



San Timoteo Badlands

One of the most remarkable environments in Riverside County is found in an area known as the San Timoteo Badlands, or Crafton Hills, which form the southwestern boundary of the Pass. These rugged hills provide an open space separation between the Pass and the areas to the west and southwest. The Norton Younglove Reserve, a 640-acre natural habitat reserve, is located in the Badlands along State Route 60.



The San Gorgonio River

Watercourses

Water is a dominant force in the local mountain ranges and its effects are etched into the landscape. A series of watercourses that once flowed through the Pass created the alluvial soils and the mesas that are evident today. A number of rivers and creeks that flow from the mountains still distinguish these mesas namely: the San Gorgonio River, which flows to the east of Banning Bench; the San Timoteo Creek, which flows west through the Badlands; and the Smith Creek, which feeds the San Gorgonio River. A series of smaller local streams have also carved up the land, such as Little San Gorgonio and Noble Creeks.

The Pass represents a significant drainage divide between the Santa Ana River, the San Jacinto River, and the Salton Sea watersheds. Water flowing southwest flows into the San Jacinto River. Water moving northwest through San Timoteo Creek is part of the Santa Ana River watershed, which at 2,650 square miles contains the most rapidly growing regions in the United States. To the east of the San Gorgonio Pass summit in Beaumont, water drains into the Whitewater River, through the Coachella Valley, and eventually to the Salton Sea.

Banning Municipal Airport

Located in the City of Banning, adjacent to Interstate 10, is the only public airport in the Pass. This 295-acre general aviation facility is used by business and recreation pilots. The airport is owned by the County and its single runway is situated in an east-west direction.

As shown in Figure 4, Policy Areas, a policy area surrounds the airport. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the County impose restrictions on the uses, concentrations of population, and height of proposed development within this policy area. For more information on the Banning Municipal Airport and its policies, see the Policy Area Section of this area plan and the Banning Municipal Airport Land Use Plan.