
Black Eagle

The Black Eagle study area is located on a previously graded plateau within the Black Eagle Mine in the Eagle Mountains.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area was formerly used as a staging and parking area for mining-related activities. The elevation of the study area is approximately 2,646 feet above sea level. Soils observed within the study area consist largely of decomposed granite; no USDA soil surveys were completed for this area. Topsoil development is limited, as most of the soil has been removed during grading and mining activities. An unknown amount of the soils within the study area consist of fill material. Land use in the vicinity consists of open pit mining activity in all directions. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with mining activities.

Vegetation

The vegetation in the study area consists of sparse, newly recruited, Mojave Desert plant species. Plant species observed include pygmy cedar (*Peucephyllum schottii*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), desert trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*), bindweed (*Calystegia* sp.), Nevada ephedra (*Ephedra nevadensis*), and burro-weed (*Ambrosia dumosa*).

Wildlife

No wildlife was observed on the study area during the survey. Desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) were observed in the vicinity; however, there was no scat, sign of herbivory, or other evidence that the species uses the study area for foraging or resting. Species expected to occur are those commonly found in heavily disturbed, desert habitats such as common raven (*Corvus corax*) and zebra-tailed lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*).

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 foxtail cactus (*Coryphantha alversonii*), a CNPS List 4.3 species. The species was not 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

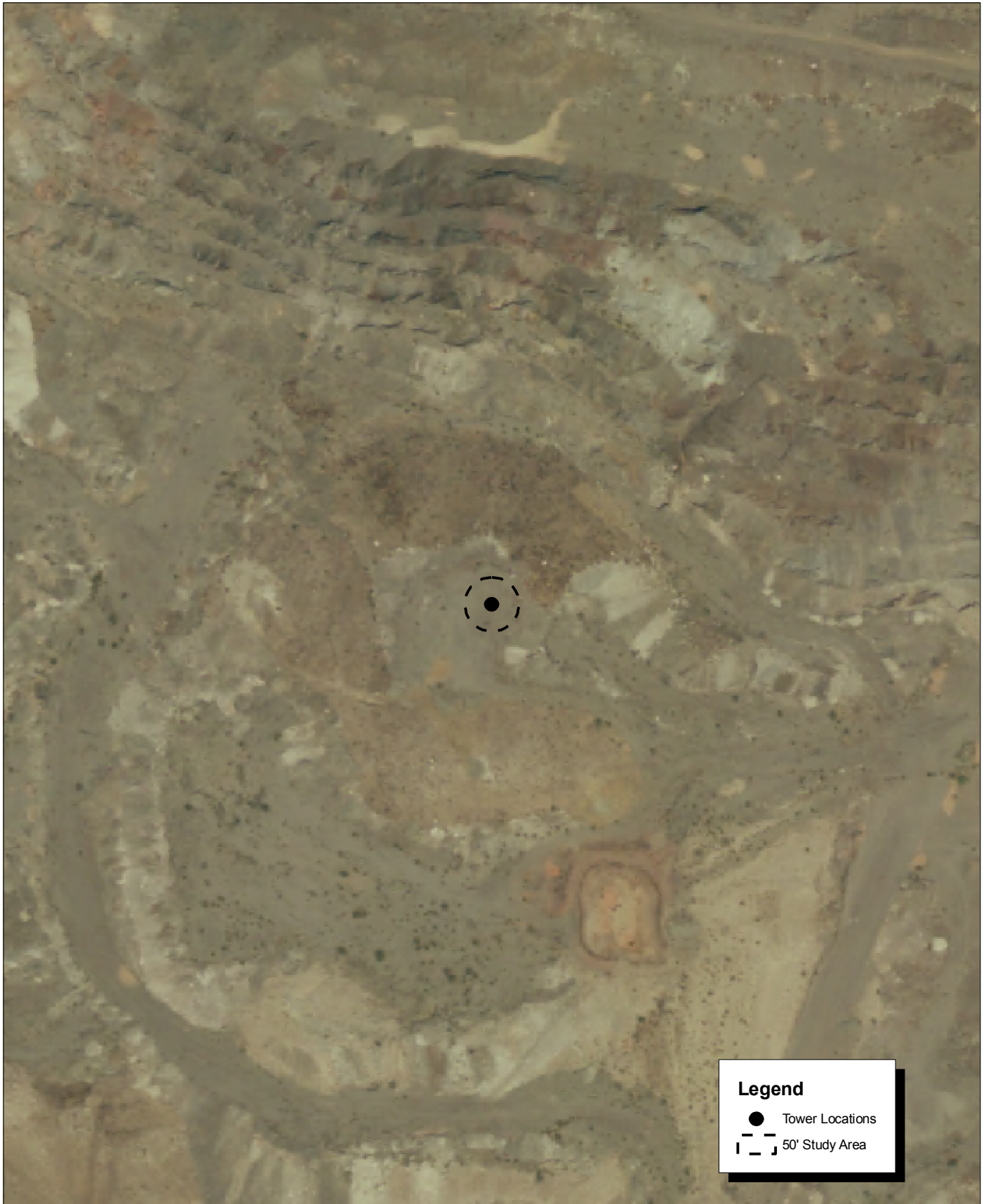
No drainage features, wetlands, vernal pools, or suitable habitat for sensitive fairy shrimp species occur on or in the vicinity of the study area. No waters or wetlands potentially under the jurisdiction of the State or the United States will be impacted by the development of the study area.

Wildlife Corridors and Movement

Given the limited size and minimal disturbance associated with the development for 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 lands owned and operated by the Kaiser Mining Corporation. The study area is not located within a habitat conservation plan or federal land use management plan.

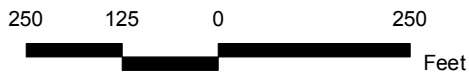


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



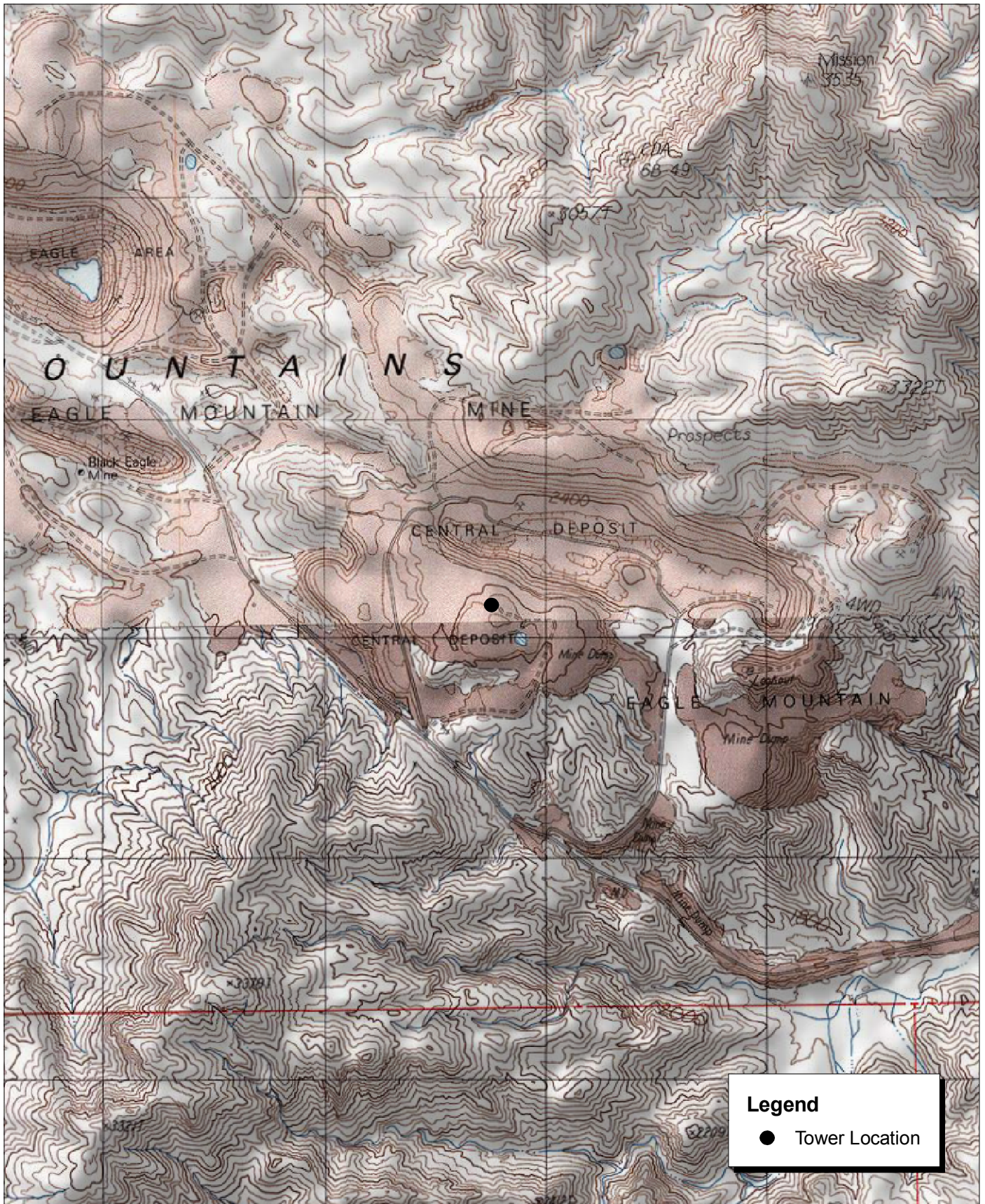
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Black Eagle Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: USGS Placer Canyon 7.5' Topographic Map.



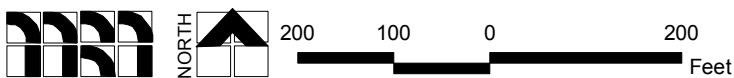
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Black Eagle Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



Black Eagle Communication Site USDA Soils Map



Photograph 1: View toward Black Eagle candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 2: View toward Black Eagle candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 3: View toward Black Eagle candidate location, facing north-northeast.



Photograph 4: View toward Black Eagle candidate location, facing south.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Black Eagle Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Black Eagle candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 6: View from Black Eagle candidate location, facing east-northeast.



Photograph 7: View from Black Eagle candidate location, facing south.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Black Eagle Candidate Photographs 5 to 7
PSEC Project