

February 4, 2010

Alan Solomon
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

DOCKET	
09-AFC-6	
DATE	FEB 04 2010
RECD.	FEB 08 2010

RE: **Blythe Solar Power Project, Docket No. 09-AFC-6**
Responses to January 14, 2010 CEC Workshop Queries
Technical Areas:
Biological Resources
Cultural Resources

Response to January 29, 2010 Email Query
Technical Area:
Traffic & Transportation

Dear Mr. Solomon:

During the January 14, 2010, CEC Workshop and in a January 29, 2010 Email staff requested additional information and clarification on several matters in the technical areas of Biological Resources, Cultural Resources and Traffic & Transportation. Attached please find our responses to those specific questions.

If you have any questions on these data responses to the staff's workshop and email queries, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Alice Harron
Senior Director, Development

**Responses to CEC Workshop,
January 14, 2010
Biological Resources**

Blythe Solar Power Project

Docket No. 09-AFC-6

Alice Harron
Senior Director of Project Development
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709-1161

Data Response Queries – January 14, 2010

BIO-DR-: Requests from CEC Data Response Workshop 1/14/2010 regarding the Blythe Solar Power Project

1) Comment: Is 3:1 slope sufficient for tortoise to enter and exit the channels?

The side slopes for all channels and dissipaters for the project have been designed with 4:1 (horizontal:vertical) slopes. The channel slopes within the dissipaters and the stilling basin are anticipated to be 3:1 slopes. Based on AECOM's previous experiences with similar projects (i.e. Beacon Solar Energy Project) the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have determined that the side slopes of 4:1 slope are sufficient for desert tortoise to enter and exit the channels. In addition, a 3:1 slope within the dissipater channels with side slopes of 4:1 slope will also be sufficient for desert tortoise to enter and exit these structures (Karl, Pers. Comm.).

2) Comment: Have impacts to washes downstream of north/south access roads been analyzed? Have these washes been included in the areas of state jurisdiction where applicable?

Jurisdictional waters of the state within the BSPP transmission line disturbance area have been identified and included in the revised Jurisdictional Delineation report (JDR) that was submitted as part of the Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) Application to CDFG on November 25, 2009.

It has been determined that there will be no impacts to washes downstream of the north/south access road along the BSPP transmission line corridor. Within the BSPP transmission line disturbance area, there is an existing north/south dirt access road along the route of the proposed transmission line that will continue to be used for access for the project. This road would be paved north of Interstate 10 (I-10) and remain unpaved south of I-10. While routes for the access road have been established, detailed civil designs are currently being produced.

The paved road north of I-10 will allow overland sheet flow. However, if determined necessary, for adequate stormwater conveyance, the northern portion of paved road would include culverts, or similar structures. Because this road will need to be fully accessible by emergency vehicles at all times, the design approach will likely include large culverts. Therefore, impacts to the washes north of I-10 will be avoided or minimized because sheetflow will continue unabated either via culverts or via overland sheetflow. Potential impacts to water volume, velocities and stormwater flow events are also anticipated to be minimal to none. The volume of stormwater inputs to downstream washes will not likely change because stormwater currently presents sheet flows across an existing dirt road that is nearly impervious at approximately 90% compaction. Paving this road surface would minimally change this condition. Change in water velocities and infiltration rates would be minimal because the lateral distance stormwater currently sheet flows across the road would not change significantly from the existing condition to the paved condition.

The dirt road south of I-10 will continue in its existing condition. Currently, water sheet flows across the road and continues downstream. Therefore, there are no anticipated impacts to downstream washes as a result of the north/south access road for the unpaved portion south of I-10.

3) Comment: Special-Status Plant Mitigation Plan: The Plan references off site mitigation. Where off site?

Response: The specific location of off-site mitigation is currently being determined in negotiation with CDFG, USFWS, and the Bureau of Land Management. Compensatory mitigation will be achieved through a combination of off-site land acquisition. Acquired land will be preserved and managed for the aquatic resource and species habitat values in perpetuity. Land acquisition options are being considered carefully and a preserve location will be chosen based on the following factors:

- Species occurrences and extant populations in the region;
- Key movement corridors that may connect already preserved habitats;
- Federal species recovery plans and critical habitat designation boundaries;
- Habitat quality;
- Presence of primary constituent habitat elements;
- Presence of desert washes;
- Enhancement opportunities;
- Other property constraints (i.e. mineral leases, cultural resources); and
- Long-term management feasibility.

Please see the Draft Special-Status Plant Mitigation Plan and the Preliminary Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for a discussion of land acquisition for off-site mitigation. These documents were included as part of the January 6, 2010 Data Response submittal.

4) Comment: Provide a map showing specific locations of translocation/relocation for WBO.

As per the CEC Data Response Workshop on 1/14/2010, it has been confirmed that this figure is not necessary at this time. Due to the low density of burrowing owls present at the site, owls will be passively relocated from the site. Refer to the Burrowing Owl Relocation/Translocation Plan for a discussion of the relocation strategy.

5) Comment: Amy Golden of the CEC requested that the Applicant clarify the discrepancy between the Transmission Line disturbance area acreage. It is identified as being 216.5 acres and 50.2 acres.

The transmission line disturbance area reported in the AFC for Blythe was 216.5 acres, which represented an impact to the entire right-of-way associated with the transmission line; however, the disturbance area for the transmission line was revised prior to submitting the data responses on January 6, 2010 to reflect more accurately the actual impacts anticipated from construction. The revised transmission line disturbance area is 50.2 acres, including 16.9 acres for the transmission line and 33.3 acres for the substation. Therefore, the 216.5 acres reported at the beginning of the data response was further refined and should be represented as 50.2 acres to be consistent with the current project design and remainder of the data responses.

Blythe References:

Karl, Alice. PhD Desert Tortoise Biologist. Personal Communication. 2009.

**Responses to CEC Email Requests,
January 29, 2010
Traffic and Transportation**

Blythe Solar Power Project

Docket No. 09-AFC-6

Alice Harron
Senior Director of Project Development
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709-1161

Data Response Queries – January 29, 2010

TSE-DR-: An email request from Mr. Will Walters of Aspen to Mr. Alan Solomon of the CEC, forwarded by Mr. Solomon to Ms. Alice Harron of Solar Millennium (d.b.a. Palo Verde I, LLC) on January 29, 2010, requested the confirmation of certain operating assumptions pertaining to the air-cooled condenser (ACC) for the Blythe Solar Power Project.

1) *Assumption: ACC dimensions per AFC Table 5.15-3*

The ACC design has been changed. The new dimensions for the ACC are as follows:
374 ft x 252 ft, and 120 ft high

2) *Assumption: ACC air flow rate of 303,074,400 lb/hr*

The new design airflow for the ACC is 335 million lb/hr.

3) *Assumption: ACC heat rejection - 444 MW*

The new design condensing duty for the ACC is 404 MW.

**Responses to CEC Workshop Requests,
January 14, 2010**

Historic Maps and Aerial Photographs

Blythe Solar Power Project

Docket No. 09-AFC-6

Alice Harron
Senior Director of Project Development
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709-1161

Draft Cultural Resources Responses – CEC Workshop, January 14, 2010

During the January 14, 2010 CEC Workshop, CEC staff requested additional historic information on the area of the proposed Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP). Specifically requested were historic maps and photos as well as the recent LIDAR contour data for the BSPP site to facilitate analysis.

DR-123 (Additional Information)

No historic photographs of camp life at the Desert Training Center were identified for this proposed location. However, additional historical topographic maps were found of the proposed project vicinity and are provided to staff as an attachment to this submittal.

Historic maps identified included the following:

Map Name	Scale	Year
Ehrenberg	1:50,000	1943
Ehrenberg	1:50,000	1947
McCoy Springs	1:48,000	1943
McCoy Springs	1:48,000	1952
Brown Salton Sea	unknown	1920

Digital copies of these maps are provided on CD as an attachment to this submittal.

Applicant has also identified 33 historical aerial photographs from the years 1943, 1951, 1960, 1970, 1973, 1981, and 1994. They are being provided as an attachment to this submittal and are also provided electronically on CD.

The recent LIDAR survey contour data is also being provided to staff on CD as an attachment to this submittal.

CEC staff had requested a figure showing the proposed utility corridor at BSPP. This figure is provided as an attachment to this submittal.

Historical Aerial Photos

CONFIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



7 (03-1607 34BCX4 2643-10AX6 3/8-280000) BLY THE

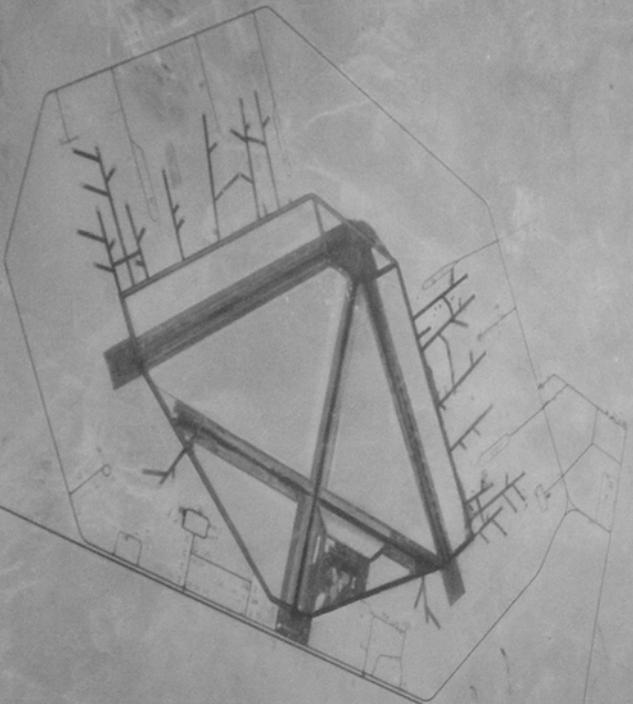
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



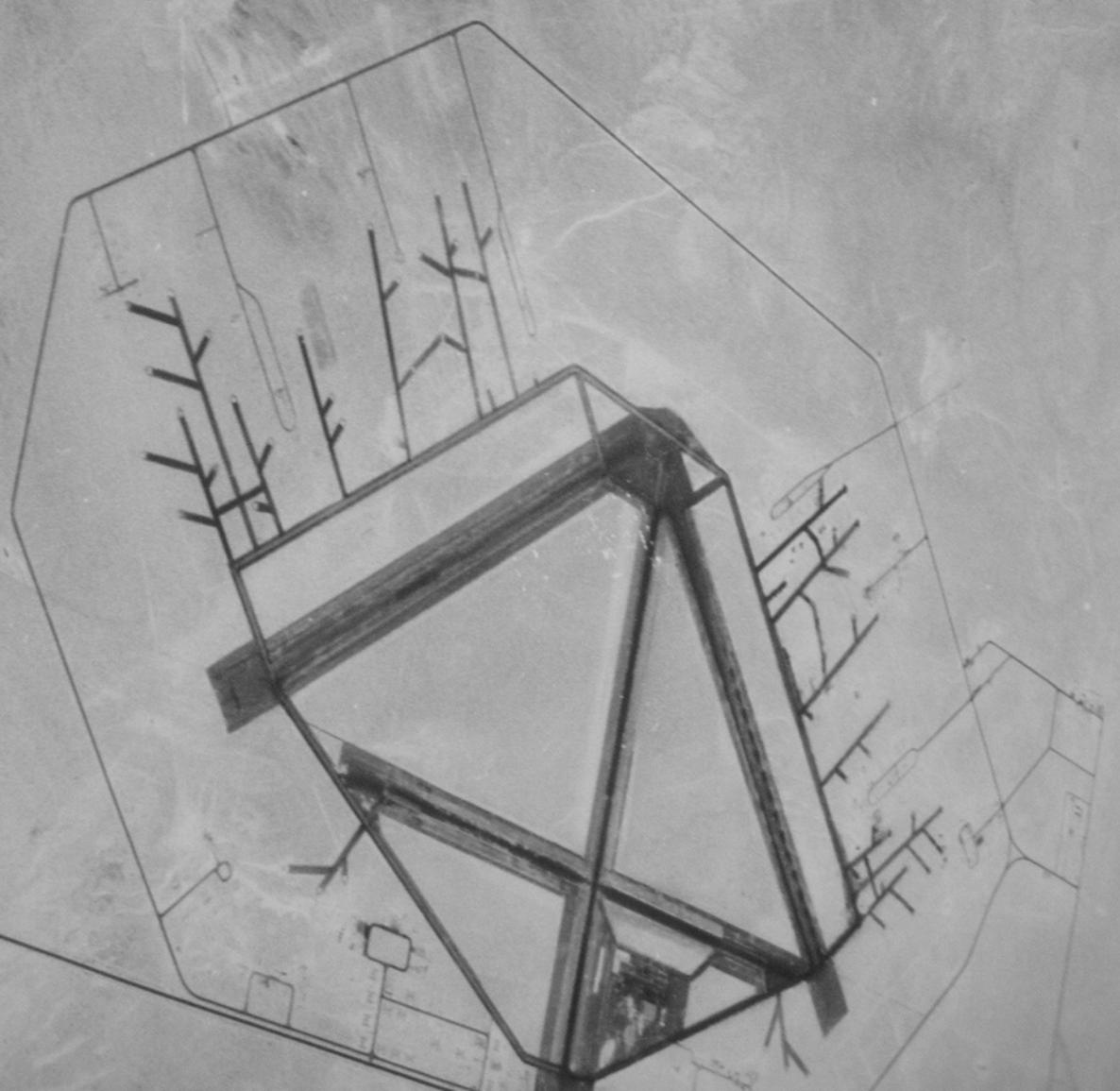
7 (03-160T 34BCXA-2643-10AX6 3/8-28000)BLY THE

(02-160F-34B.C.)X4-28-43-10A(6 3/8-2800)BLY THE



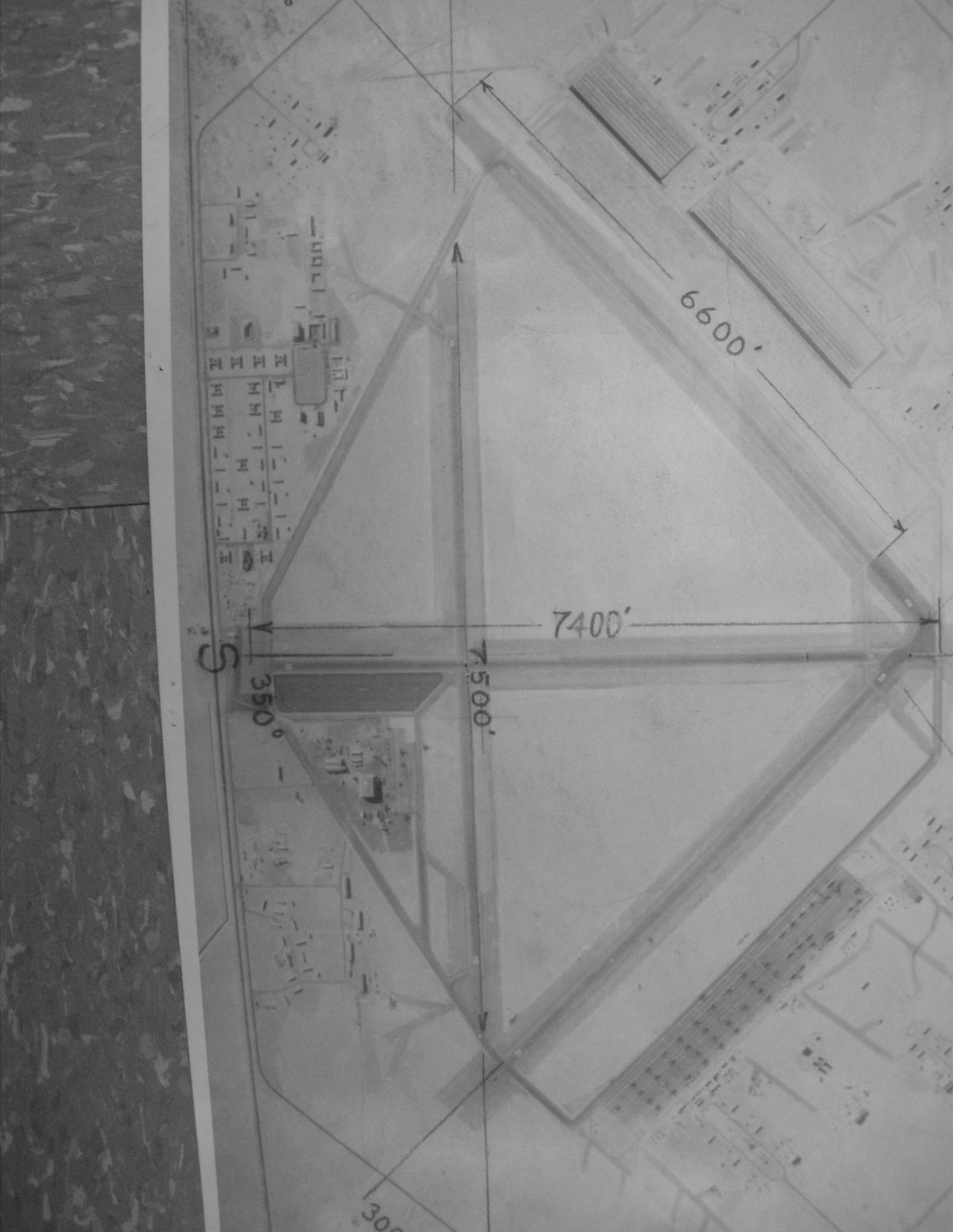
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

CO2-160F-34B.CX4-28-43-10A





02-160F-34B.G.(4-28



6600'

7400'

7500'

350'

Y

300°









6-51

16003

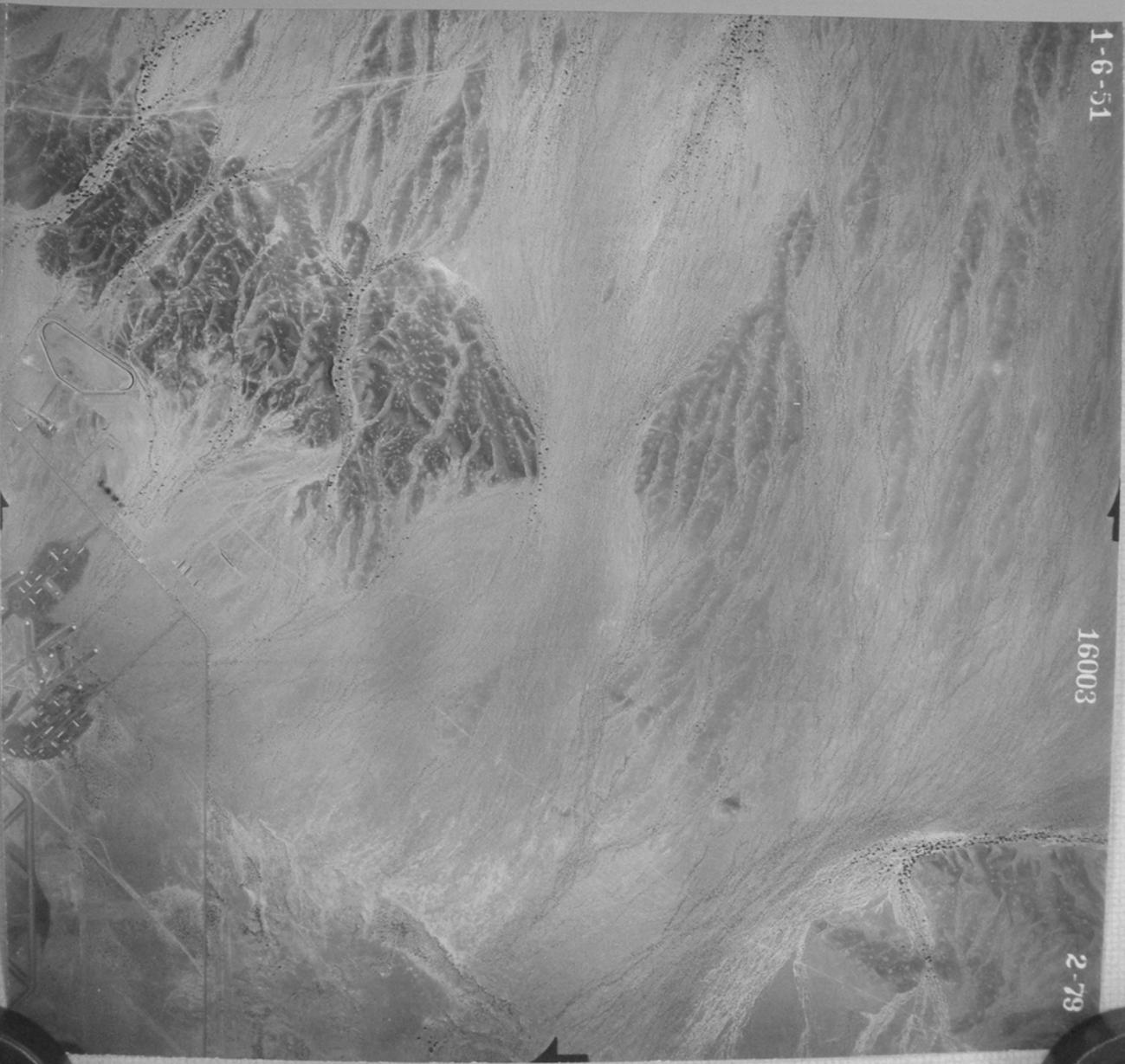
2-131



1-6-51

16003

2-79





1-6-51

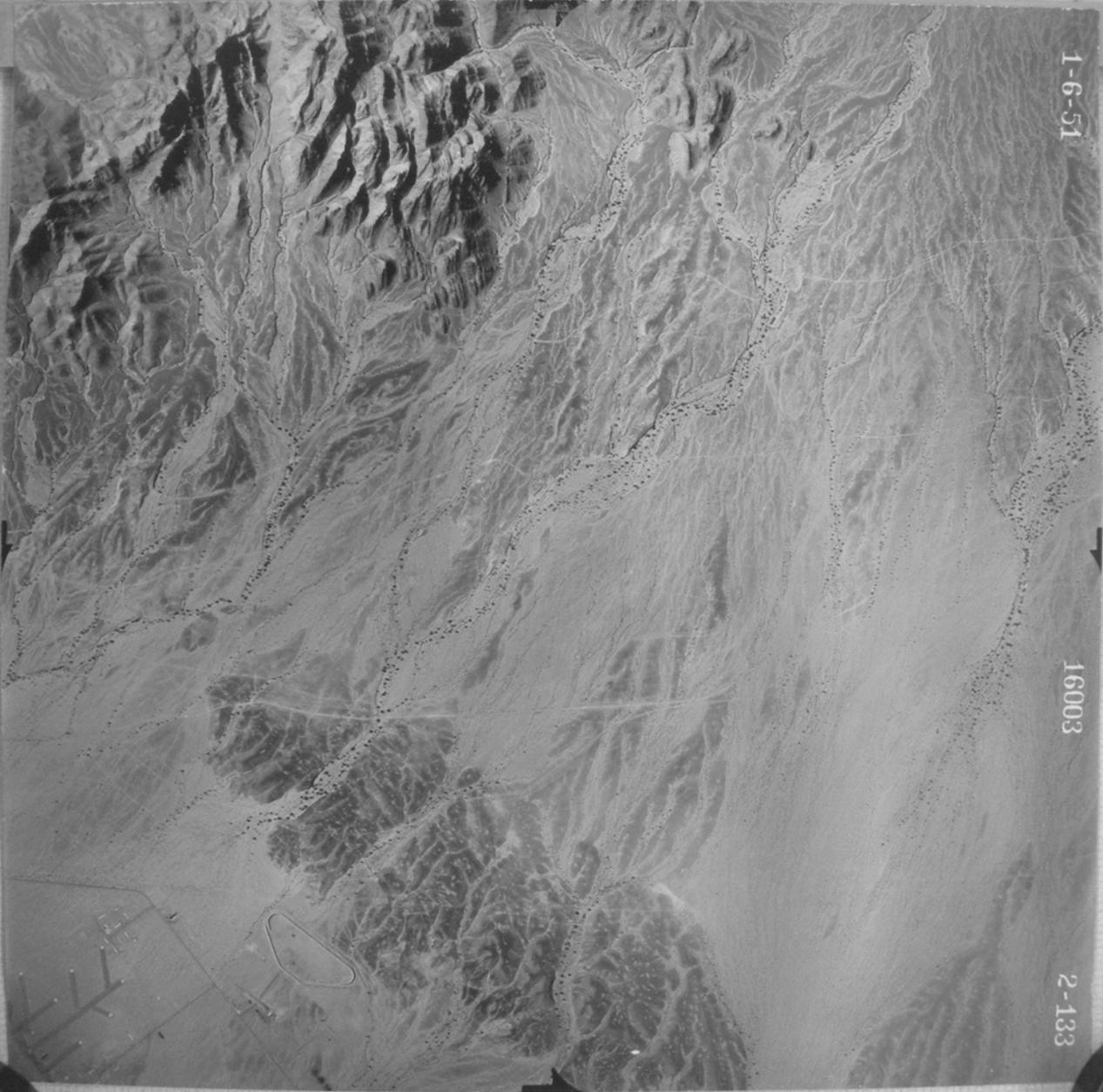
16003

2-77

1-6-51

16003

2-133



1-6-51

16003

2-71





1-6-51

1:20000

16003

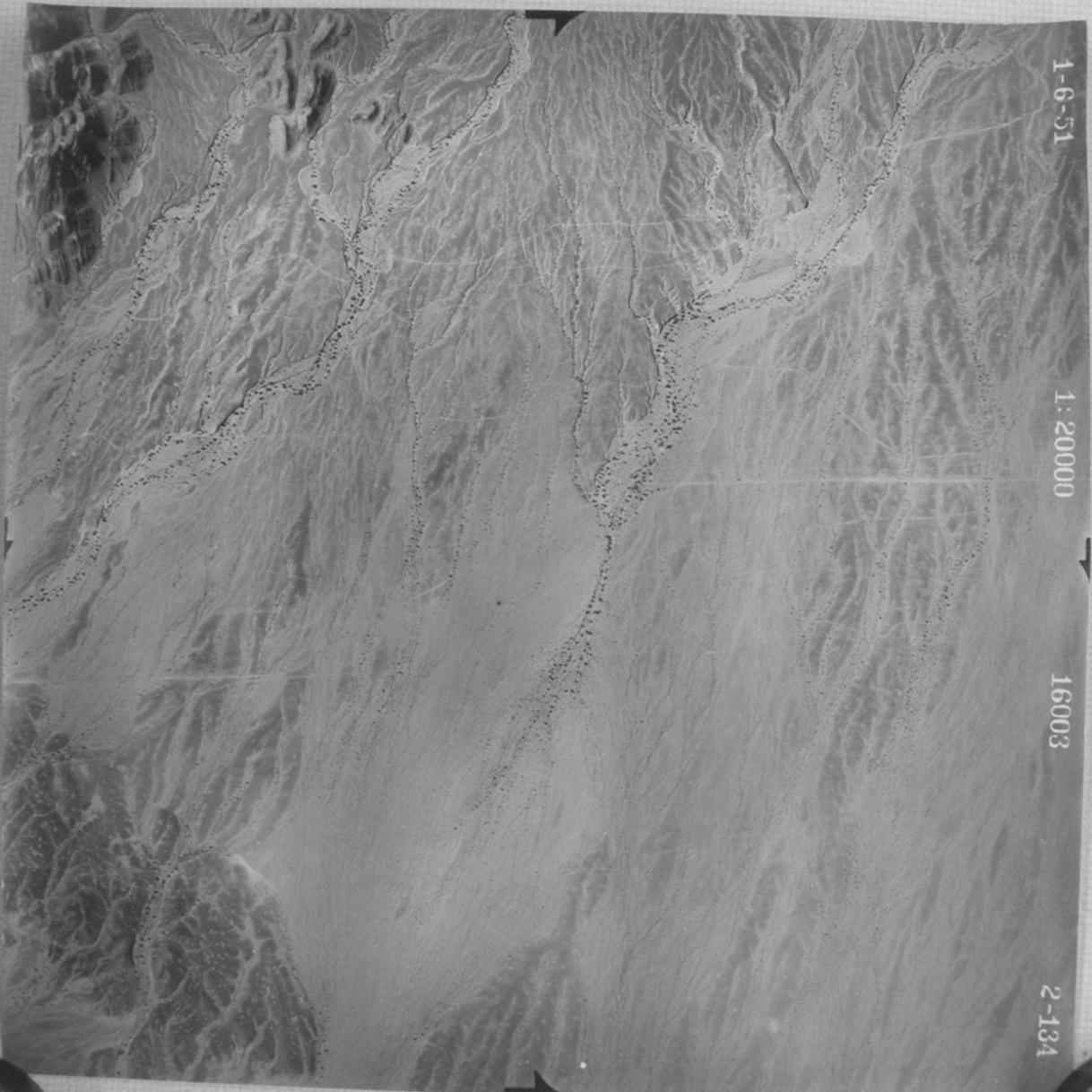
2-75

6-51

16003

2-69



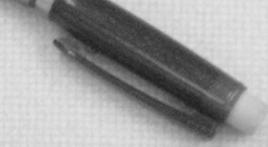
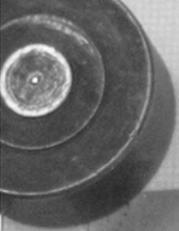


1-6-51

1:20000

16003

2-134

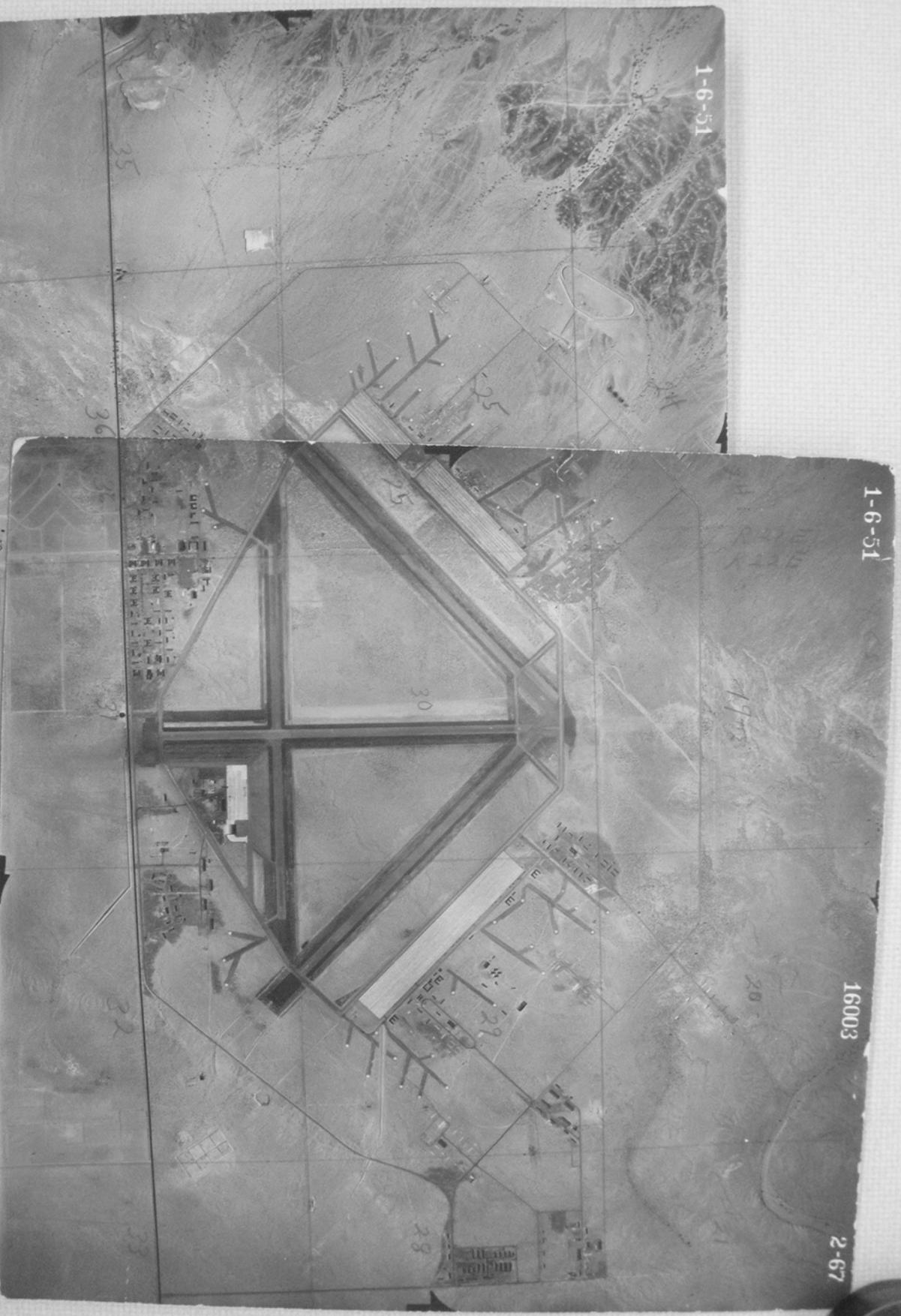


1-6-51

1-6-51

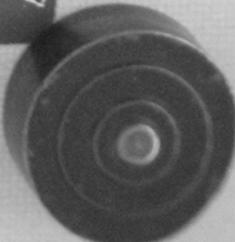
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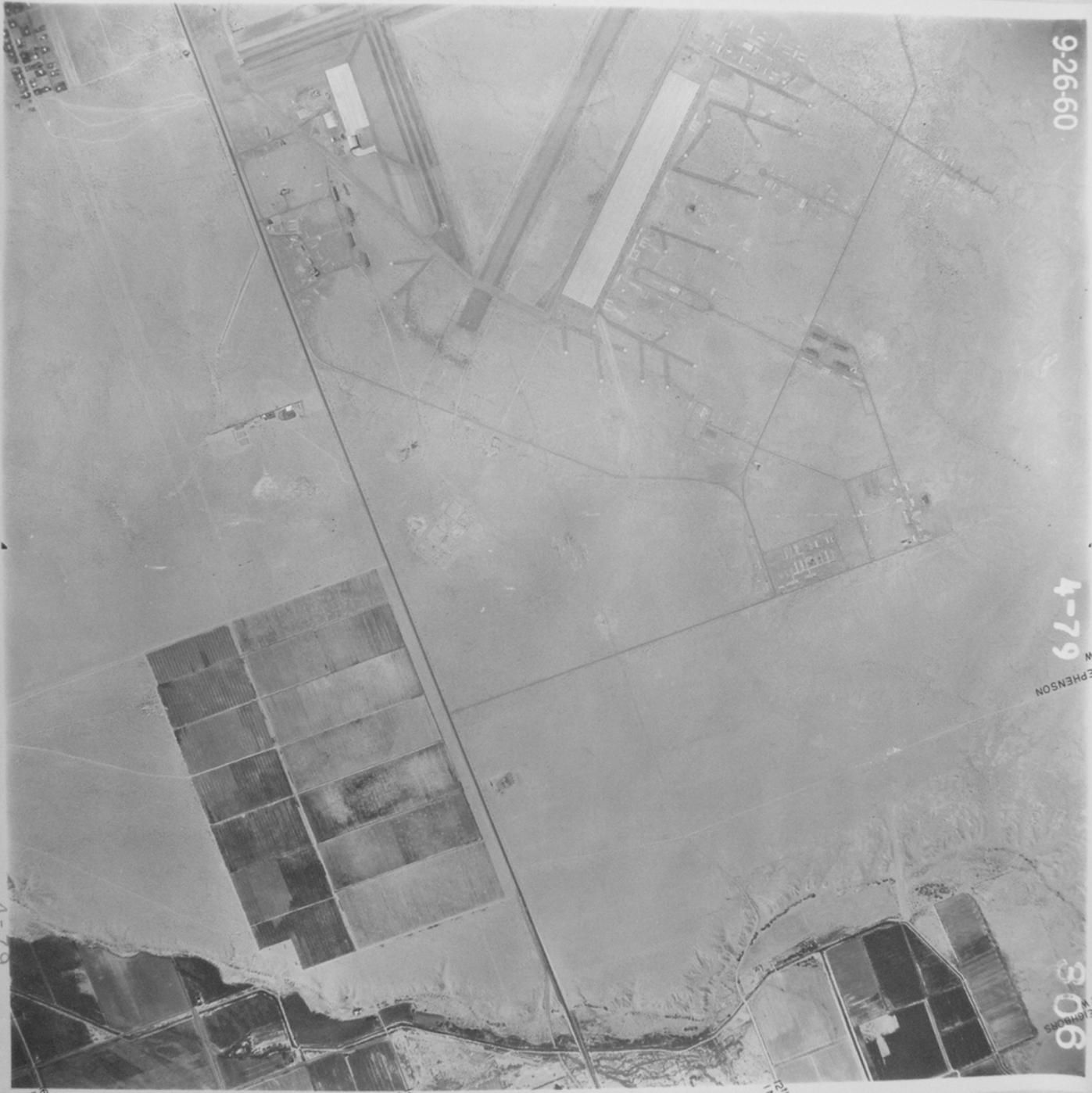
2-67



778

6





9-26-60

4-79

3 W
STEPHENSON

306

2 N
NEIGHBORS

4-79

1915

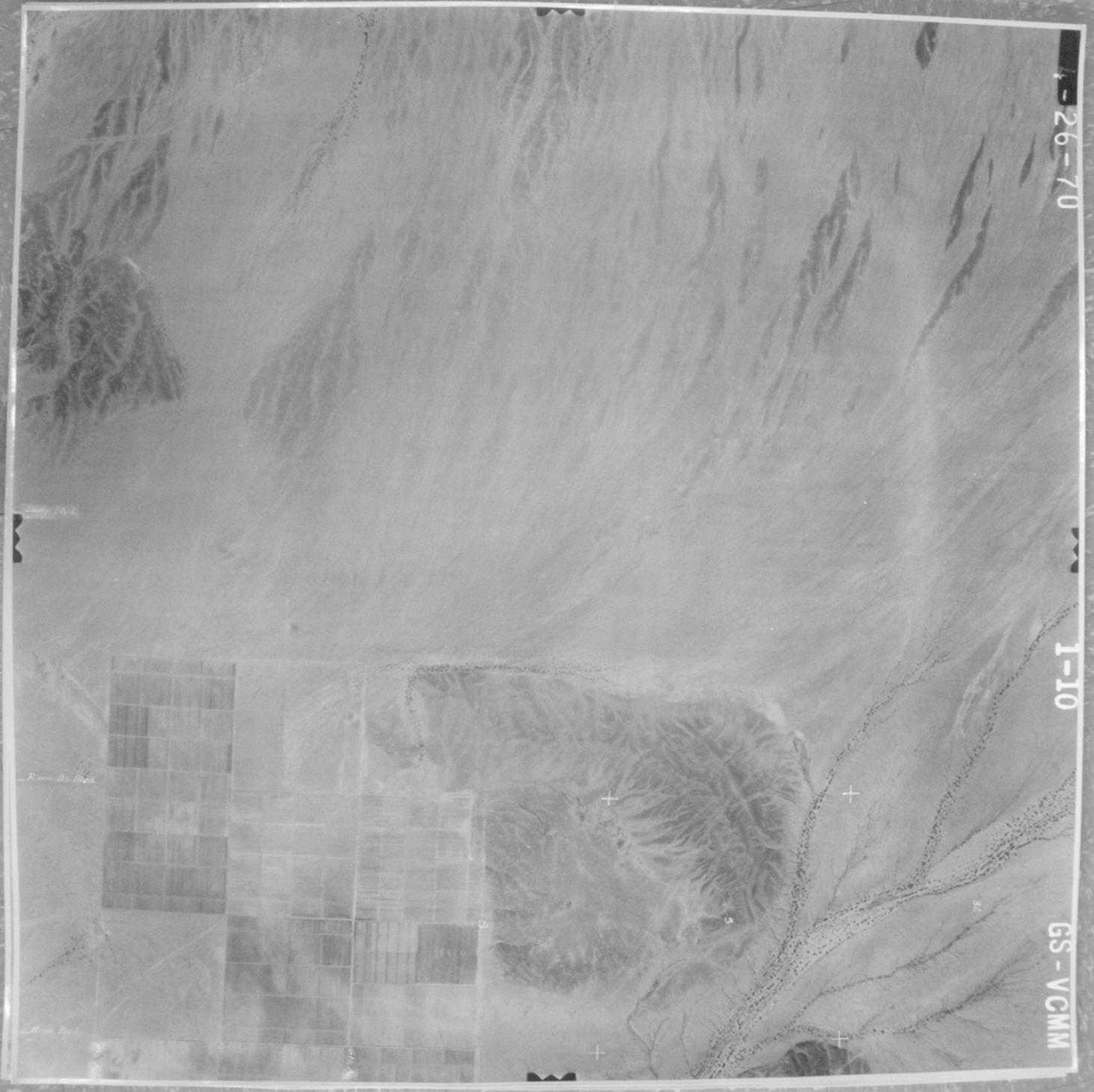
1950

1952

26-70

1-10

GS-VCMM



Coody River

Rumells River



8

+

3

+

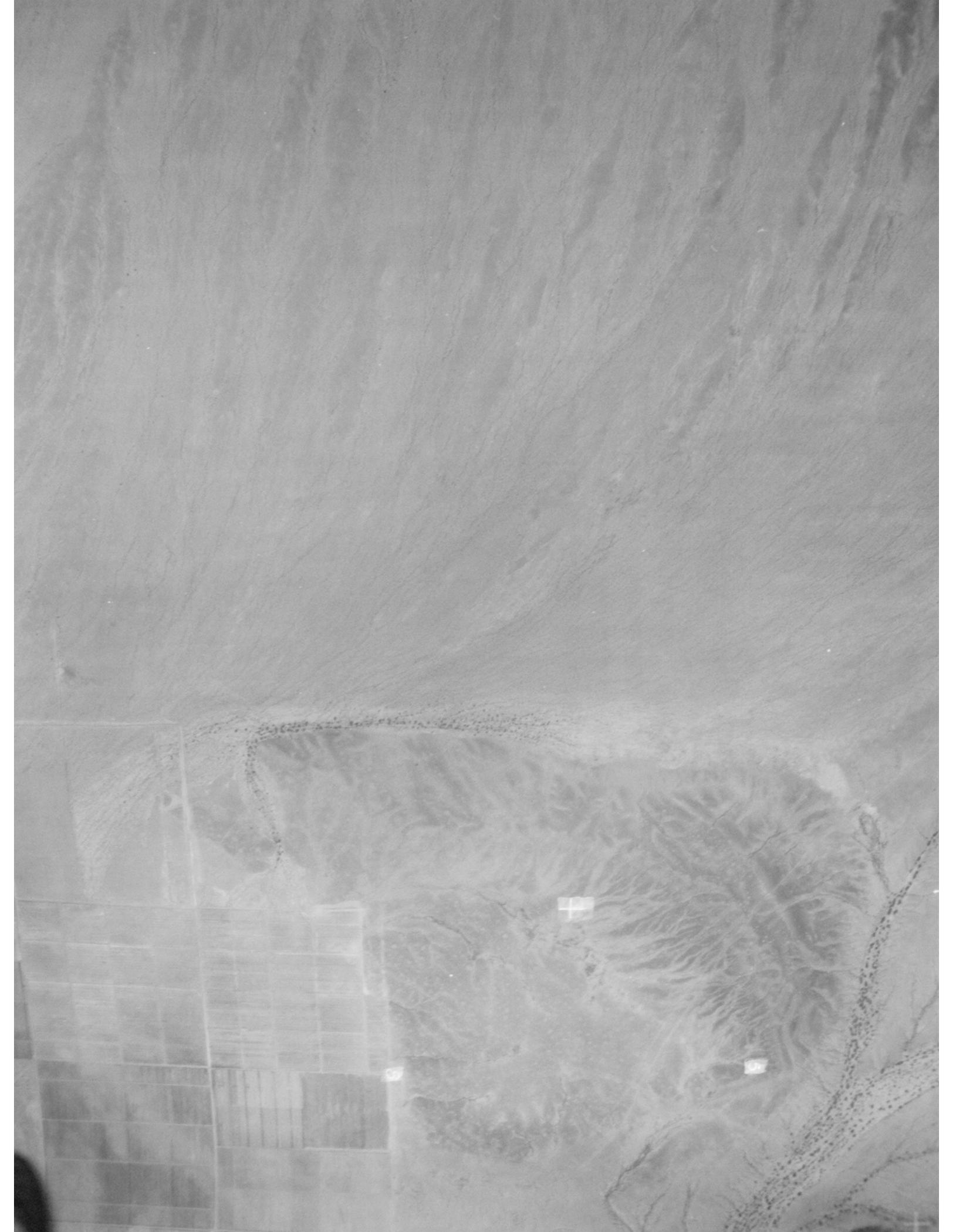


Remains of 1944

study area

1-10

1-26-70



4-26-70

J-12

GS - VCMM



Winnell Park

Daly Blvd

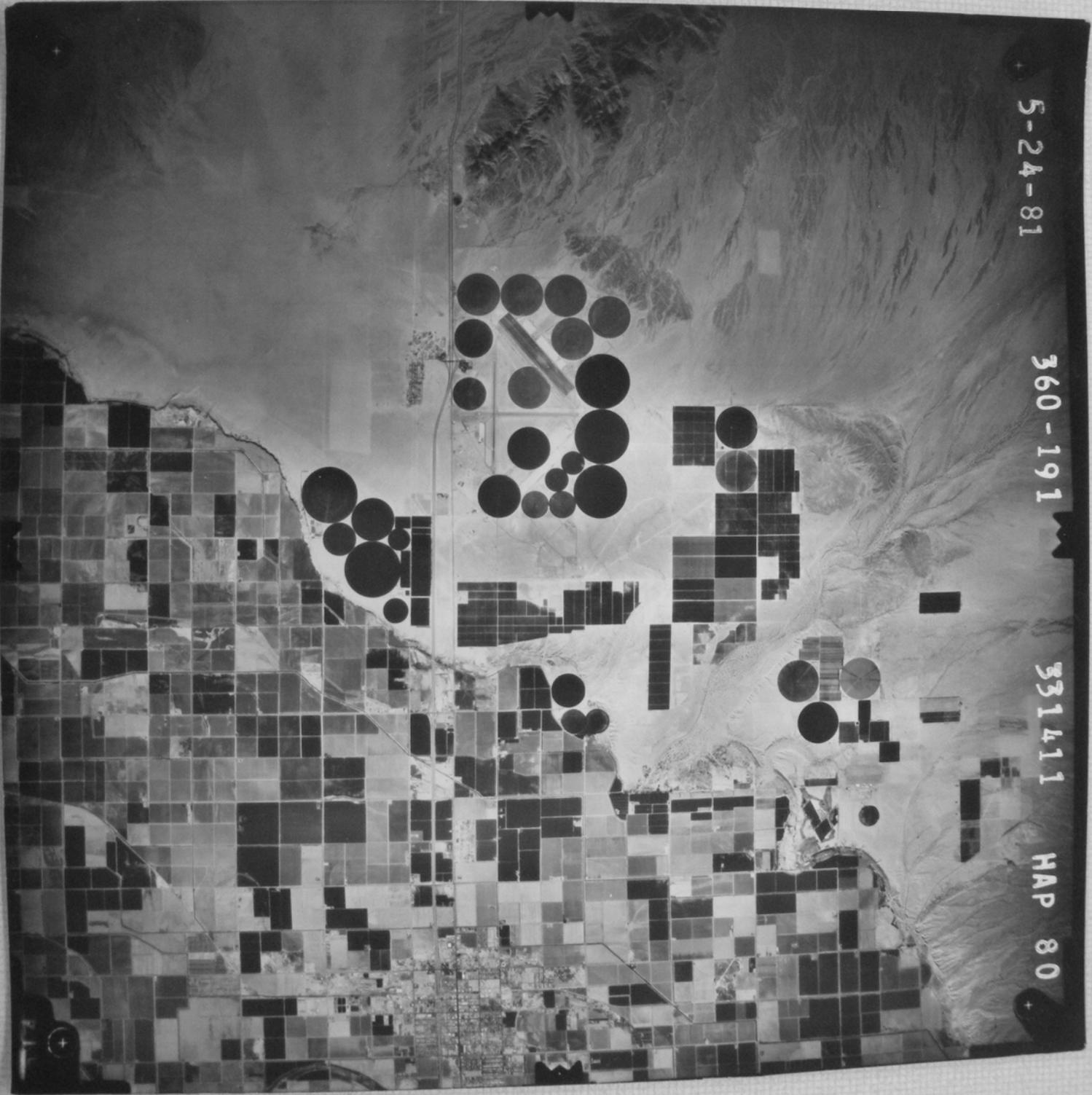
Ronnelle Blvd

Plymouth Ave

4-26-70

1-12





5-24-81

360-191

331411

HAP 80

Scale 1:8000 or 1" = 7325' ±
Project # NHHP80
Roll # 360

RECEIVED

AUG 30 1982

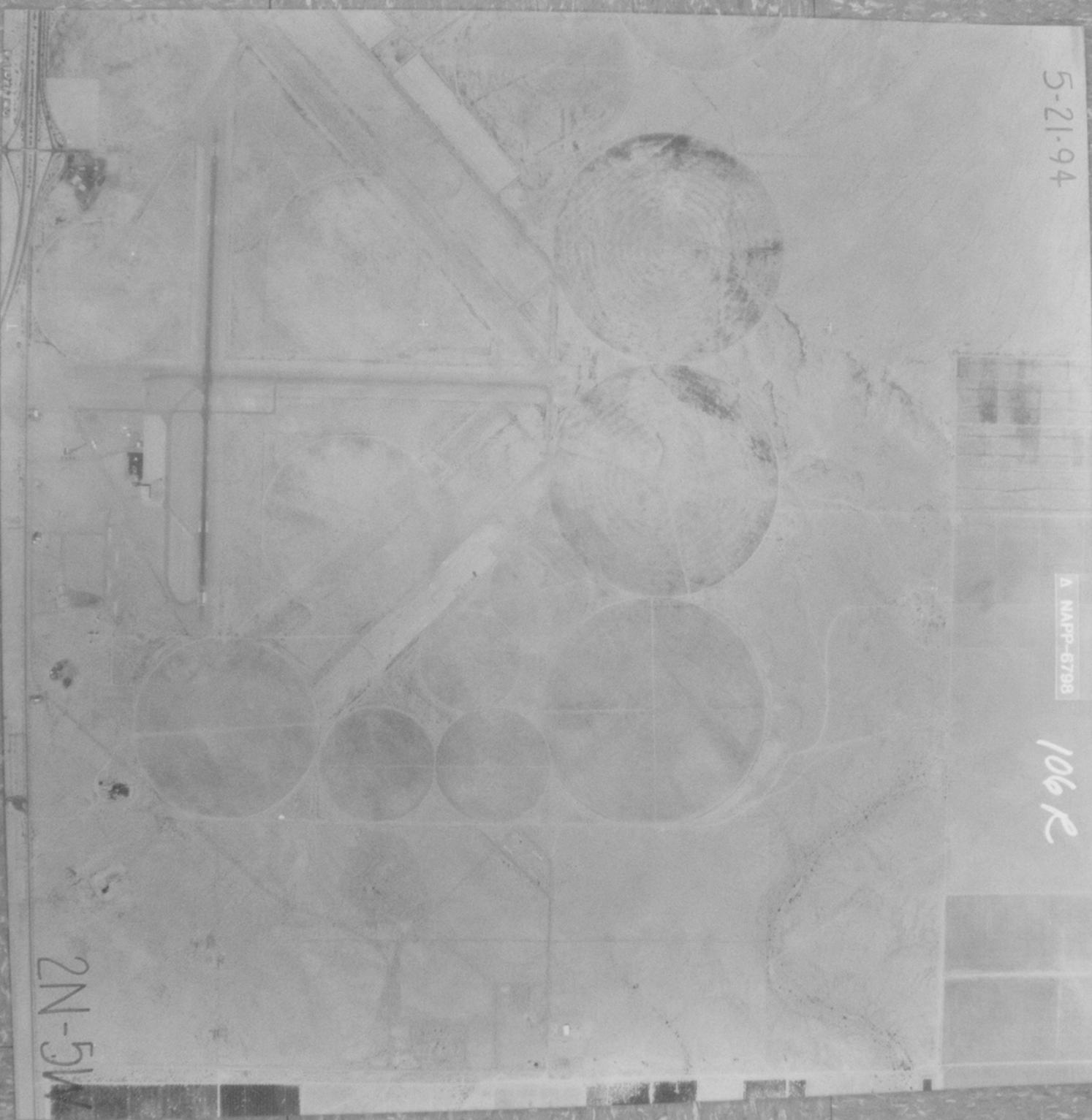
Palo Verde Irrigation District

5-21-94

A NAPP-6798

106R

2N-5W



5-21-94

Δ NAPP-6798

106C

2N-7W

CONFIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

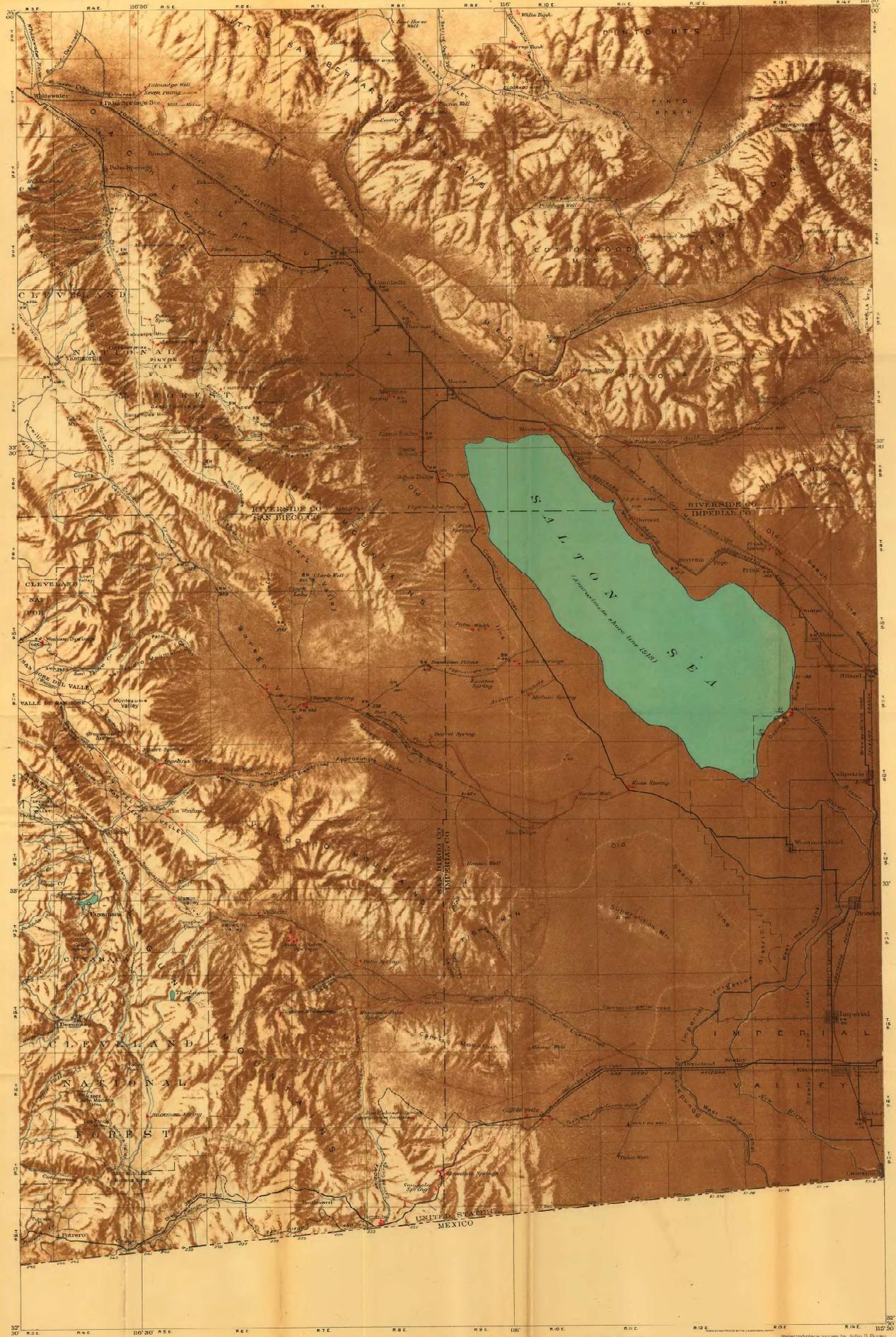


7 (03-1607 34BCX4 2643-10AX6 3/8-280000) BLY THE

CONFIDENTIAL

Brown Salton Sea USGS 1920

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Elevations for certain stations on the Southern Pacific Railroad should be corrected as follows:

Mecca	-196.7
Salton	-198.0
Bartons	-198.8
Prink	-195.1
Niland	-125.8

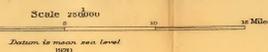
EXPLANATION

- Perennial stream
- Intermittent stream
- Wash (Watercourse that is usually dry)
- Lake
- Playa (Commonly called dry lake or clay flat)
- Nonflowing well
- Flowing well
- Abandoned well or dry hole
- Spring
- Natural reservoir or tank
- Custom or other artificial reservoir
- Irrigation canal, ditch, or pipe line
- Transcontinental automobile route
- Road
- Secondary road
- Trail
- Electric power transmission line
- Signpost erected by U. S. Geological Survey
- Boundary monument
- Bench mark

RELIEF MAP OF THE WESTERN PART OF THE SALTON SEA REGION, CALIF., SHOWING DESERT WATERING PLACES

Compiled from plane table sheets by John G. Brown, U. S. Geologist and Kenney hydrographic maps, irrigation survey maps, maps of the Imperial Boundary Commission, bearing parts of the General Land Office, and other sources. Relief shading by John H. Rosshaw.

Watering places surveyed by John G. Brown. Surveyed in 1917-1918.



Distances to nearest sea level 1920



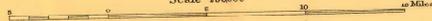
- EXPLANATION**
- Perennial stream
 - Intermittent stream
 - Wash (Watercourse that is usually dry)
 - Playa (Commonly called dry lake or clay flat)
 - Nonflowing well
 - Flowing well
 - Abandoned well or dry hole
 - Spring
 - Natural reservoir or tank
 - Cistern or other artificial reservoir
 - Irrigation canal, ditch, or pipe line
 - Transcontinental automobile route
 - Road
 - Secondary road
 - Trail
 - Electric power transmission line
 - Signpost erected by U. S. Geological Survey
 - Boundary monument recovered
 - Bench mark

RELIEF MAP OF THE EASTERN PART OF THE SALTON SEA REGION, CALIF., SHOWING DESERT WATERING PLACES

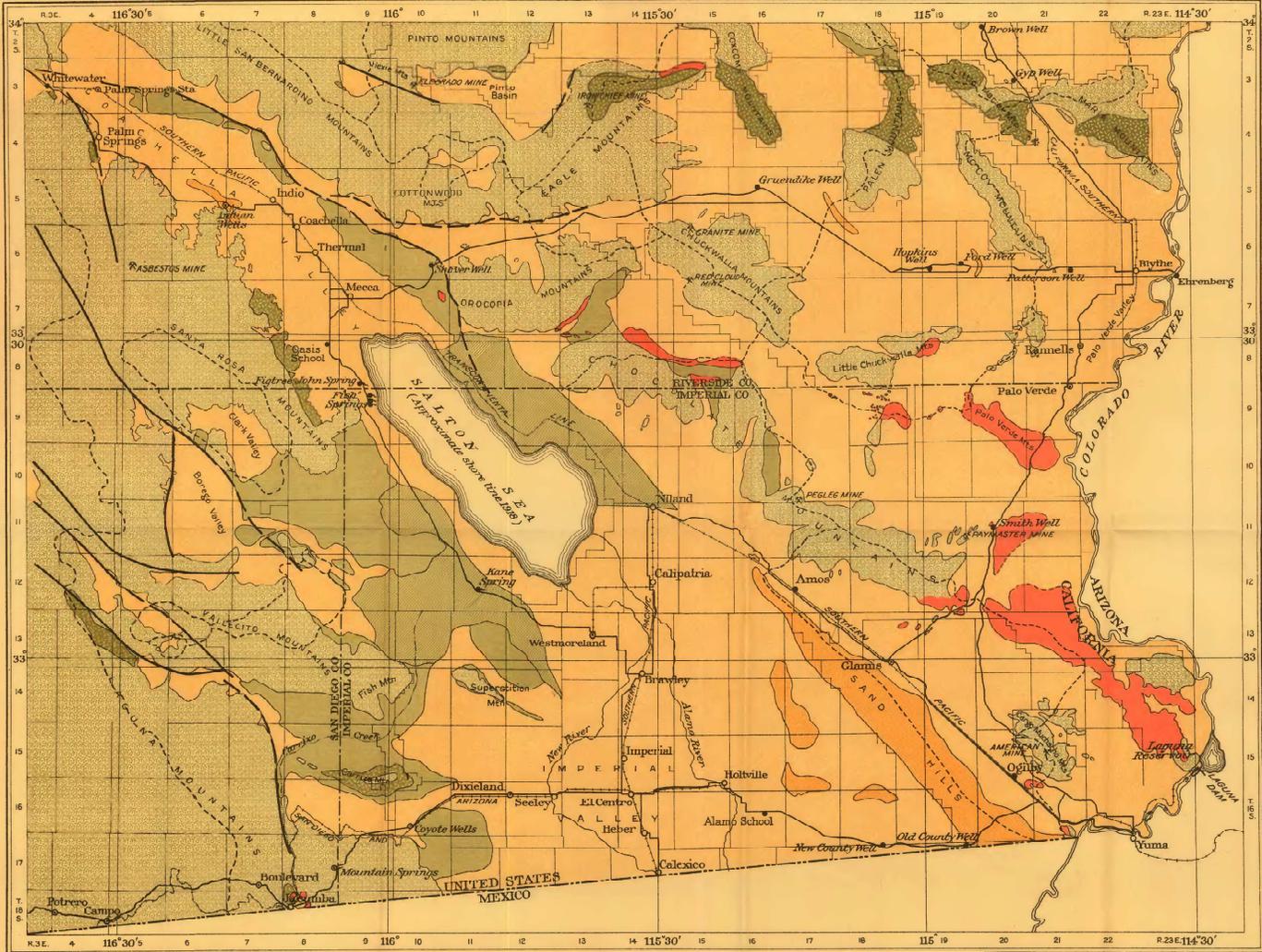
Compiled from plane table sheets by John S. Brown U. S. Geological Survey based on maps of irrigation survey, maps of the International Boundary Commission, township plats of the General Land Office, and other sources. Relief shading by John H. Beselaw.

Watering place survey by John S. Brown Surveyed in 1877-1908

Scale 250000



Distances in miles, sea level 1920

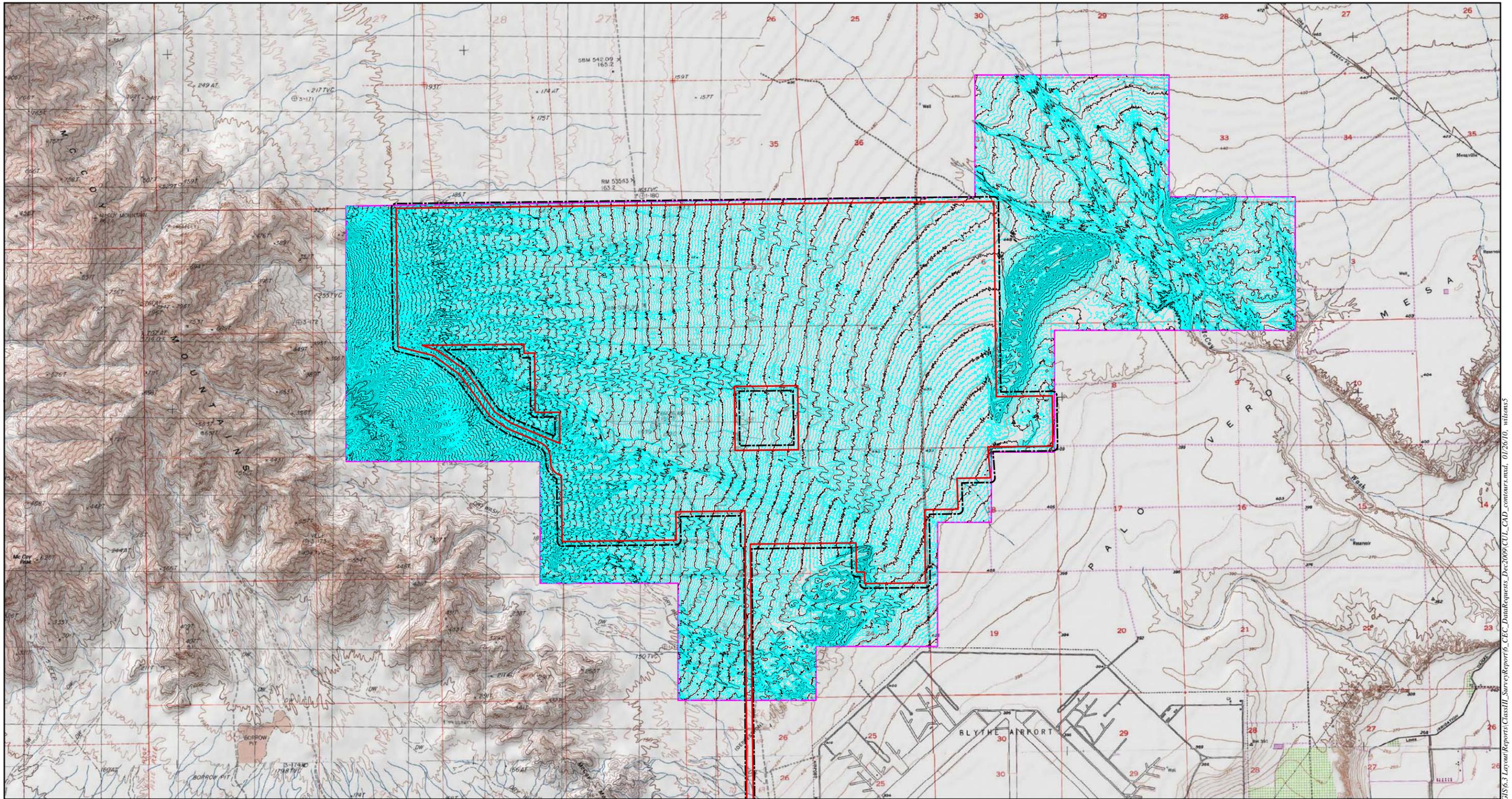


EXPLANATION

- Dune sand
- Alluvium
(Silt, sand, and conglomerate, unconsolidated and usually undisturbed)
- T₁ T₂
- Too stratified clay, sand, and conglomerate, poorly consolidated, highly gypsiferous in places, usually tilted, well broken. In part marine, in part terrestrial. Top Eocene (Oreoceras) on T₂ but beveled by wave action and likely veneered with silt; exposed by erosion in arroyos
- Metamorphic sedimentary rocks
(Mudstone, quartzite, slate, and gneiss beds in western part of region; marble and argonaceous schist or slate in western part of region; all highly metamorphic. Probably chiefly pre-Cambrian or Paleozoic but may include some Mesozoic rocks)
- IGNEOUS ROCKS**
- Volcanic extrusives
(Andesite, rhyolite, basalt, obsidian. Probably mainly Tertiary)
- Granite, diorite, gabbro, and some schists
(Probably pre-Cambrian in eastern part of region; chiefly Paleozoic intrusions, probably Mesozoic in western part of region)
- Fault
(Doubtful where broken)
- Drainage divide
- Water only
- Water, provisions, and automobile supplies
- Important town; hotel accommodations, garages, etc.

RECONNAISSANCE GEOLOGIC MAP OF SALTON SEA REGION, CALIFORNIA
SHOWING ALSO DRAINAGE DIVIDES

Blythe Solar Power Project Lidar Data



Legend

- Area of Potential Effects (7,243 acres)
- CEC Buffers (Additional 629 acres)

Source: USGS 7.5" Quadrangle McCoy Peak (1983), McCoy Wash (1975), and Roosevelt Mine (1983); AECOM 2009

N
W E
S

1 inch = 4,000 feet

0 4,000 8,000
Feet

Blythe Solar Power Project

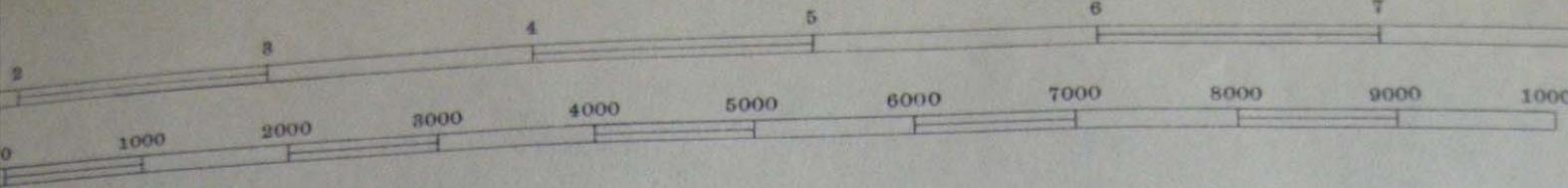
Lidar Data




Date: January 2010

Path: P:\2009\0908082_Sol.Mt.Blythe\6.0 GIS\6.3 Layout\Reports\ClassIII_Survey\Report6_CEC_Data\Request_CAD_data\Contours.mxd_01/26/10_wilsons

Ehrenberg 1943-1 Photo



INDIO 88 MI.
DESERT CENTER 40 MI. (McCoy Spring)

1170

1165

BM D133
71393



ARMY AIR BASE

BLYTHE

ERDE

BLYTHE
387

BM F133
336

MESA

RLY
362

BLVD

DRAIN

McCoy SPRING QUADRANGLE
GRID ZONE "F"

14°45' 33"45"

GRID ZONE "F"

11300/15

2400

2410

2420

2430

2440

2450

2460

2470

2480

2490

2500

2510

2520

2530

2540

2550

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2570

2580

2590

2600

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2980

2990

3000

3010

3020

3030

3040

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3070

3080

3090

3100

3110

3120

3130

3140

3150

3160

3170

3180

3190

3200

3210

3220

3230

3240

3250

3260

3270

3280

3290

3300

3310

3320

3330

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3700

3710

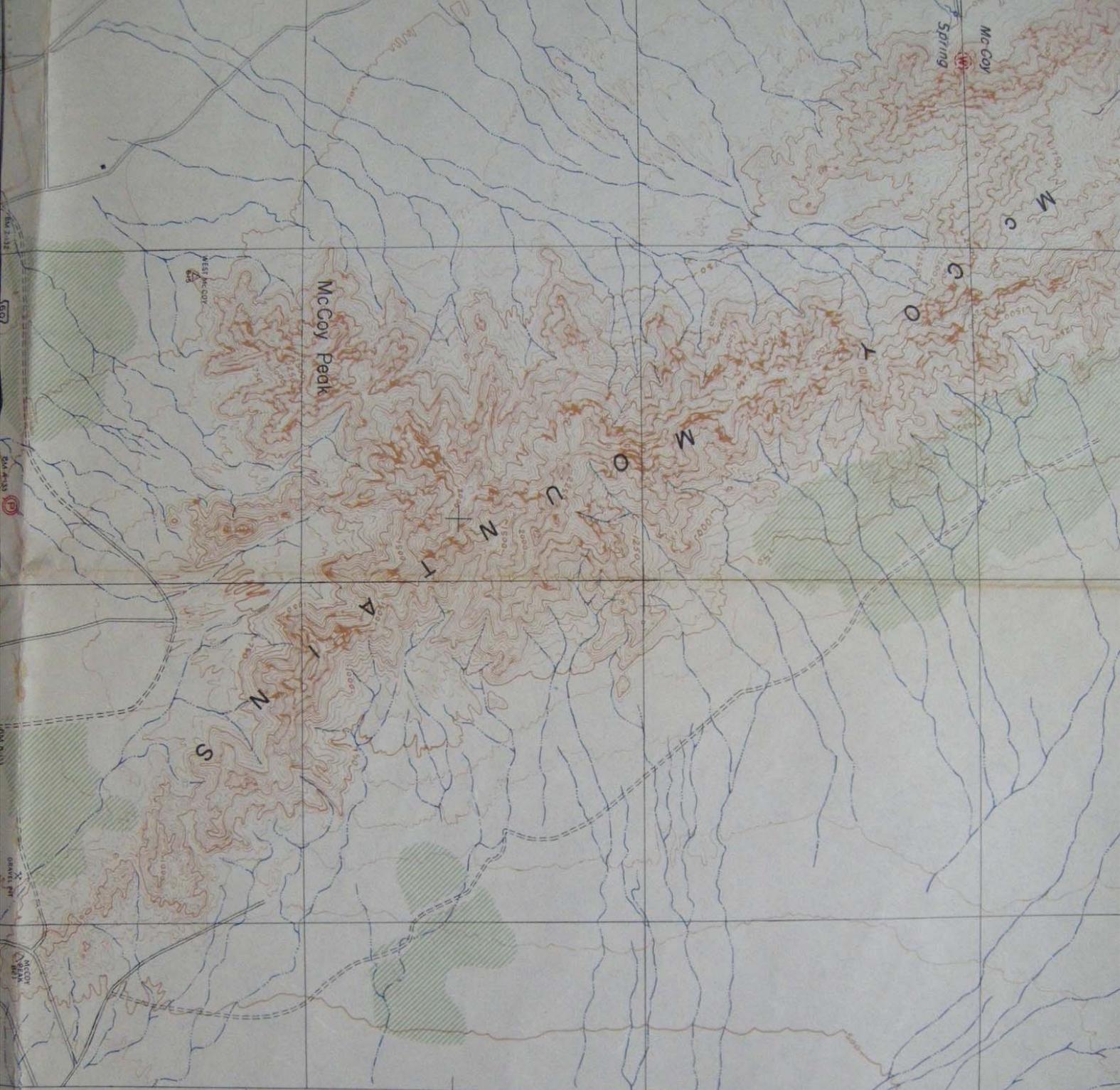
3720

3730

3740

3750

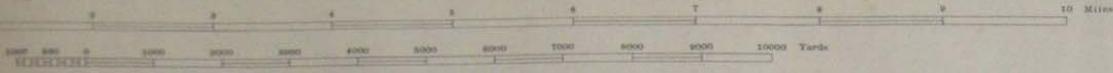
3760



(EHRENBERG)

40

Ehrenberg 1943-2 Photo



CALIFORNIA ARIZONA
EHRENBERG QUADRANGLE
GRID ZONE "P"
NAD 83 11N 107W 15

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY

Adverse Edition
Subject to Correction

McCoy SPRING QUADRANGLE
GRID ZONE "F"

14°45' 33"45"

GRID ZONE "F"

11300/15

2400

2410

2420

2430

2440

2450

2460

2470

2480

2490

2500

2510

2520

2530

2540

2550

2560

2570

2580

2590

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2800

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2980

2990

3000

3010

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3070

3080

3090

3100

3110

3120

3130

3140

3150

3160

3170

3180

3190

3200

3210

3220

3230

3240

3250

3260

3270

3280

3290

3300

3310

3320

3330

3340

3350

3360

3370

3380

3390

3400

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3780

3790

3800

3810

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3830

3840

3850

3860

3870

3880

3890

3900

3910

3920

3930

3940

3950

3960

3970

3980

3990

4000

4010

4020

4030

4040

4050

4060

4070

4080

4090

4100

4110

4120

4130

4140

4150

4160

4170

4180

4190

4200

4210

4220

4230

4240

4250

4260

4270

4280

4290

4300

4310

4320

4330

4340

4350

4360

4370

4380

4390

4400

4410

4420

4430

4440

4450

4460

4470

4480

4490

4500

4510

4520

4530

4540

4550

4560

4570

4580

4590

4600

4610

4620

4630

4640

4650

4660

4670

4680

4690

4700

4710

4720

4730

4740

4750

4760

4770

4780

4790

4800

4810

4820

4830

4840

4850

4860

4870

4880

4890

4900

4910

4920

4930

4940

4950

4960

4970

4980

4990

5000

5010

5020

5030

5040

5050

5060

5070

5080

5090

5100

5110

5120

5130

5140

5150

5160

5170

5180

5190

5200

5210

5220

5230

5240

5250

5260

5270

5280

5290

5300

5310

5320

5330

5340

5350

5360

5370

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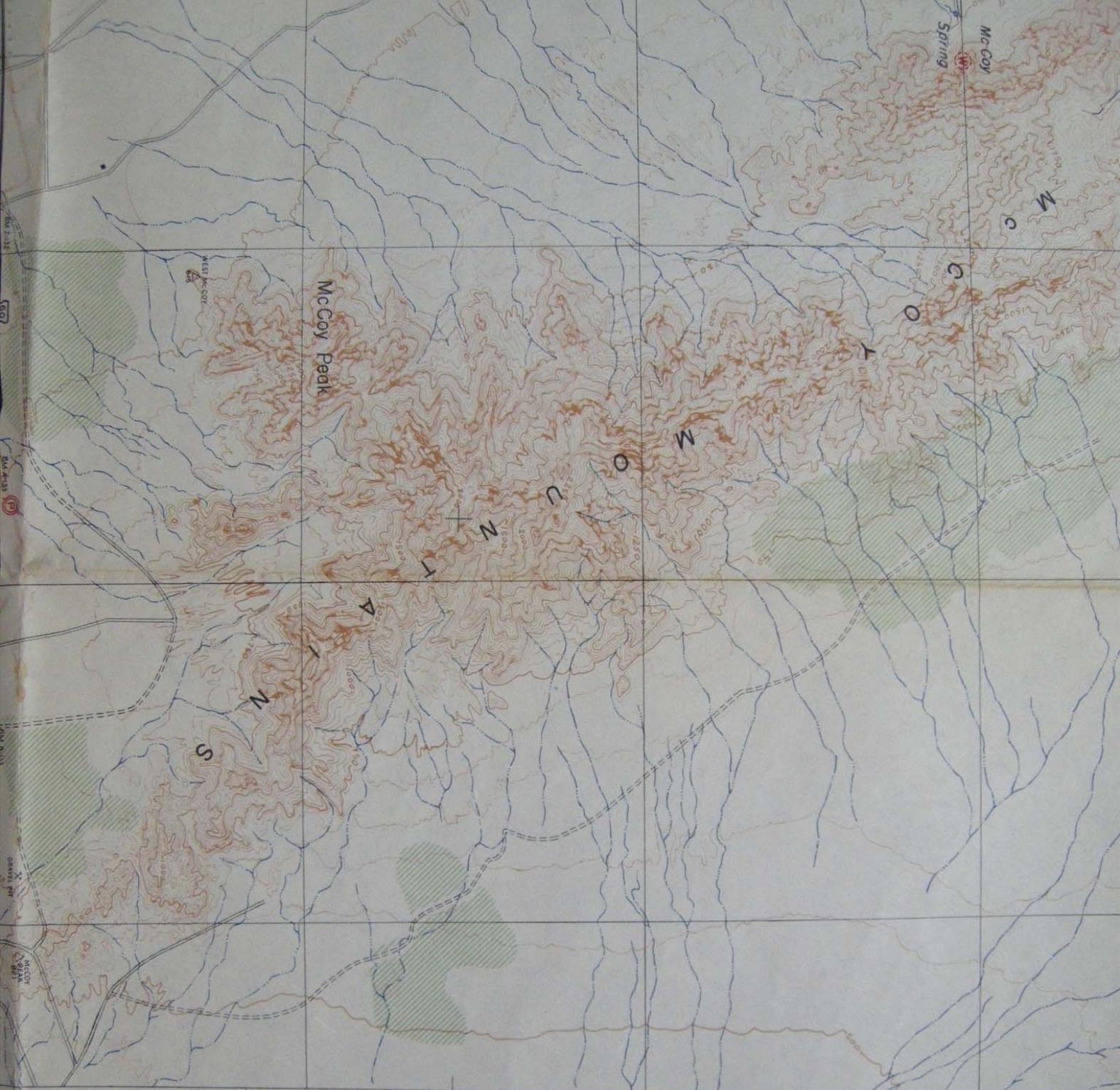
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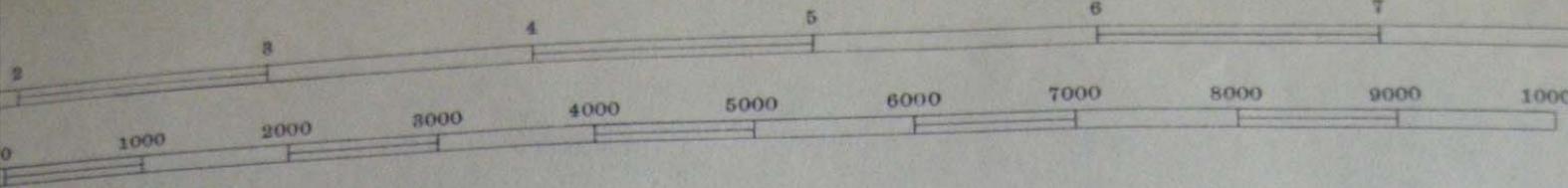
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(EHRENBERG)

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INDIO 88 MI.
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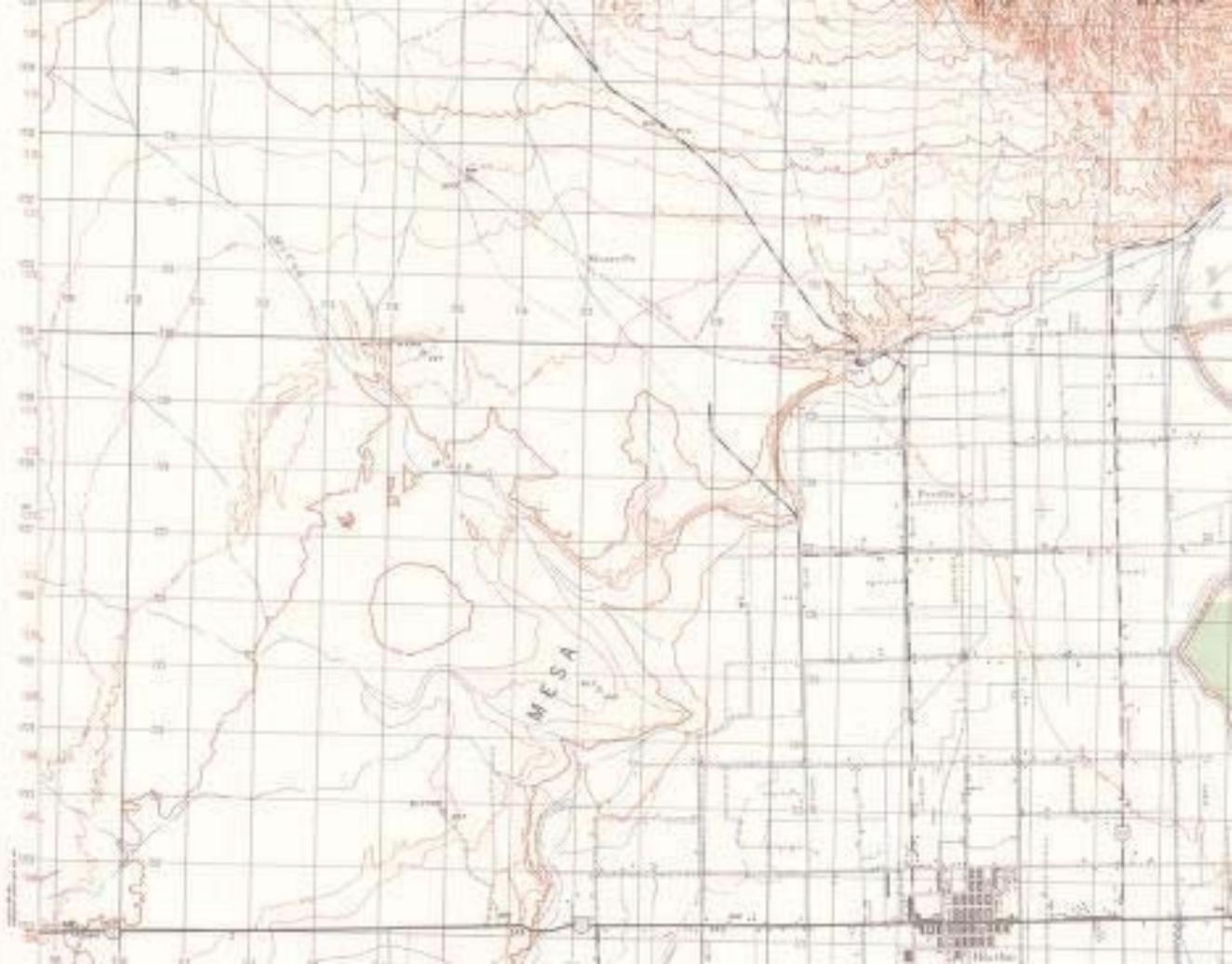
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BLVD

DRAIN

Ehrenberg 1947 Photo



Ehrenberg and McCoy Spring Photo

McCoy SPRING QUADRANGLE
GRID ZONE "F"

14°45' 33"45"

GRID ZONE "F"

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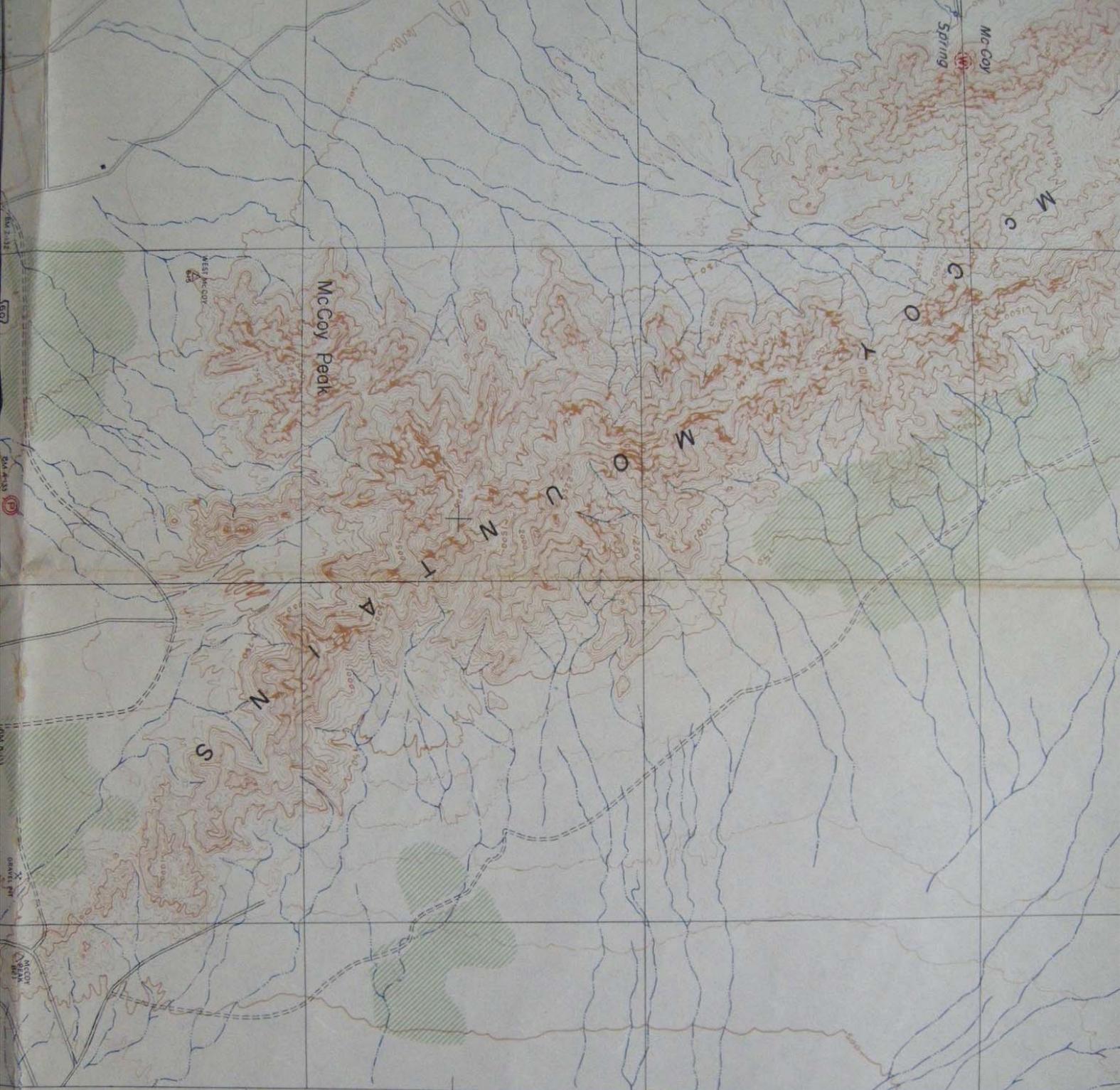
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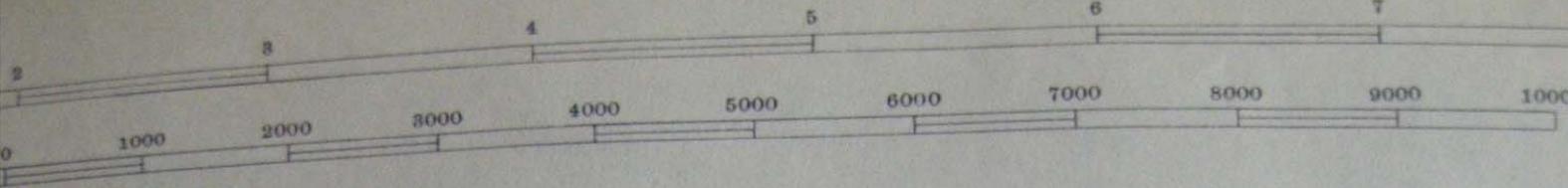
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INDIO 88 MI.
DESERT CENTER 40 MI. (McCoy Spring)

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ARMY AIR BASE

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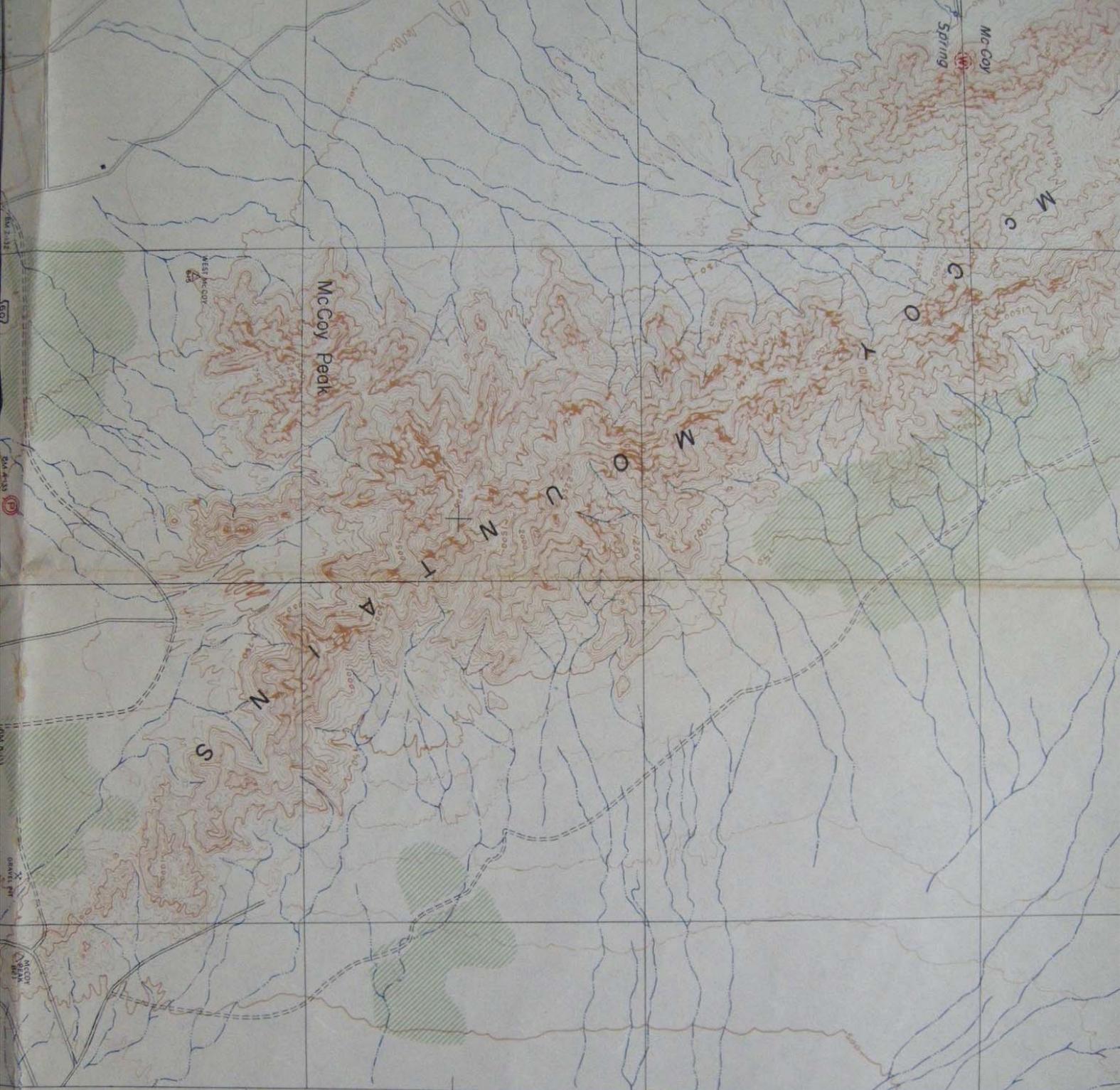
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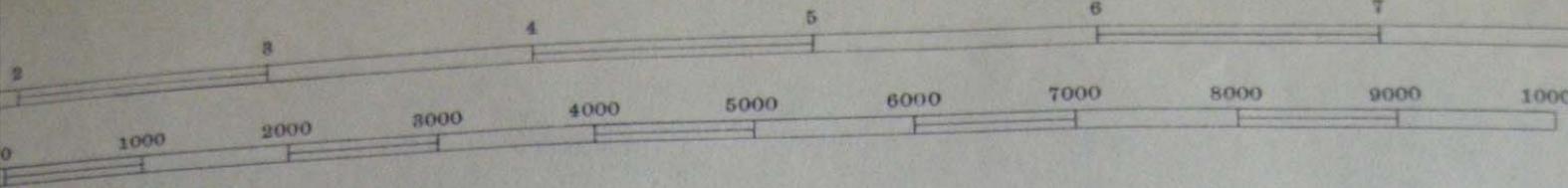
DRAIN

McCoy Spring 1943 Photo



(EHRENBERG)

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INDIO 88 MI.
DESERT CENTER 40 MI. (McCoy Spring)

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ARMY AIR BASE
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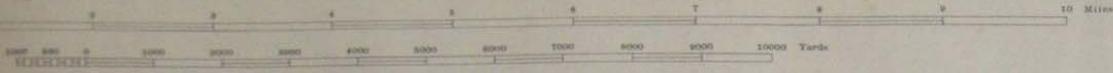
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CALIFORNIA ARIZONA
EHRENBERG QUADRANGLE
GRID ZONE "P"
NAD 83 11N 107E 15

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY

Adverse Edition
Subject to Correction

McCoy SPRING QUADRANGLE
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14°45' 33"45"

GRID ZONE "F"

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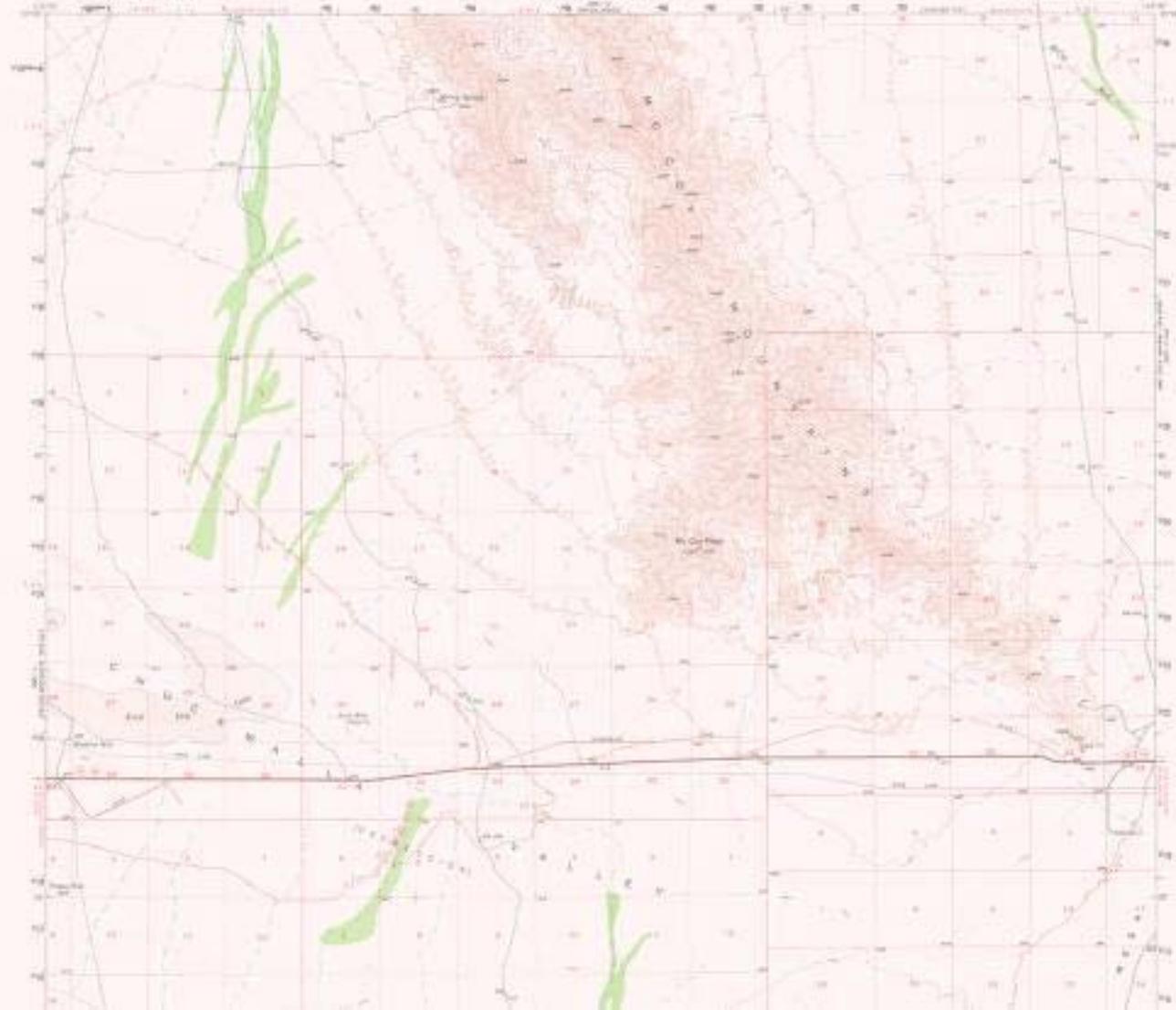
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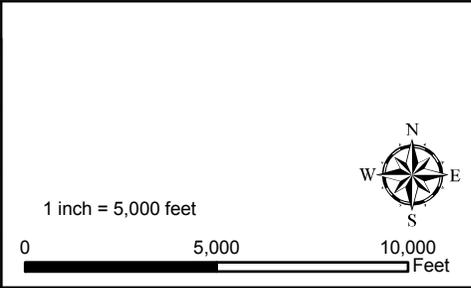
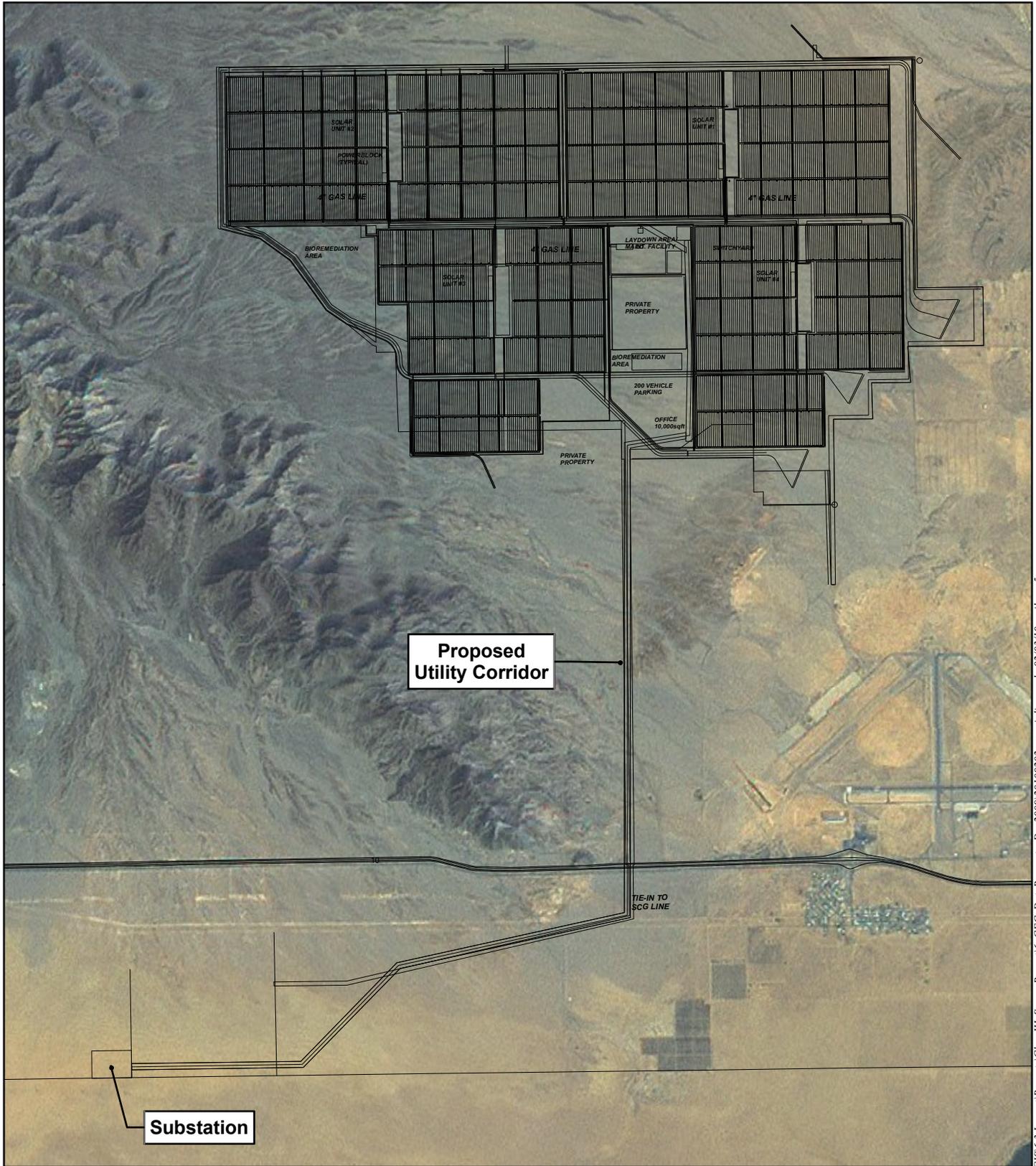
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McCoy Spring 1952 Photo



Proposed Utility Corridor



Blythe Solar Power Project
Proposed Utility Corridor

Source: NAIP, 2005; USGS 7.5" Quadrangle McCoy Peak (1983), McCoy Wash (1975), and Roosevelt Mine (1983); AECOM 2009

Palo Verde Solar I, LLC

AECOM

Date: February 2010

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
for the *BLYTHE SOLAR POWER PROJECT*

Docket No. 09-AFC-6
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 1/26/2010)

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Staff Counsel
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Public Adviser's Office
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Carl Lindner, declare that on, February 4, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Blythe Solar Power Project Data Response Materials:

Data Responses to January 14, 2010 CEC Workshop Queries
Technical Areas: Biological Resources and Cultural Resources
Data Responses to January 29, 2010 CEC Staff Email Query
Technical Area: Traffic & Transportation

The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

[\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_blythe\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_blythe).

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

_____ sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

X by personal delivery or by overnight delivery service or depositing in the United States mail at Camarillo, California with postage or fees thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list above to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

For filing with the Energy Commission:

X sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (preferred method);

OR

_____ depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, along with 13 CDs, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-6
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.