

Spring 2019, Mojave Road Afton Canyon, Mojave River Crossing Recommended Alternate Route

By John Marnell

From time to time the water level in two places along the Mojave Road within Afton Canyon has become deeper than some people are comfortable driving through. There have been reports of the water running as high as 30+ inches. These two crossings are described in the *Mojave Road Guide* as at miles 120.5 and 121.5 – a quarter mile south of the BLM Campground.

Coming from the east, you can follow the below directions thus avoiding these potential problem areas. Those driving the Mojave Road from west to east would simply reverse the instructions. The historical and cultural significance as well as the special beauty of Afton Canyon can be enjoyed but may require a bit of backtracking.

114.8 N35° 03.13' W116° 17.15' (Elevation 1,196 feet) **This alternate route begins at Mile 114.8 on page 163 in both the 2010 and 2016 editions of the *Mojave Road Guide*. "Reach Basin Road" which comes in at a shallow angle on the right. Turn right onto Basin Road (shown on some maps as Sileas Road) and reset odometer to 0.0.**

0.0 Leave the Mojave Road going east, then northeast. This is a well-defined dirt road. **1.75 miles to:**

1.75 N35° 04.39' W 116° 16.52' (Elevation 1,145 feet) **Join a much better traveled road coming in from the left rear (southwest), continue straight ahead 2.03 miles to:**

3.78 Reach I-15, drive past the eastbound on and off ramps, **.15 miles to:**

3.93 Turn left onto the westbound I-15 on ramp, continue **8.57 miles to:**

12.50 Exit 221, Afton Canyon Road, turn left onto Afton Canyon Road. **2.0 miles to:**

14.50 Cross under a set of power lines. **.2 miles to:**

15.70 N35° 02.48' W116° 23.62' (Elevation 1,469 feet) **Turn right off the main road toward the railroad underpass. Rejoin the 2010 and 2016 *Mojave Road Guides* at mile 122.4, page 171.**

The BLM Afton Canyon campground is .7 mile further down Afton Canyon Road. You reach the first of the deep-water crossings .25 mile beyond the campground.