

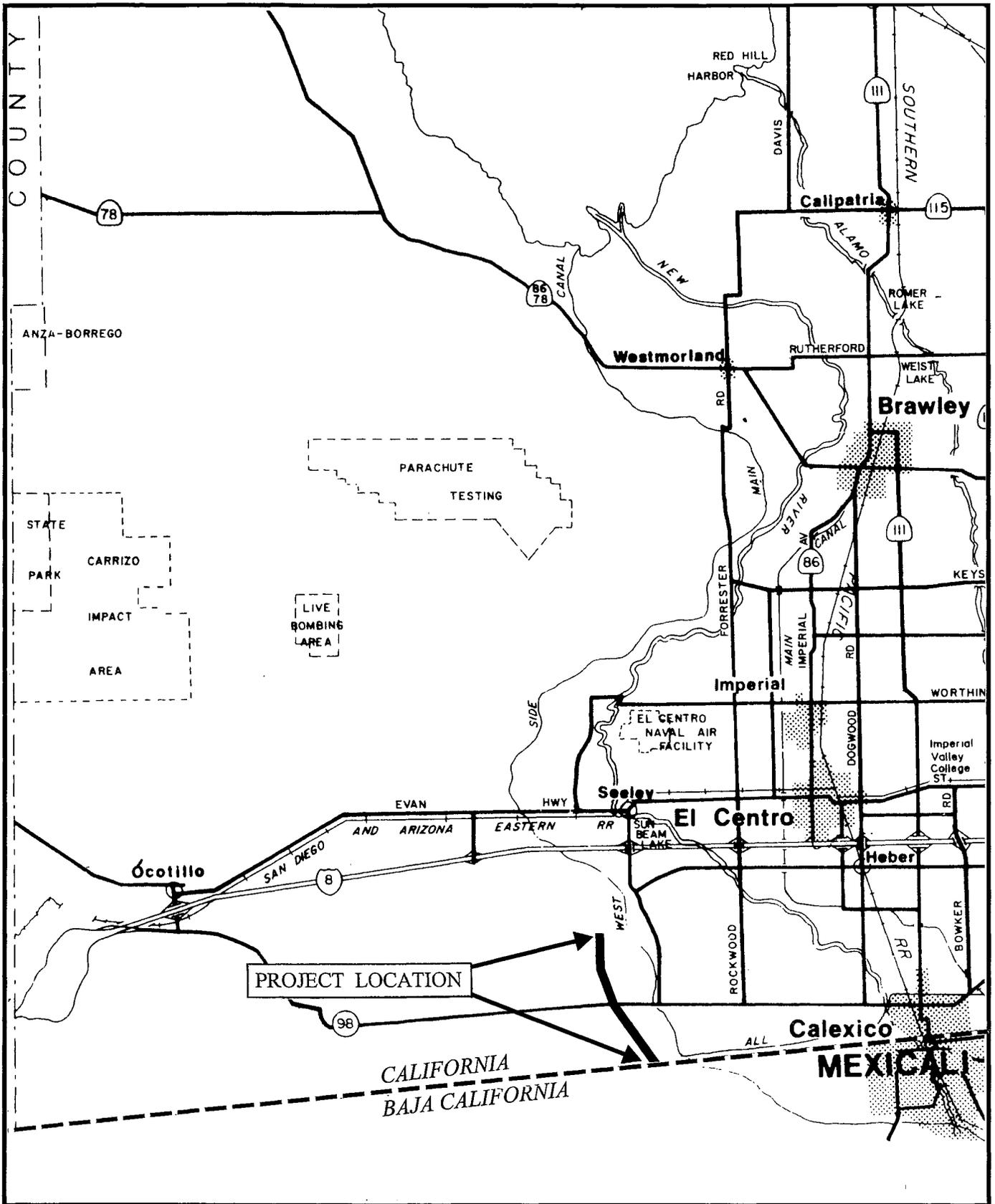
- The granting of separate electricity export authorizations by DOE as actions secondary and dependent on the granting of Presidential permits for the SER and BCP transmission lines;
- The modification by BLM of the existing right-of-way to SDG&E to allow for the relocation of the SDG&E transmission line in the area immediately adjacent to the Imperial Valley Substation;
- The modification by BLM of the existing Imperial Irrigation District right-of-way to allow for the relocation of two poles of the IID transmission line in the area immediately adjacent to the Imperial Valley Substation; and
- Granting by BLM of authorization that would allow SER and BCP to lease the use of fiber optic communication lines to a subsidiary.

2.2.1 Overview of the Proposed Project

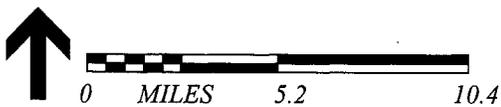
The information in the following sections of this EA is based on preliminary plans. Such information as the exact number and location of support structures is subject to change as plans are refined. Most of the information on project features in this EA is based on information supplied by BCP and SER. All information such as the area of impact should therefore be regarded indicating the general extent and scope of the project and related features rather than a precise evaluation of the final design. The impacts attributable to the project have been conservatively estimated (overestimated) in this EA, and it is likely that the actual impacts would be less than those described.

The project site is located in the Yuha Basin in the Colorado Desert in the southwest portion of Imperial County, California, about 10 to 12 miles southwest of the town of El Centro (Figures 2.1 and 2.2). This project proposes to construct two double-circuit, 230 kV transmission lines from the existing SDG&E Imperial Valley Substation, continuing southerly approximately six miles (10 kilometers) to the U.S./Mexican border, where each line would connect with a corresponding transmission line in Mexico (Figures 2.3 through 2.6). The transmission lines would be carried on steel lattice towers from the border to just south of the IV Substation, where steel monopoles would be used for each transmission line to allow the crossing of the Southwest Power Link. The Southwest Power Link is a 500 kV transmission line that enters the IV Substation from the east at the substation's southeast corner. Suspended on the steel monopoles, the proposed transmission lines would be carried along the east side of the substation to enter it from the north, similar to the way the existing SDG&E transmission line is connected to the IV Substation.

From the international border to the last tower south of the 500 kV line at the substation, both the BCP and SER rights-of-way would parallel the existing SDG&E transmission

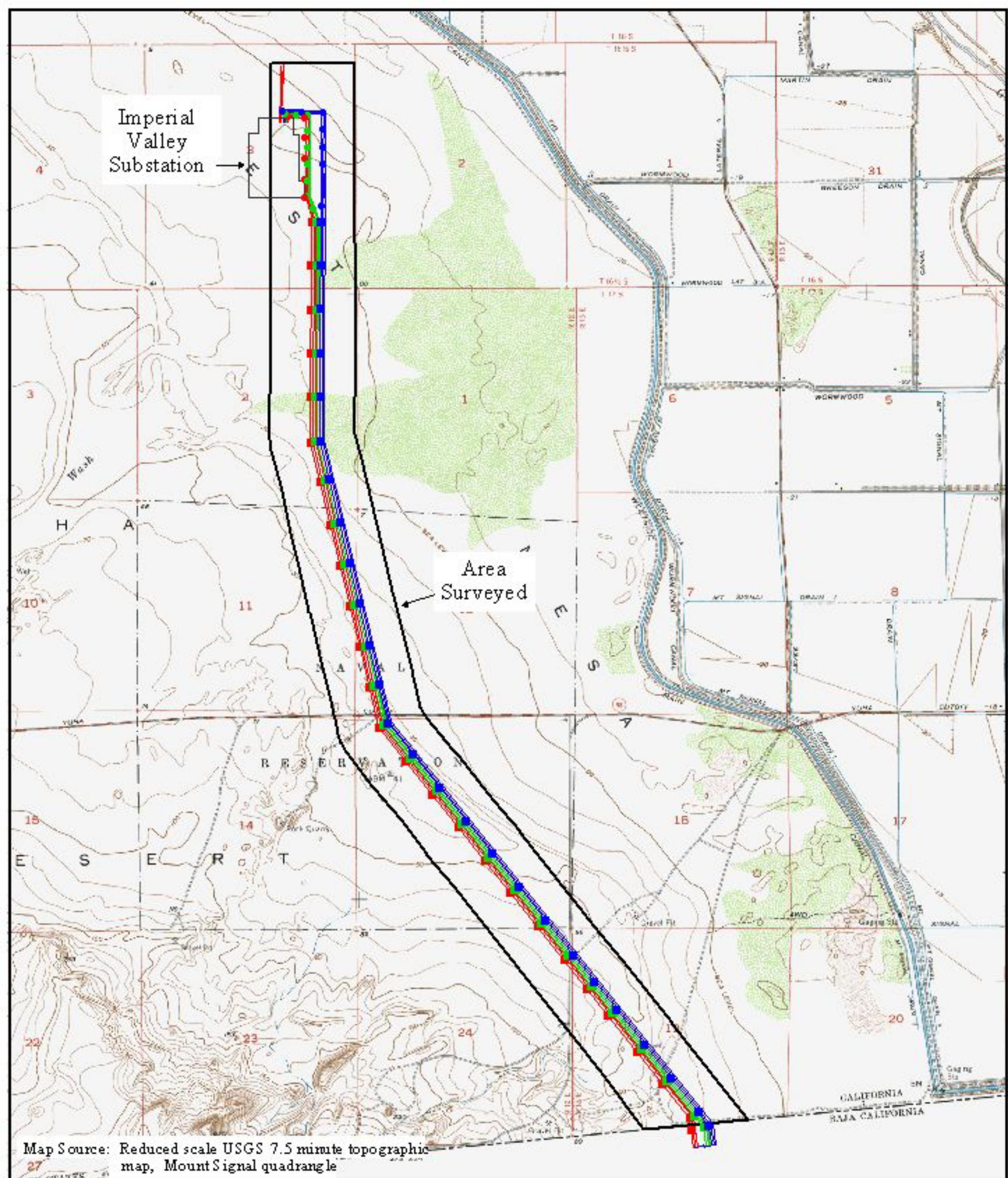


Source: California Dept. of Transportation



R-3366B

FIGURE 2.1
Location of the Project in
Western Imperial County

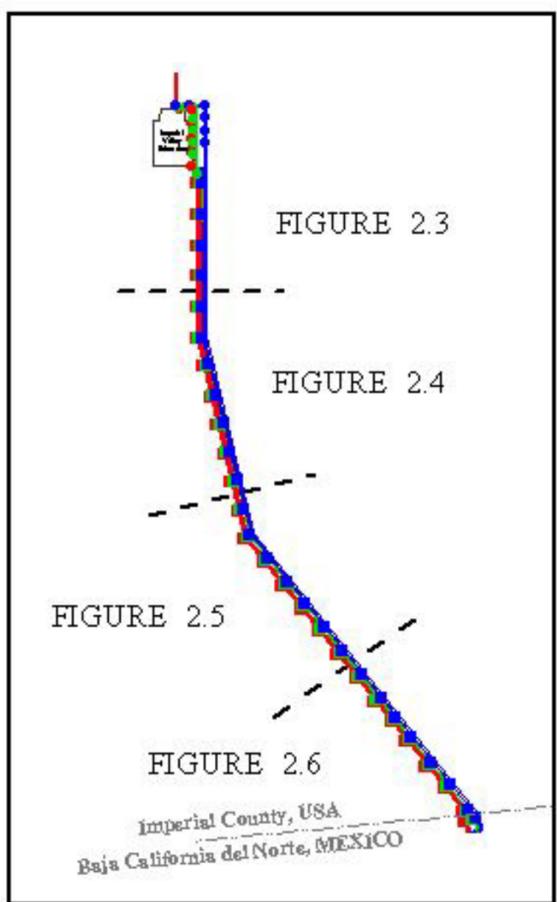
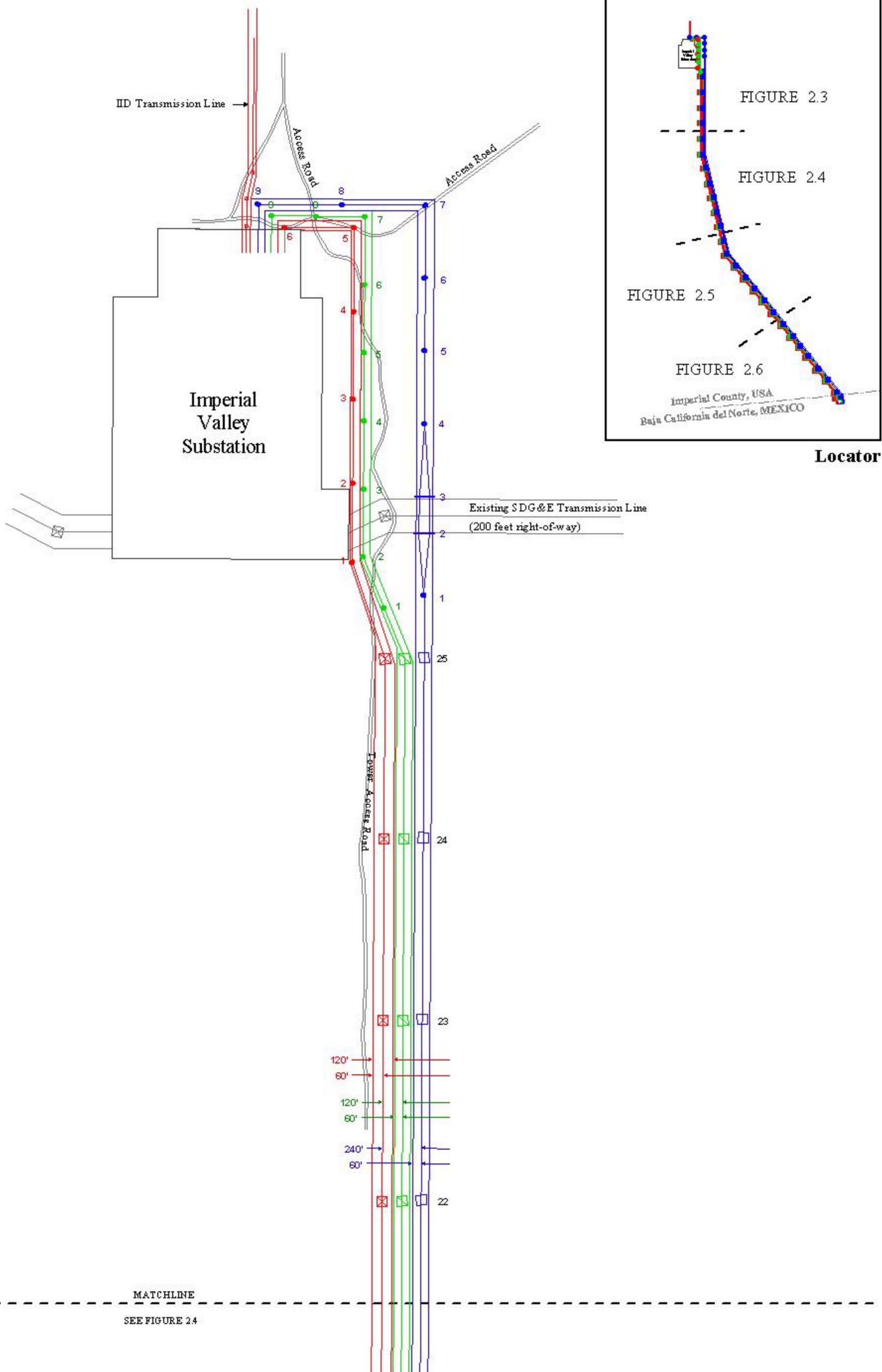


- Project Components**
- Existing SDG&E transmission line towers and poles ●
 - Proposed BCP transmission line towers and poles ●
(120 ft east of existing line)
 - Proposed SER transmission line towers and poles ●
(240 ft east of existing line)

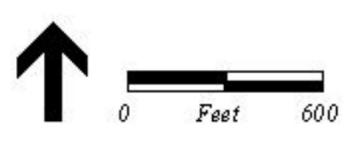


FIGURE 2.2

Project Location as shown on USGS Topographic Map



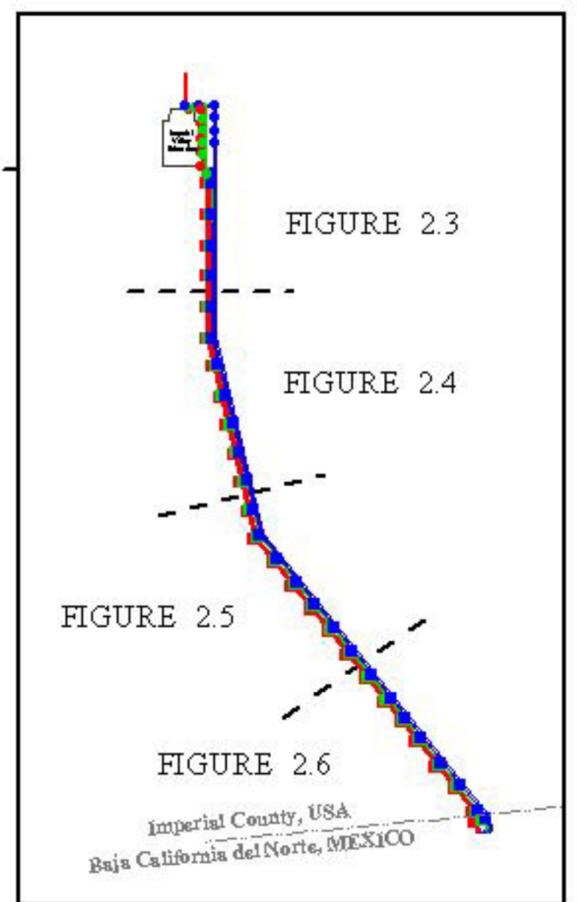
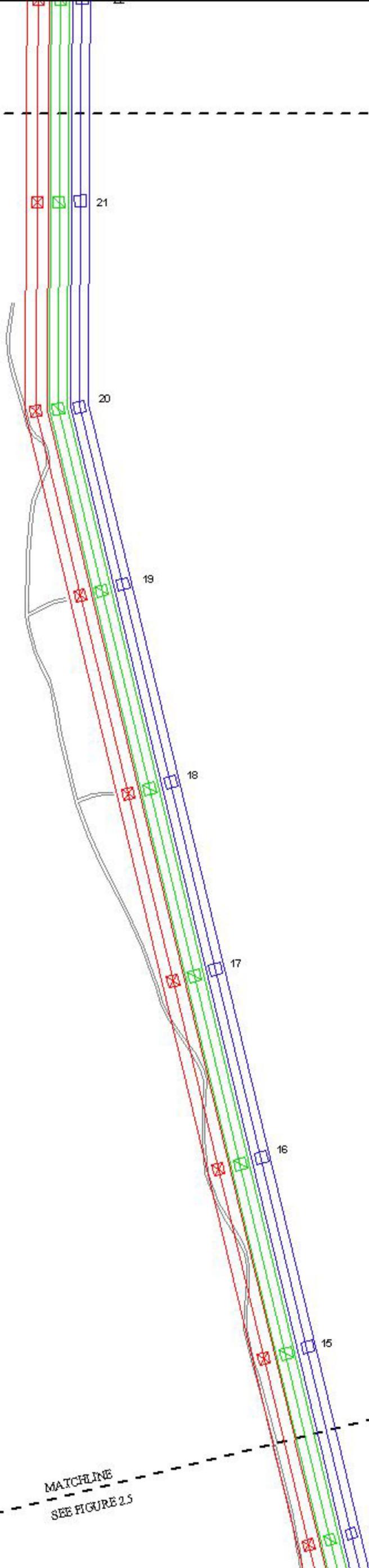
Locator



	Transmission Line	Steel Lattice Towers	Steel Monopoles
Existing SDG&E			
Proposed BCP			
Proposed SER			

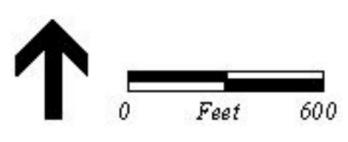
FIGURE 2.3
Project Plan,
Segment A

SEE FIGURE 2.3
MATCHLINE



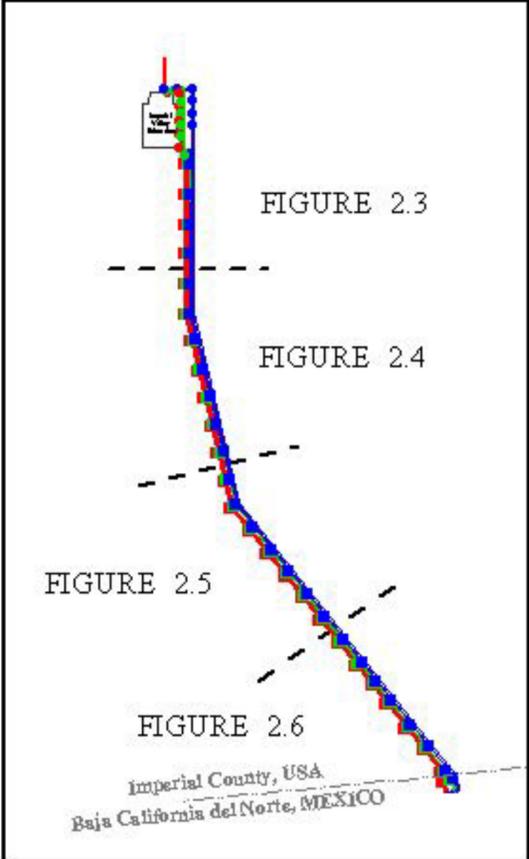
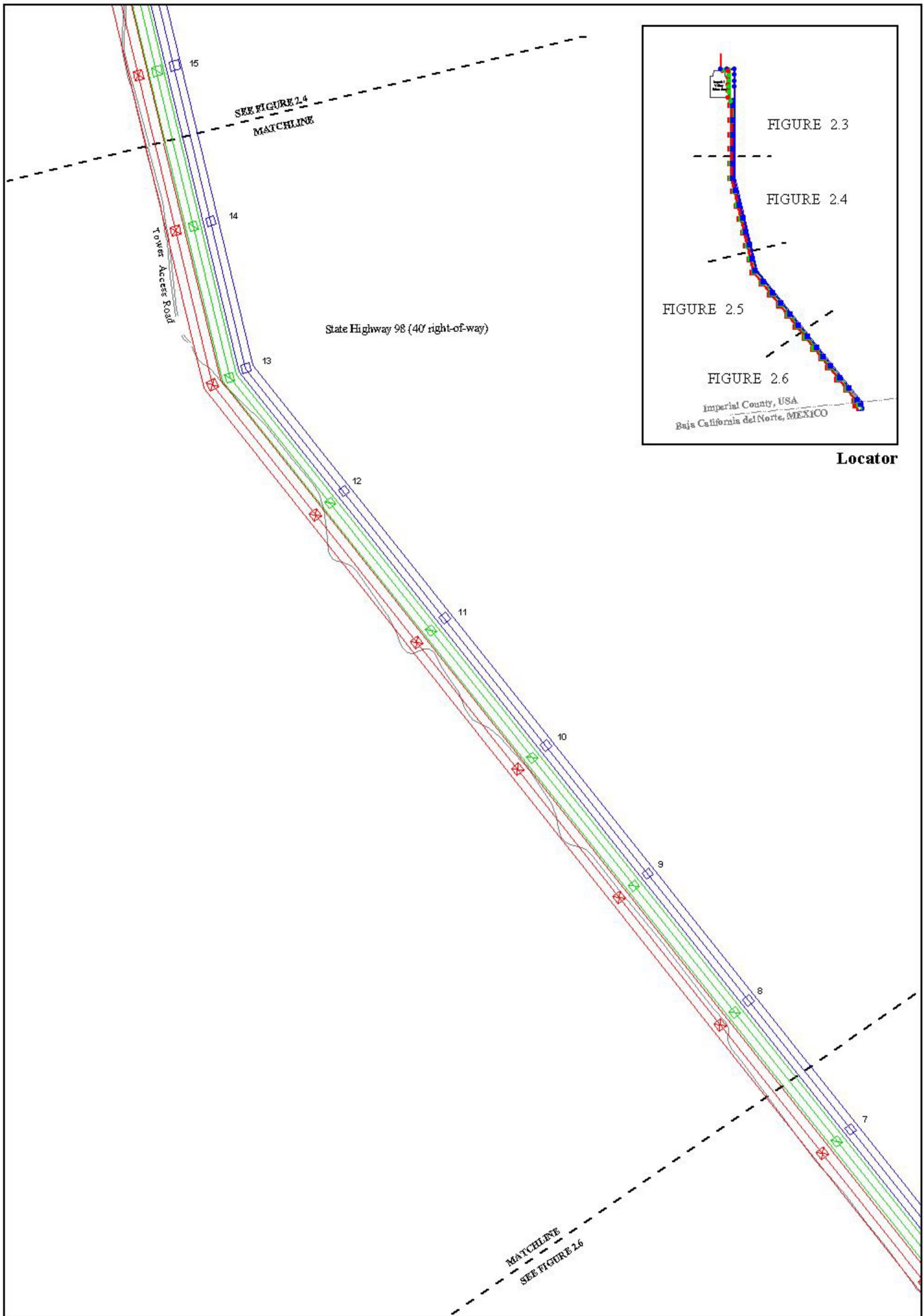
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MATCHLINE
SEE FIGURE 2.5



	Transmission Line	Steel Lattice Towers
Existing SDG&E		
Proposed BCP		
Proposed SER		

FIGURE 2.4
Project Plan,
Segment B

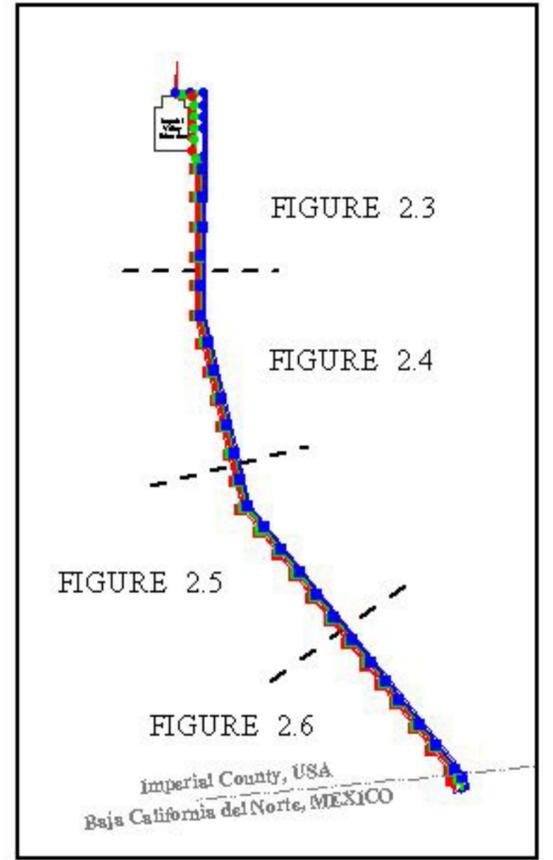
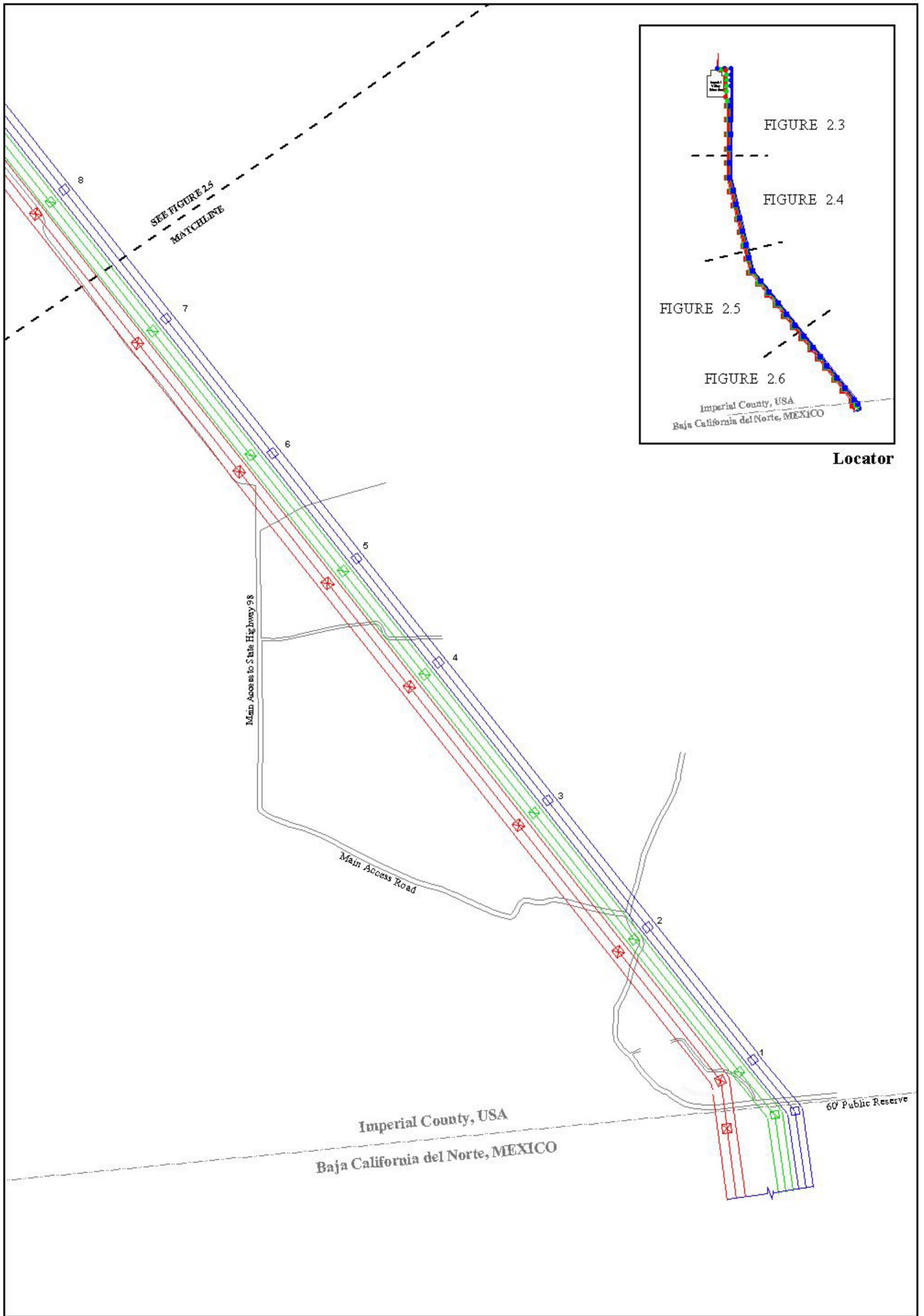


Locator



	Transmission Line	Steel Lattice Towers
Existing SDG&E		
Proposed BCP		
Proposed SER		

FIGURE 2.5
Project Plan, Segment C



Locator

Existing SDG&E	Transmission Line	Steel Lattice Towers
Proposed BCP		
Proposed SER		

FIGURE 2.6

**Project Plan,
Segment D**

line. The right-of-way for the BCP transmission line would be adjacent to the existing right-of-way for the SDG&E transmission line and would be 120 feet wide, so that the centerline would be 120 feet east of the centerline of the SDG&E right-of-way. The centerline of the SER right-of-way would be east of and adjacent to the proposed BCP transmission line right-of-way and would be 120 feet wide, so that the centerline of the SER right-of-way would be 120 feet east of the centerline of the proposed BCP right-of-way and 240 feet east of the centerline of the SDG&E right-of-way.

For both the BCP and SER transmission lines, steel lattice towers would be erected on the centerlines of the rights-of-way. The towers would be approximately 900 to 1,100 feet apart and would be roughly in line with the existing SDG&E towers in an east-west direction. In this EA, the towers for both lines will be referred to by numbers consecutively from south to north, with Tower No. 1 the first tower north of the international border and Tower No 25 just south of the substation. Similarly, the steel monopoles will be referred to by numbers consecutively from south to the north of the substation. These would all be steel monopoles except for A-frame crossing structures to allow the SER line to cross under the Southwest Power Link. The crossing structures are included in the pole numbering system as No. 2 and No. 3. All proposed features of the project are shown in Figures 2.3 through 2.6. A more detailed narrative description is in Appendix A.

2.2.2 Construction

Construction would begin with site preparation, consisting of grading of access roads, where necessary, and drilling or excavation for the steel lattice tower, steel monopole, and wooden monopole footings. Towers and monopoles would be fabricated in segments in Mexico. The towers would be carried to the construction site for each by helicopter. This would minimize the amount of laydown area required in the United States. Monopoles would be brought to the site by truck in sections and assembled in laydown areas. Principal preparation at each tower and pole location would consist of preparing concrete foundation footings. Each tower would require four footings, one on each corner; a single footing would be needed for each monopole.

Two different sizes of lattice towers would be used, depending on function (Figure 2.7). Suspension towers, used where the cables will be strung in a straight line from one tower to the adjacent ones, would have a square base 30 feet by 30 feet. The last towers at the ends of the line (“dead end” towers) and three other towers in each line (“deflection” or “turning” towers) would have a larger base, 40 feet by 40 feet. From the northernmost lattice tower in each transmission line, the conductors would pass on to steel monopoles to cross under the 500 kV Southwest Power Link to steel monopoles on the north side. Present project plans show all three 230 kV transmission lines—SDG&E’s, BCP’s, and SER’s—on steel monopoles north of the Southwest Power Link. However, it is possible