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## Big Maria

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The Big Maria study area is located in the Big Maria Mountains, approximately 8 miles north of the City of Blythe.

### Existing Conditions

#### **General Site Conditions**

The study area is located on a graded portion of a mountain ridge, adjacent to existing communication facilities. The elevation of the study area is approximately 650 feet above sea level. The soils present consist of rockland, based on the USDA soil survey. Land use in the vicinity consists of the existing communication facilities to the north, west, and south, a dirt access road to the east, and open space in all directions beyond all the adjacent facilities. The ridge to the west of the study area is designated as a Wilderness area by the BLM. The site is subject to disturbance associated with the maintenance of the existing communication facilities.

#### **Vegetation**

The study area is generally void of vegetation. Very sparse occurrences of low-growing brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) and creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) occur across the study area.

#### **Wildlife**

No wildlife species were observed during the survey. The high desert ridge is not considered suitable habitat for most wildlife species and none are expected to occur.

### Sensitive Biological Resources

#### **Sensitive Species**

##### *Federally and State Listed Species*

No habitat for any State- or federally-listed threatened or endangered species occurs within the study area. Therefore, the development of the study area is not anticipated to impact any plant or animal species protected under CESA or FESA.

##### **CNPS Listed Species**

The study area contains suitable habitat for angel trumpet (*Acleisanthes longiflora*), a CNPS List 2.3, and foxtail cactus (*Coryphantha alversonii*), a CNPS List 4.3 species. Neither of these species were observed within the study area. Regardless, plant species identified as sensitive only by CNPS are not protected by any State or federal laws or policies.

##### **Other Sensitive Species**

No suitable habitat for sensitive species not specifically protected under any other policy occurs on the study area.

**Critical Habitat**

The study area is not located within any USFWS-designated Critical Habitat.

**Nesting Birds**

No suitable nesting habitat for any avian species was observed within the study area. No nesting birds will be impacted by the development of the study area.

**California Desert Native Plant Act**

No plant species protected under the CDNPA were observed within the study area and no impacts associated with the development of the study area are anticipated to occur.

**Jurisdictional Waters**

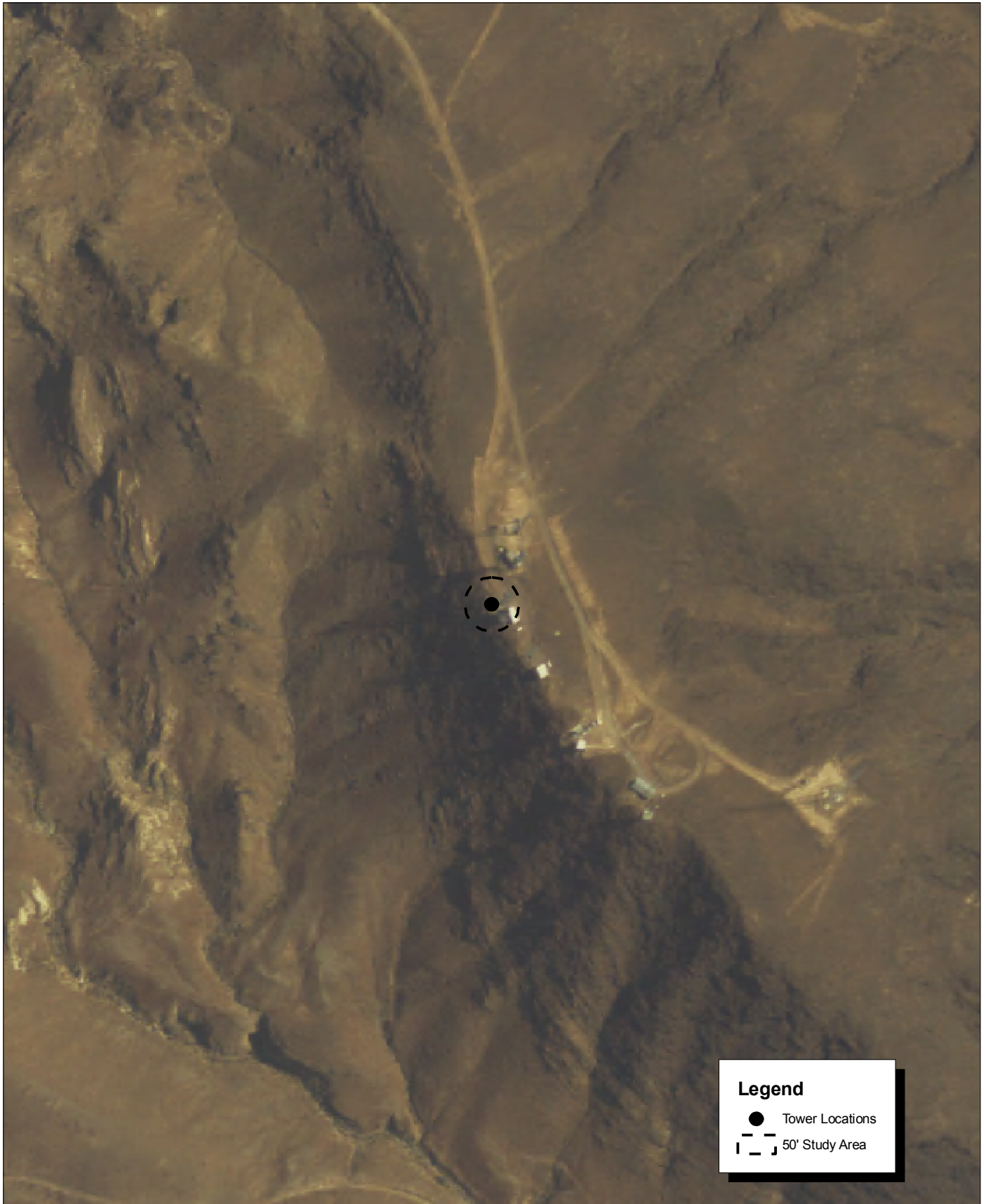
No drainage features, wetlands, vernal pools, or suitable habitat for sensitive fairy shrimp species occur on or in the vicinity of the study area. No waters or wetlands potentially under the jurisdiction of the State or the United States will be impacted by the development of the study area.

**Wildlife Corridors and Movement**

Given the limited size and minimal disturbance associated with the development of the study area, no impacts to any wildlife corridors or wildlife movement patterns are anticipated.

**Applicable HCP or Land Use Management Plan**

The study area is located on federal land managed by the BLM within the County of Riverside and is subject to the Yuma Field Office Resource Management Plan (YRMP). Approval by the BLM must be obtained prior to construction.

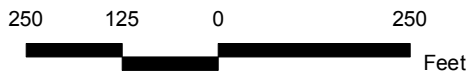


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



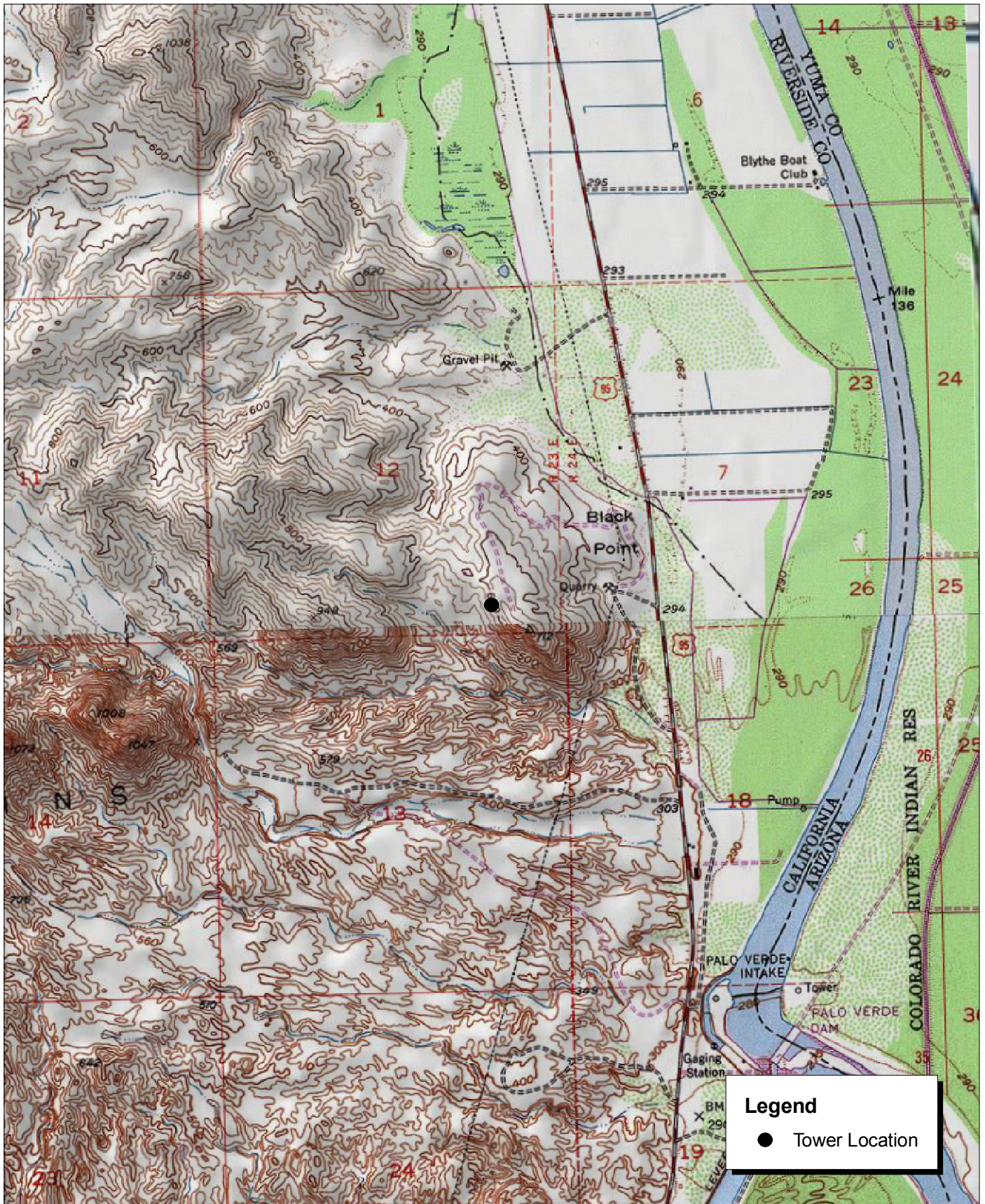
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# Big Maria Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



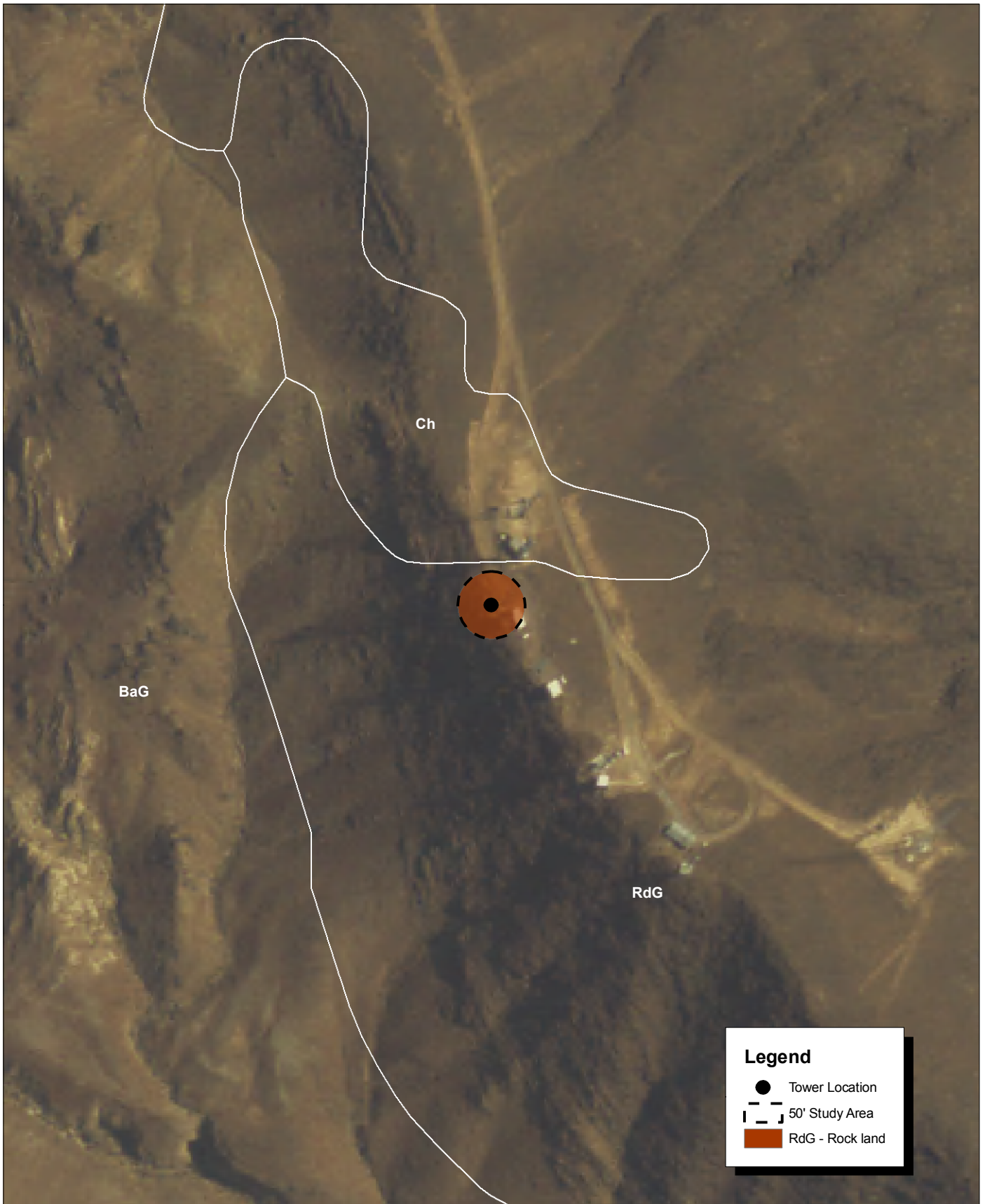
Source: USGS Big Maria Mts SE 7.5' Topographic Map.



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## Big Maria Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
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Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



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## Big Maria Communication Site USDA Soils Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
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Photograph 1: Overview of Big Maria candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 2: View of the Big Maria candidate area, facing east-southeast.



Photograph 3: View of the Big Maria candidate area, facing north.



Photograph 4: View of the Big Maria candidate area, facing north. (Similar to Photograph 3)

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Big Maria Candidate Photographs 1 to 4  
PSEC Project



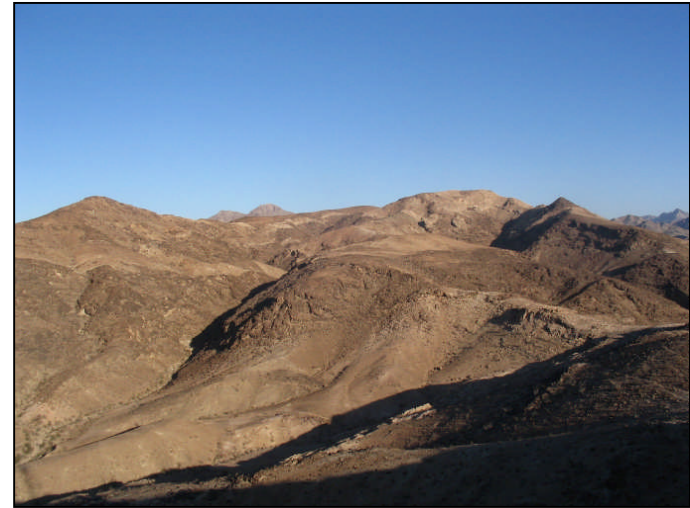
Photograph 5: View from Big Maria candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 2: View from Big Maria candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 3: View from Big Maria candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 4: View from Big Maria candidate location, facing west.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Big Maria Candidate Photographs 5 to 8  
PSEC Project