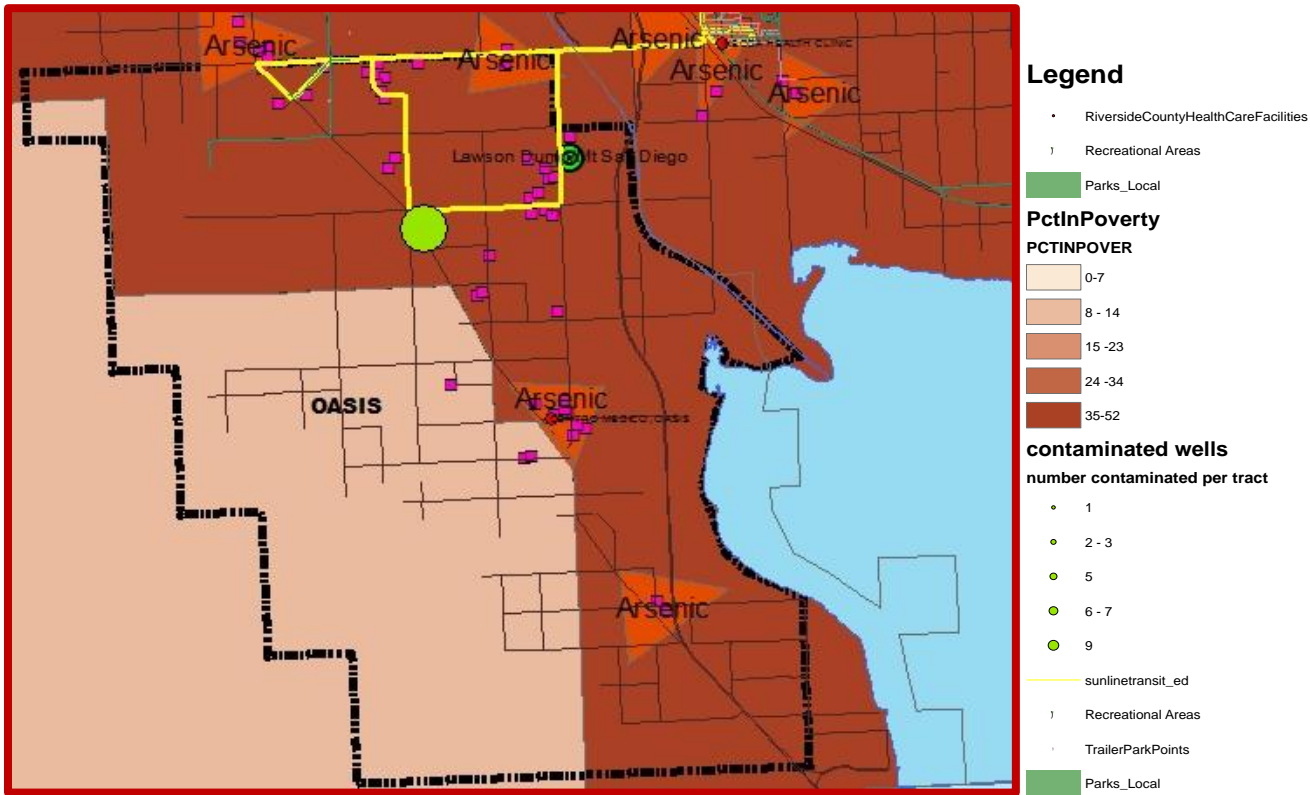


# OASIS

"Oasis: a fertile or green area in an arid region."

## In and Around Oasis



## General Information

Oasis is a community located in Riverside County at latitude 33.4659 and longitude -116.0989. The elevation is 144 feet below sea level. The 2010 United States Census reported that Oasis had a population of 6,890. The population density was 351 people per square mile. The racial makeup of Oasis was 25% White, 0.3% African American, 1.4% Native American, 0.6% Asian, 71.5% from other races, and 1.6% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 97.7%. There were 1,575 housing units at an average density of 80.2 per square mile.

## What the map shows

The map above is an overview of Oasis using the percent population in poverty as its base. In 2010, about 15% of the US population was in poverty. <sup>i</sup> Oasis data show between 15 and 52% of the population in poverty with the average being 48.5%. <sup>ii</sup> Added to this base map are data on transportation, medical facilities, water quality, recreation facilities and parks and landfills. It was compiled to provide an overview of both environmental risks and resources in Oasis.

## Transportation

The town of Oasis has limited roads within the town limits. In addition, there is a public bus line serving the north-central section of the town.

## Medical facilities

There is one clinic in Oasis: the Centro Medico. Centro Medico Oasis is a federally qualified medical center that serves indigenous populations and the farming community of the eastern Coachella Valley.

## Water quality

The majority of Oasis residents do not have access to municipal water or sewer service. Residents who are reliant on well water are exposed to arsenic. More than 9 wells in the census tract have tested positive for contamination and arsenic has consistently tested above healthy levels

## Recreation facilities and parks

There are no parks or recreation facilities in the town of Oasis.

## Landfills

The Lawson Dump and Mt. San Diego are located in Oasis.

### **Lawson Dump**

Located on the Torres Martinez Indian Reservation the Lawson dump, once the largest illegal dump in California, has piles of debris estimated at 50 feet high and an estimated one million tons of buried waste.<sup>iii</sup> Subterranean fires smolder occasionally flaring up through cracks. After a federal judge shut it down in 2006, there were a series of fires, some injuring firefighters. Prior to the shutdown of the dump, operators would burn trash in order to make room for more, sending smoke into the surrounding communities.

### **Mt San Diego**

From 1989-1994, at least 200,000 tons of sewage sludge from southern California cities were illegally dumped on the Torres-Martinez reservation near Mecca, creating a waste pile locals nicknamed "Mount San Diego." CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD completed its cleanup of the Mt. San Diego Dump site in April 2007. The Torres Martinez Tribe applied for and received a Targeted Brownfields Assessment grant to analyze potential future uses for the remaining inert material. EPA's Brownfields Program is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to test options including growing different types of sod or food crops, or providing fill for future home sites.

### Oasis

#### Fast Facts

**County:** Riverside

**Population:** 6,890

**Hispanic/ Latino of any race:** 98%

**Poverty Rate:** 48.5%<sup>1</sup>

**Number of Landfills within 2 miles of residences:** 2

**Air Quality:**  
98/100 for ozone and  
107/100 for particulates

**Water Contaminants:**  
Arsenic

## End Notes

<sup>i</sup> ACS <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0653224.html>

<sup>ii</sup> ACS <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0653224.html>

<sup>iii</sup> California Integrated Waste Management Board.



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