Man has exacerbated the wind erosion conditions by removing native vegetation, building roads and other infrastructure across the valley floor. Recreational land uses, especially use of off-road vehicles, accelerates erosion in the area.

2.7.2 Development of a GIS Wind Erosion Susceptibility Map for Riverside County

A digital Wind Erosion Susceptibility Map was prepared as part of this study. The wind hazard map is generally considered accurate to 1:100,000, and is presented in Plate 2-5 at a scale of 1:250,000.

Map information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture State Soil Geographic (STATSGO) data base was captured as 1:250,000 scale USGS topographic quadrangle units. STATSGO included a soils map of the state of California that was refined for Riverside County. These data included a classification of the soil within each polygon for wind erosion susceptibility. This wind erodibility number was used to assign each polygon a WER (Wind Erodibility Rating). WER classification was assigned as follows:

1 = Very Highly susceptible to wind erosion
2 = High susceptibility
3 = Moderate susceptibility
4 = Low susceptibility
5 = Water

Digital data for this mapping are provided to the County of Riverside and should be utilized to support land use decisions.