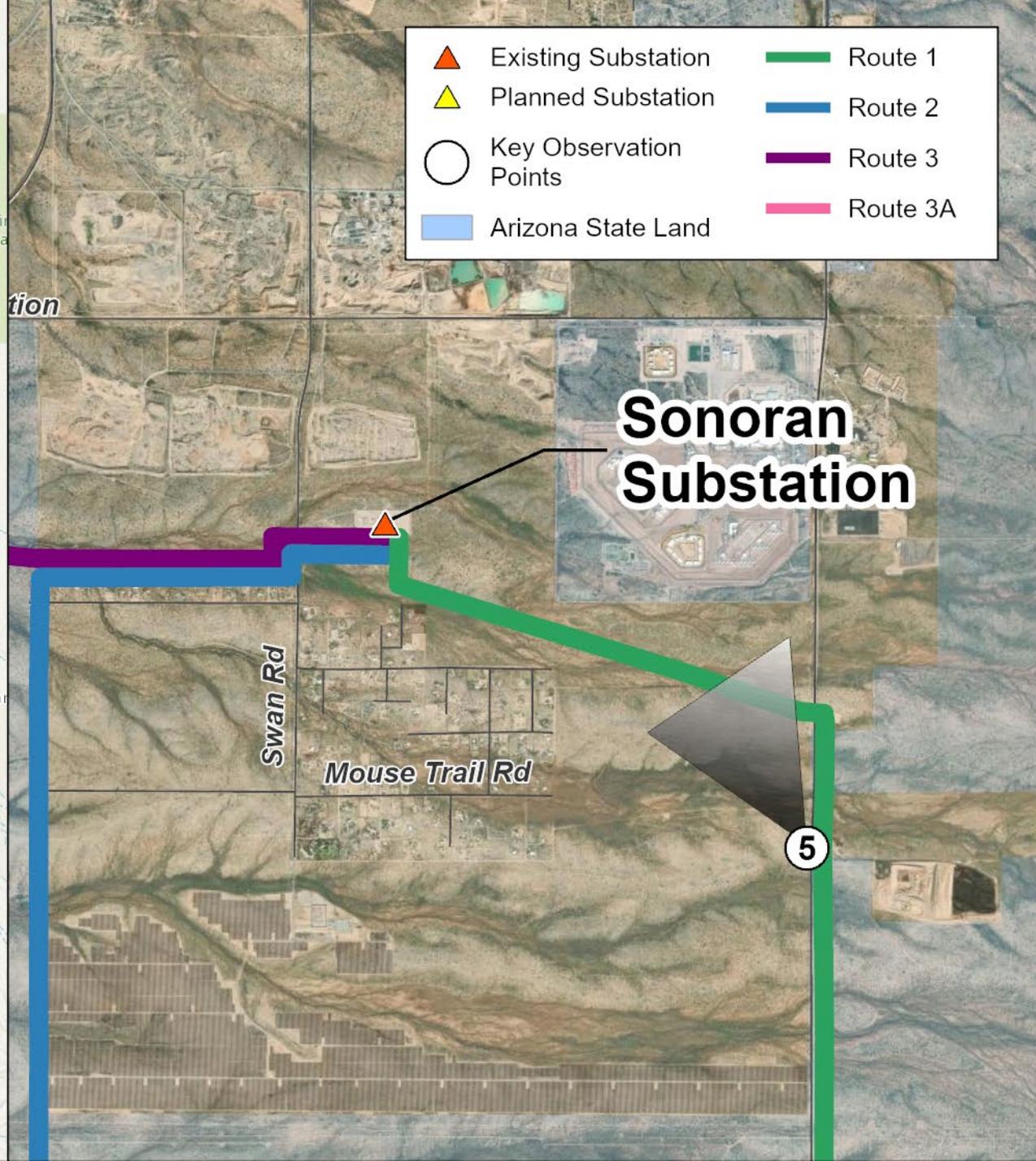
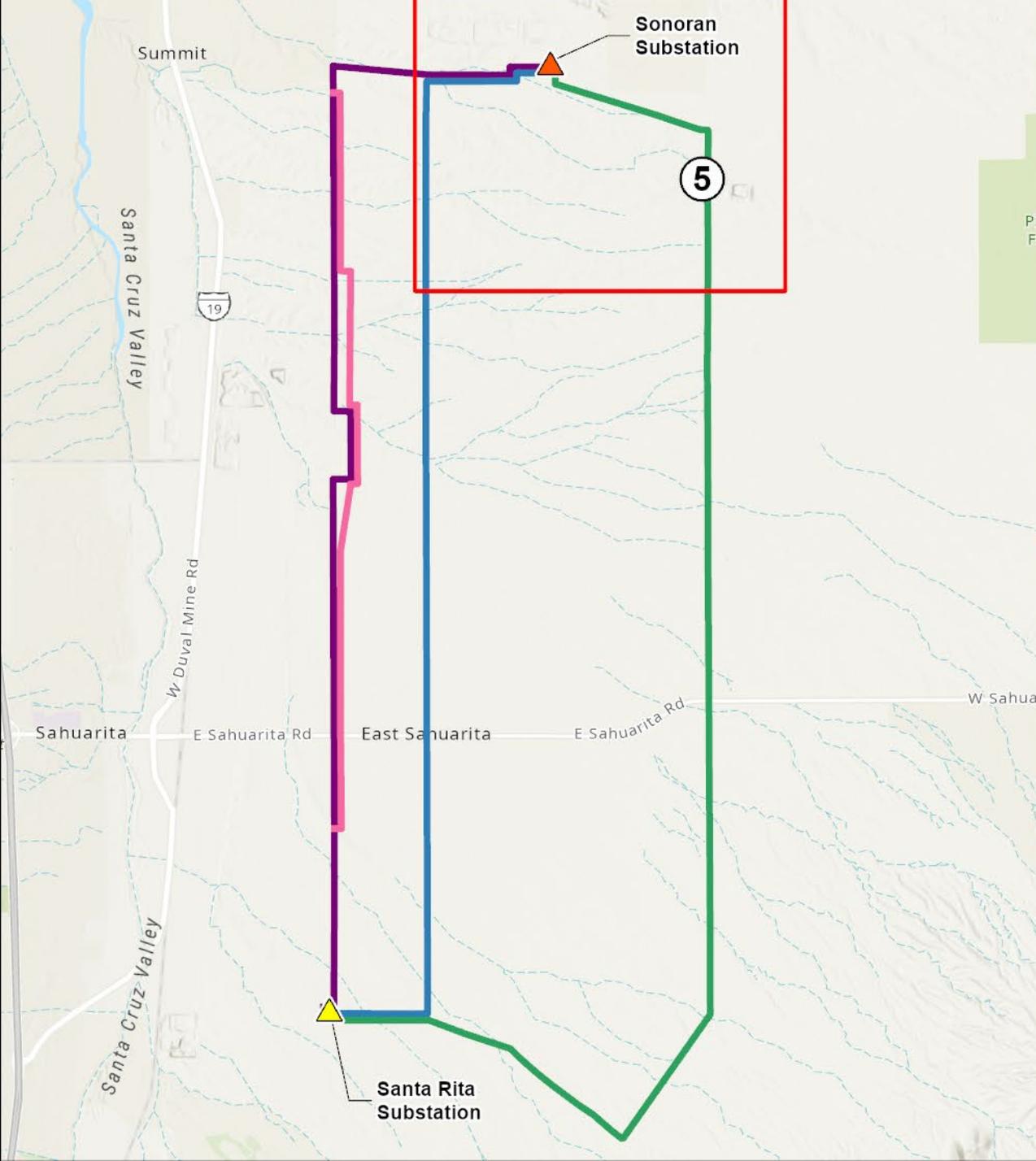


Existing
Condition



Simulated
Condition



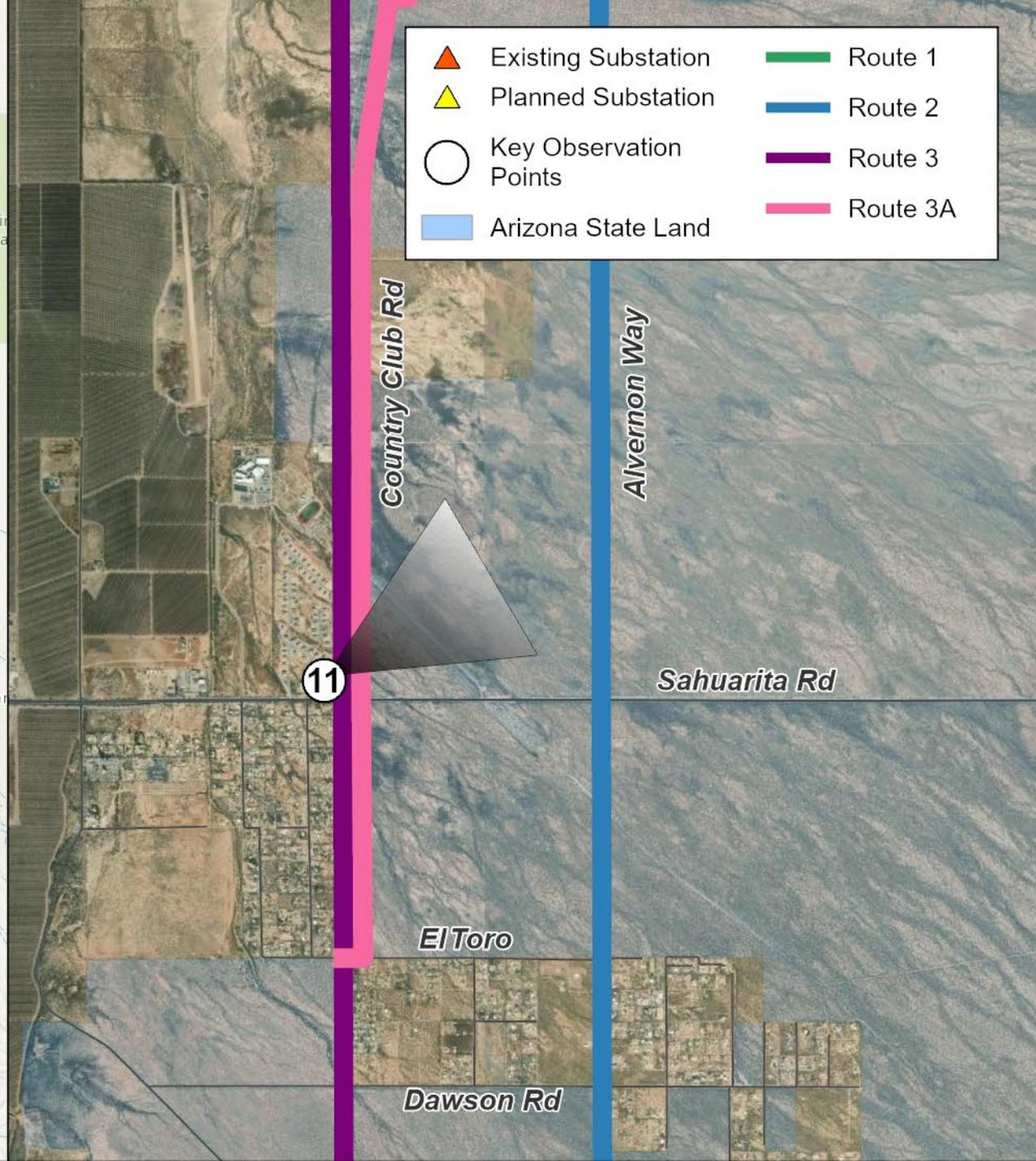
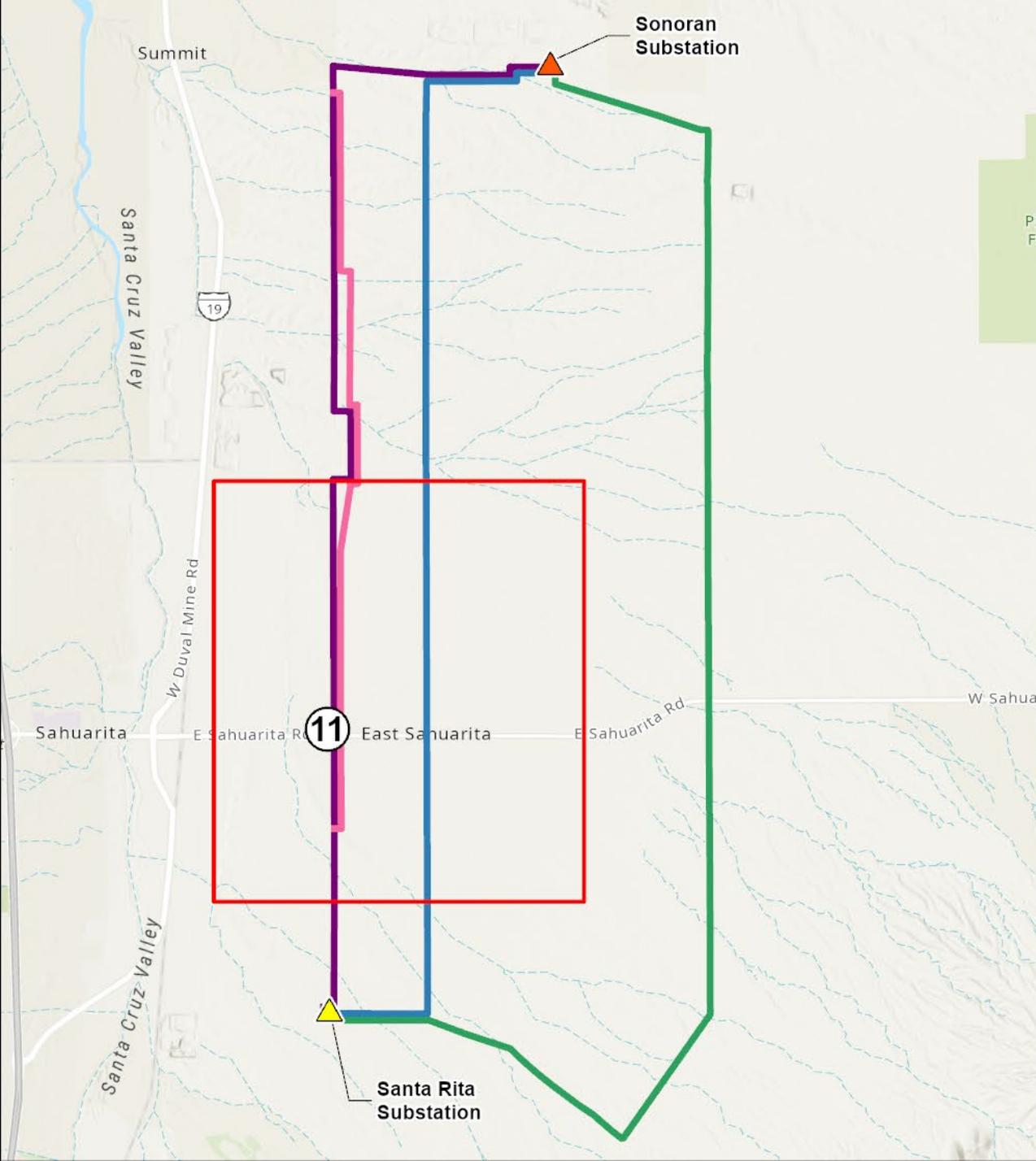


Existing
Condition



Simulated
Condition





	Existing Substation		Route 1
	Planned Substation		Route 2
	Key Observation Points		Route 3
	Arizona State Land		Route 3A

Existing
Condition



Simulated
Condition



Existing
Condition



Simulated
Condition



Project Schedule



Santa Rita Connection projected in service date 2029
(In service date subject to change)



Public Open House

March 4, 2026

6:00 – 8:00pm

Desert Diamond Casino - Sahuarita
Ocotillo Room

1100 W Pima Mine Road
Sahuarita, AZ 85629



Q&A Session

Please use the raise hand feature in MS Teams
or
Type your question into the chat