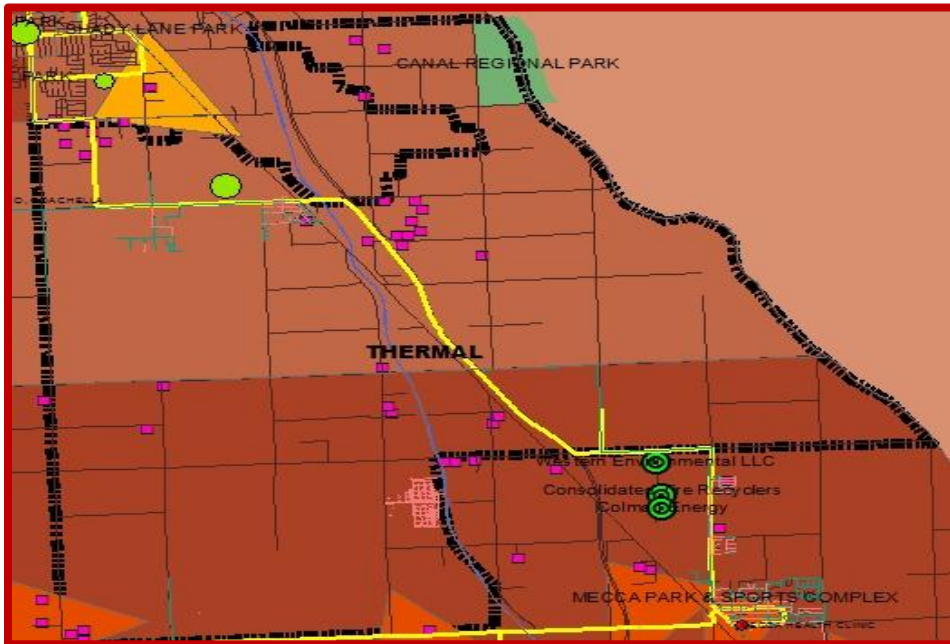


THERMAL

One of the hottest locations in North America.

In and Around Thermal



Legend

• RiversideCountyHealthCareFacilities

1 Recreational Areas

Parks_Local

PctInPoverty

PCTINPOVER

0-7

8-14

15-23

24-34

35-52

contaminated wells

number contaminated per tract

• 1

• 2-3

• 5

• 6-7

• 9

sunlinetransit_ed

General Information

The 2010 United States Census reported that Thermal had a population of 2,865. The racial makeup of Thermal was 36% White, 1.0% African American, 1.0% Native American, 1.1% Asian, 59% from other races, and 1.9% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 95%.

Thermal is a census designated place located in Riverside County at latitude 33.6403 and longitude -116.1395. The elevation is 138 feet below sea level. Thermal is approximately 25 miles southeast of Palm Springs and about 9.5 miles north of the Salton Sea. Total population is 2,865 with 95% Latino or Hispanic. Thermal has an area of 9.5 square miles and a population density of 300 people per square mile.

Thermal began as a railroad camp in 1910 for employees of the Southern Pacific Railroad. It is located in the Coachella Valley, a northwestern extension of the Sonoran Desert. Geologically, this region is known as the Salton Trough. The San Andreas Fault traverses the Valley's east side. The Santa Rosa Mountains to the West are part of the Lake Elsinore Fault zone. Major earthquakes have affected the Coachella Valley.

Thermal gets on average 3 inches of rain per year. The average number of days in a year with any measurable precipitation is 11.

What the map shows

The map above is an overview of Thermal using the percent population in poverty as its base. In 2010, about 15% of the US population was in poverty. ⁱ Thermal data show between 24 and 52% of the population in poverty with the average being 35%. ⁱⁱ Added to this base map are data on transportation, medical facilities, water quality, recreation

Thermal Fast Facts

County: Riverside

Population: 2,865

Hispanic/ Latino of any race: 95%

Poverty Rate: 38%¹

Number of Landfills within 2 miles of residences: 3

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

Water Contaminants:
Chromium 6, Arsenic

facilities and parks and landfills. It was compiled to provide an overview of both environmental risks and resources in Thermal.

Transportation

Thermal has limited roads but a public bus line runs through the center of the area.

Medical facilities

There are no clinics in Thermal.

Water quality

The majority of Thermal residents do not have access to municipal water and sewer systems. There are a large number of mobile home parks in Thermal whose residents are reliant on well water and are exposed to unhealthy levels of arsenic. Chromium 6 is also a water contaminant in the area. In the Coachella Valley Chromium-6 seems to be derived naturally from the serpentinitic rocks along the San Andreas Fault. These source rocks provide Coachella Valley groundwater with Chromium-6 levels five times greater than those in Hinkley during the Brockovich case.

Recreation facilities and parks

There are no parks or recreation facilities in the town of Thermal. There is a regional park on the north eastern border of the city limits called Canal Regional Park.

Landfills

There are two landfill sites and a biomass power plant outside the southern boundary of Thermal.

Western Environmental, Inc.

On May 9 2011, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a statement that they had determined WEI is handling, storing, treating, transporting or disposing of “solid waste that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to health or the environment.”ⁱⁱⁱ To date, there have been no elevated levels of toxic pollutants detected in the community. However, there are still known health impacts resulting from exposure to strong and objectionable odors.

Consolidated Tire Recyclers

An estimated 160,000 tires are currently stored on site at a facility designed for no more than 40,000 tires. The EPA states that the past and present handling, storage and treatment of waste tires may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment.

Colmac Energy

The Colmac Energy power plant consists of two biomass-fired boilers to supply steam to a single turbine generator producing 47 MW of electric power which is sold into the electric grid. The facility is located on the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Reservation.

End Notes

ⁱ American Community Survey (ACS), US Census Bureau.

http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_5YR_DP03&prodType=table

ⁱⁱ ACS

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/enforcement/western-enviro/index.html>

