

# **WESTERN MINERALS RAILROAD AND ASSOCIATED MINING AREAS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is part of a research project that describes the relationships between mines and railroads in the Mojave Desert and southwestern Great Basin of southeastern California and southwestern Nevada.

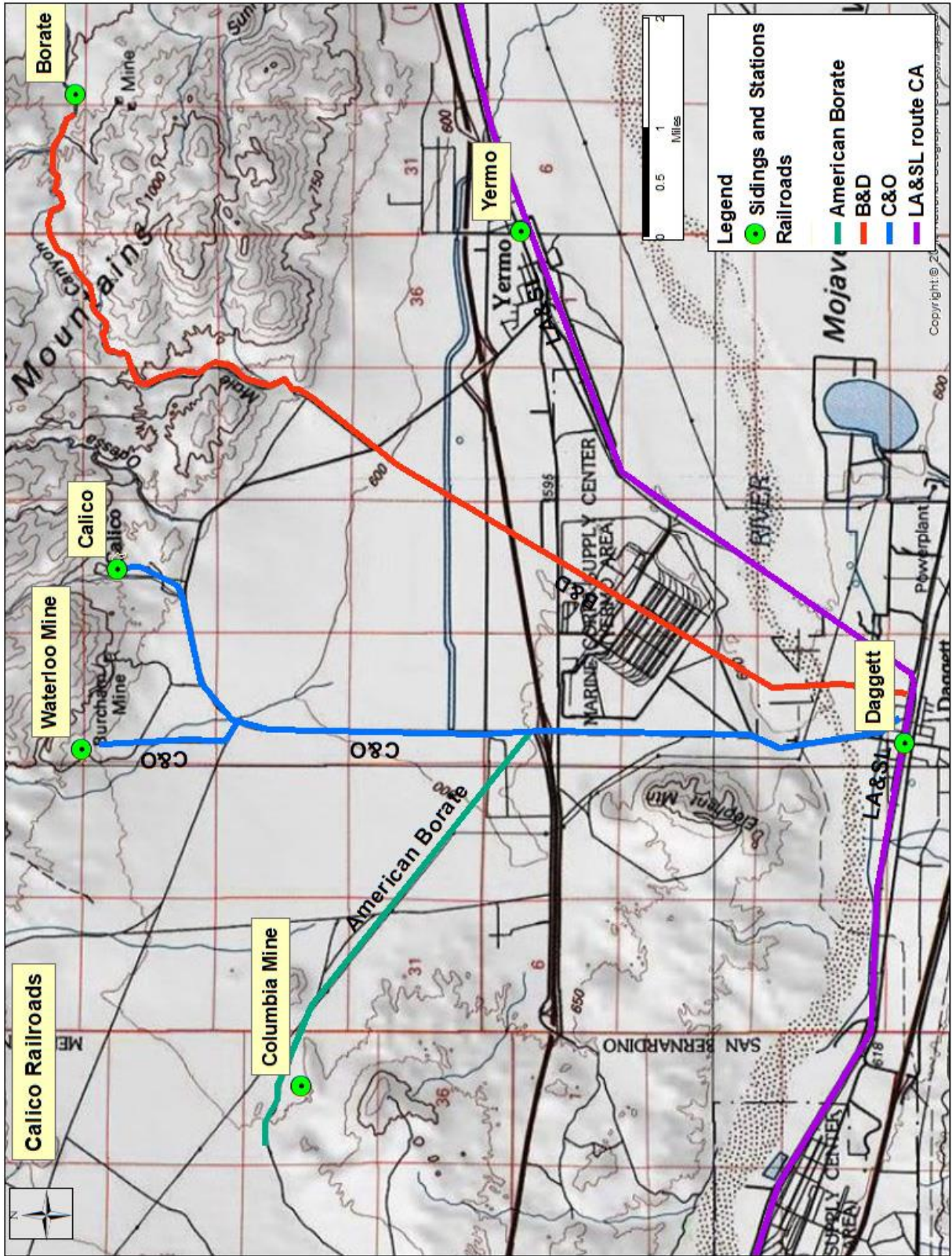
The collection can be accessed at  
<http://www.greggwilkerson.com/railroads.html>

*Italics* indicate quotations.

## **HISTORY**

The Western Minerals Railroad connected to the Calico and Odessa (C&O) railroad and through it to the Atlantic and Pacific (A&P) railroad. On our map we label it “American Borate”.

Borates in the Lead Mountains west of Calico and northwest of Daggett at the Columbia Mine were discovered prior to 1894. These deposits were purchased by the American Borate Company for the manufacture of boric acid. They built the “Western Mineral Railroad” to them from Daggett in 1901. This route shared part of the C&O railroad that connected the Waterloo Mill at Daggett with the ore bins for the Waterloo Mine on the southern slope of the Calico Mountains. The Western Mineral Railroad along with its mine and mill were dismantled in November 1907 when better ore (colemanite) was discovered in Tick Canyon thirty miles north of Los Angeles (Myrick, 1963:826).



## REFERENCES

All references in this report are available at  
<http://www.greggwilkerson.com/iv-references.html>