



# SCENIC 247 THE LONG LONG ROAD

• The Homestead Valley Community Council can report reaching the homestretch in the campaign to achieve State Scenic Highway status for Hwy 247.

Beginning in 2009, the HVCC Scenic 247 Committee signed up endorsements and worked with Caltrans guidelines to create the Visual Assessment of sections of the highway showing the fewest intrusions from modern development, then researched existing habitat protection plans in the scenic corridor.



Jim Harvey, HVCC president and member of the Scenic 247 Committee, with Karen Watkins of County Land Use Services, and Caltrans Landscape Architect Almabeth Anderson made the case

for Scenic 247 at the December 9th County Planning Commission meeting. This workshop invited public comments to assist the County in finalizing the Corridor Protection Program before submitting the nomination package to the Board of Supervisors for approval and submittal to Caltrans.



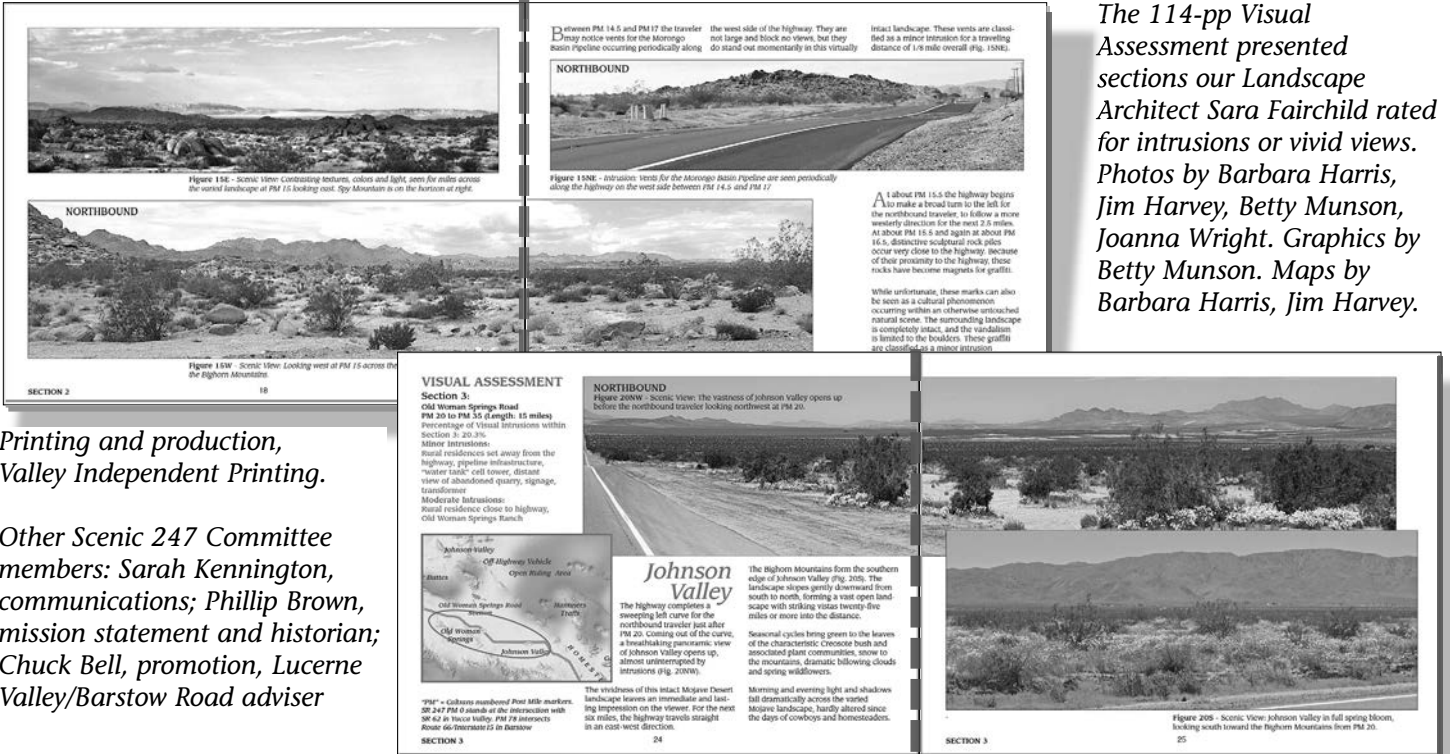
Jim Harvey, Almabeth Anderson, and Karen Watkins after Planning Commissioners hear their great Scenic 247 presentation at the public meeting in San Bernardino.

Their presentation drew enthusiastic endorsements, and Commissioners unfamiliar with this region now plan to travel the route!

See <http://scenichighway247.com/>

Photos above are from screenshots of the County's live stream of the meeting

The 114-pp Visual Assessment presented sections our Landscape Architect Sara Fairchild rated for intrusions or vivid views. Photos by Barbara Harris, Jim Harvey, Betty Munson, Joanna Wright. Graphics by Betty Munson. Maps by Barbara Harris, Jim Harvey.



**Figure 15E - Scenic View:** Contrasting textures, colors and light, seem to melt across the varied landscape of PM 15 looking east. Eye Mountains in on the horizon at right.

**Figure 15W - Scenic View:** Looking west at PM 15 across the High Mountain.

**Figure 15M - Intrusion:** vents for the Alvarado Basin Pipeline are seen periodically along the highway on the west side between PM 14.5 and PM 17.

**Figure 15N - Intrusion:** vents for the Alvarado Basin Pipeline are seen periodically along the highway on the west side between PM 14.5 and PM 17.

**Figure 20B - Scenic View:** Johnson valley in full spring bloom, looking south toward the High Mountains from PM 20.

**Section 3: Old Woman Springs Road**  
 PM 20 to PM 54 (length, 32 miles)  
 Percentage of Visual Intrusions within Section 3: 20.3%  
 Minor intrusions:  
 Rural residences set away from the highway, pipeline infrastructure, "water tank" cell tower, distant view of abandoned quarry, signage, transformer.  
 Moderate intrusions:  
 Rural residence close to highway, Old Woman Springs Ranch.

**Johnson Valley**  
 The highway completes a sweeping left curve for the northbound traveler just after PM 20. Coming out of the curve, a breathtaking panoramic view of Johnson Valley opens up, almost uninterrupted by intrusions (Fig. 20NW).

The vastness of this intact Mojave Desert landscape leaves an immediate and lasting impression on the viewer. For the next six miles, the highway travels straight in an east-west direction.

The High Mountains form the southern edge of Johnson Valley (Fig. 20B). The landscape slopes gently downward from south to north, forming a vast open landscape with striking vistas twenty-five miles or more into the distance.

Seasonal cycles bring green to the leaves of the characteristic creosote bush and associated plant communities, snow to the mountains, dramatic billowing clouds and spring wildflowers.

Morning and evening light and shadows fall dramatically across the varied Mojave landscape, hardly altered since the days of cowboys and homesteaders.

While unfortunately, these marks can also be seen as a cultural phenomenon occurring within an otherwise untouched natural scene. The surrounding landscape is completely intact, and the vandalism is limited to the bookends. These graffiti are classified as a minor intrusion.

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Other Scenic 247 Committee members: Sarah Kennington, communications; Phillip Brown, mission statement and historian; Chuck Bell, promotion, Lucerne Valley/Barstow Road adviser