

Future Scenic Integrity: High, with Areas of Very Low. The Maximum Helicopter Alternative (Alternative 6, Segment 11) would construct a large helicopter staging area on a flat area where there is a subterranean water tank, alongside the Angeles Forest Highway just north of the Lower Big Tujunga Canyon Road. The center portion of Segment 11 in the ANF would be accessible by construction helicopters from this staging area (Site # 10). The removal of large trees and minor temporary landform modifications would be noticeable to travelers on the Angeles Forest Highway and would achieve very low scenic integrity. This simulation depicts landscape conditions upon completion of construction and before revegetation becomes visually evident at these distances.

Adverse Visual Impacts. In the vicinity of KOP-Center-16, implementation of the Project would result in adverse visual impacts V-1, V-3, V-4, V-5, and V-7, as detailed in Table 6-1.

Mitigation Measures. Implementation of Mitigation Measures (MMs) would reduce adverse visual impacts to a certain degree, but the staging area (Site #10) would create temporary strong contrasts of landform vegetation patterns. After rehabilitation of the site and vegetation communities, the staging area could be made into a new recreation or interpretive site along the Highway. MMs would include: V-1a – Clean up staging areas, storage areas, marshalling yards, access and spur roads, and structure locations on a regular periodic basis; V-3b – On NFS lands, provide restoration/compensation for impacts to landscape character and visual quality; V-4b – Vegetative clearings shall be natural-appearing in size, scale, shape, and pattern; V-4c – Avoid locating new roads in bedrock; V-4d – Dispose of excavated materials as prescribed; and V-4e – Slope-round and re-contour in areas as prescribed.

Visual Simulation for KOP-Center-16 Southbound Angeles Forest Highway (Alternative 6, Segment 11)

Source: Lee Anderson and USDA Forest Service, 2008.