



CHAPTER 1:

introduction

IN THIS CHAPTER:

- 1.** About Morongo Basin
- 2.** Morongo Basin Communities
- 3.** Placemaking & Public Art in the Morongo Basin
- 4.** Goals & Objectives

Chapter 1 of the Morongo Basin Active Transportation Plan ("the Plan") provides an introduction to the overall purpose and vision of this planning document and what it means for the region.

After taking a brief look at the geographic and demographic characteristics of the communities making up the Morongo Basin, in addition to the local arts community's role in creative placemaking, the chapter discusses the goals and objectives that serve as the premise for this Plan and the County and local agencies' future active transportation planning and implementation efforts.

1.1. ABOUT THE MORONGO BASIN

The Morongo Basin is located in San Bernardino County, California. The combined area studied for this Plan includes over 43 square miles; the project area covers two incorporated cities: the Town Yucca Valley and City of Twentynine Palms, and eight unincorporated communities: Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley Area, Pioneertown, Rimrock, Landers, Joshua Tree, Twentynine Palms Area, and Wonder Valley.

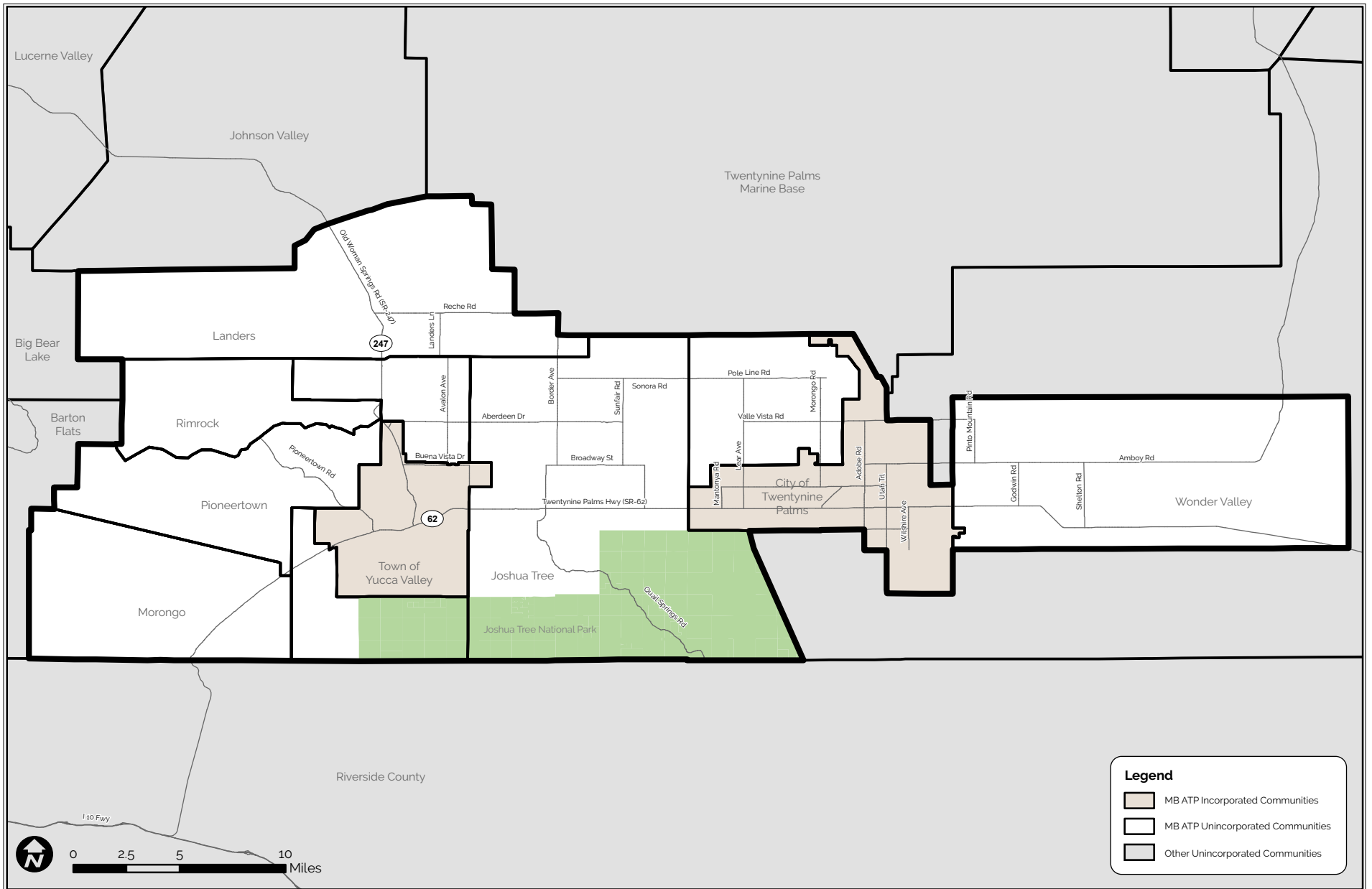
Communities across the Morongo Basin are characterized by their desert environment, low-density land use, and small town character. Residential land uses dominate with commercial and scattered industrial uses. California State Route 62 (SR-62) forms the principle roadway of the Basin, connecting the Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree, Twentynine Palms, and Wonder Valley. State Route 247 (SR-247) is the other major roadway, leading from Yucca Valley to Landers and other parts of the Homestead Valley. However, many roads are unpaved or lack additional roadway facilities such as paved shoulders, striping, sidewalks, and curb ramps.

The region's earliest inhabitants included the Serrano and Chemehuevi tribes. Ranchers, miners, and suppliers settled in the region starting in the late 1800s. After World War II, the desert became a popular location for veterans. Freeway development in the 1950s and 1960s opened up opportunities to develop the land for those looking to live in an area filled with natural beauty and rural charm. Today, the region continues to boast a diverse economy including tourism, arts, military, ecotourism, and education industries.

The Morongo Basin is perhaps most well known for its access to Joshua Tree National Park. "While the Joshua Tree area has been inhabited by humans for at least 5,000 years, by the late 1920s, the development of new roads into the desert had brought an influx of land developers and cactus poachers." Designated as a national park in 1994, Joshua Tree National Park spans over 790,000 acres, over 590,00 of which is designated as wilderness (NPS.gov). Today, the park has become a popular site for camping, hiking, equestrian activities, and nature enthusiasts, bringing tourism and economic benefits into the region's local communities.



Figure 1.1.1. Overview & Project Area Map





1.2. MORONGO BASIN COMMUNITIES

Data source: American Community Survey 2016 5-year estimates

TWENTYNINE PALMS (City)



Twentynine Palms is home to a 3.9 square mile portion of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, a military training ground which forms a major focal point and focus of activity within the community. Approximately 15% of the City has been developed. About 80% of land uses are residential, including single-family, multi-family, and rural living uses. Commercial development is located along the corridors of SR-62 and Adobe Road and in the Downtown area. The City also includes several parks and other public spaces maintained for residents.

25,848

Total Population

\$40,888

Median Household Income

29.3%

Vulnerable Population
(population < 15 and 65+)

20.1%

School-Aged Population
(students enrolled in 12th grade or under)

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK

Note: 2.4% (other)

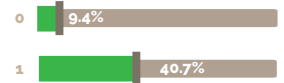
- 13.2%** walk
- 0.8%** bike
- 64.1%** drive
- 12.1%** carpool
- 0.8%** transit
- 6.8%** works from home

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



LOW VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

% of households with 0 or 1 vehicles



YUCCA VALLEY (Town)



First named and designated as a community in 1949 after the installation of water lines, the **Town of Yucca Valley** was formally incorporated in 1991. SR-62 is home to the Town's commercial core which, under the guidance of the Old Town Specific Plan, is becoming a vibrant destination and main street for the region. Outside of SR-62 the Town is primarily composed of low density and rural residential uses nestled between mountains and hills to the north and south.

21,362

Total Population

\$41,569

Median Household Income

39.4%

Vulnerable Population
(population < 15 and 65+)

20.1%

School-Aged Population
(students enrolled in 12th grade or under)

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK

Note: 1.7% (other)

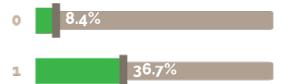
- 2.6%** walk
- 0.6%** bike
- 79.7%** drive
- 6.9%** carpool
- 0.2%** transit
- 8.3%** works from home

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK

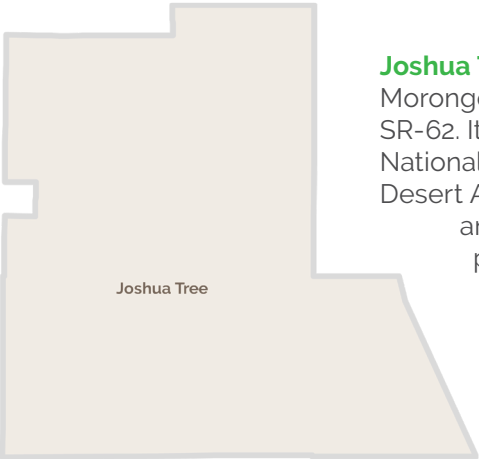


LOW VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

% of households with 0 or 1 vehicles



JOSHUA TREE (Unincorporated)



Joshua Tree is located near the center of the Morongo Basin region and is centered around SR-62. It is a gateway community to Joshua Tree National Park. Other attractors include the Hi-Desert Airport, Joshua Tree Community Center, and Copper Mountain College. The most prominent land uses are Rural Living, Resource Conservation, and Single Residential with several commercial and institutional land use areas.

9,696

Total Population

\$40,355

Median Household Income

36.0%

Vulnerable Population
(population < 15 and 65+)

15.7%

School-Aged Population
(students enrolled in 12th grade or under)

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK
Note: 3.5% (other)

2.8% walk

0.3% bike

81.3% drive

3.8% carpool

1.8% transit

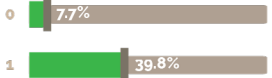
6.4% works from home

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



LOW VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

% of households with 0 or 1 vehicles



LANDERS (Unincorporated)

Landers is part of the Homestead Valley, located north of Yucca Valley. Rural residential uses with large lots characterize the community.



3,148

Total Population

\$32,442

Median Household Income

34.2%

Vulnerable Population
(population < 15 and 65+)

13.6%

School-Aged Population
(students enrolled in 12th grade or under)

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK
Note: 3.1% (other)

0.0% walk

0.0% bike

68.6% drive

17.1% carpool

0.0% transit

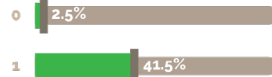
11.1% works from home

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



LOW VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

% of households with 0 or 1 vehicles



RIMROCK (Unincorporated)

Rimrock is a small community located northwest of Pioneertown. It is primarily composed of rural residential uses.



702

Total Population

\$33,212

Median Household Income

40.1%

Vulnerable Population
(population < 15 and 65+)

5.4%

School-Aged Population
(students enrolled in 12th grade or under)

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK Note: 7.3% (other)

0.0%
walk

0.0%
bike

77.9%
drive

6.0%
carpool

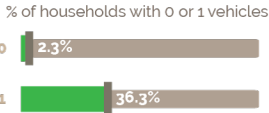
0.0%
transit

8.8%
works from home

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



LOW VEHICLE OWNERSHIP



PIONEERTOWN (Unincorporated)



Pioneertown is located northwest of Yucca Valley. Its Old West-inspired neighborhood center has been the set of many Hollywood movies. Single-family and rural residential uses surround the central portion that contains hotels and restaurants.

380

Total Population

\$40,920

Median Household Income

42.6%

Vulnerable Population
(population < 15 and 65+)

5.8%

School-Aged Population
(students enrolled in 12th grade or under)

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK Note: 5.9% (other)

0.1%
walk

0.0%
bike

71.7%
drive

5.4%
carpool

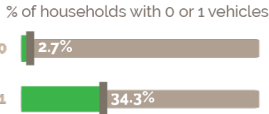
0.0%
transit

16.9%
works from home

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



LOW VEHICLE OWNERSHIP



MORONGO (Unincorporated)



Morongo is a part of Morongo Valley, which covers about 44 square miles and is bounded by the Sawtooth Mountains on the north and the San Bernardino Mountains on the west. It is primarily residential and has attracted a diverse profile of residents including those of retirement age. Some commercial uses are located along SR-62.

3,044
Total Population

\$36,283
Median Household Income

32.6%
Vulnerable Population
(population < 15 and 65+)

15.6%
School-Aged Population
(students enrolled in 12th grade or under)

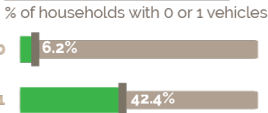
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK
Note: 1.9% (other)

- 4.1%** walk
- 0.0%** bike
- 88.1%** drive
- 2.2%** carpool
- 0.0%** transit
- 3.7%** works from home

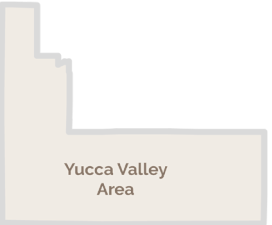
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



LOW VEHICLE OWNERSHIP



YUCCA VALLEY AREA (Unincorporated)



Yucca Valley Area is an unincorporated community located adjacent to the incorporated Town of Yucca Valley. It is comprised primarily of rural residential uses.

2,955
Total Population

\$34,662
Median Household Income

38.1%
Vulnerable Population
(population < 15 and 65+)

18.7%
School-Aged Population
(students enrolled in 12th grade or under)

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK
Note: 1.9% (other)

- 0.8%** walk
- 0.0%** bike
- 88.1%** drive
- 2.2%** carpool
- 0.0%** transit
- 3.7%** works from home

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



LOW VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

