



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, Jan. 6, 2017

CONTACT:  
Tim Graham at 619-253-9197 or tgraham@sandiego.gov

## **City Closes Trail to Conduct Tests in Black Mountain Ranch Open Space Park**

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego, in collaboration with its research consultants, has detected higher than normal arsenic readings at the abandoned arsenic mine in Black Mountain Open Space Park. There is no conclusive evidence that there has been or is an imminent threat to the health of the public, plants or wildlife in and around the mine or along nearby trails as a result of this discovery.

Trails in close proximity to the mine are closed to allow researchers to conduct further testing, sampling and monitoring of the mine and trails in the area. Public access to the mine and surrounding area is prohibited. This includes a portion of the Miner's Ridge Loop Trail. Research and thorough testing is expected to take several months. Members of the public are advised to follow all signage and Ranger instructions in Black Mountain Ranch Open Space Park.

The Black Mountain Arsenic Mine is located on the north slope of Black Mountain at an elevation of 1,000 feet and was mined for naturally occurring white arsenic (arsenious oxide) in the 1920s for approximately eight to 10 years. Many remnants of the mine operation still exist on the site, but the mine has not been in use for more than eight decades. There are no designated trails that lead the public to the mine in the open space.

Access to Black Mountain Peak is still available to the public along with western portions of the park, and Rangers will continue to patrol the area as before. Hikers are reminded to always use designated trails when visiting the park.

Public updates will be provided as relevant information becomes available. An updated map indicating the locations of the trail closures is available to the public at Black Mountain Open Space Park as well as online at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/osp/blackmtn/>.