Cultural Resource Study for Vested Tentative Tract Map-66842 Located Along Avenue J-8 Between 36<sup>th</sup> Street West and 40<sup>th</sup> Street West In the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

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12 January 2016

# MANAGEMENT SUMMURY

At the request of Norik Bedassian, of AZ Geo Technics, Inc, a record of previous studies and a walk over inspection of an approximately 22.3-acre property (VTTM-66842) located along Avenue J-8 between 40th Street West and 36<sup>th</sup> Street Westin the City of Lancaster, in northern Los Angeles County was conducted by Mark Campbell. The subject property is located in the western half of the northern eighth of the southwest quarter of section 19 in Township 7 North and Range 13 West San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. It appears on the Lancaster West USGS quadrangle, 7.5-minute series. The subject property is comprised of parcels APN 3153-021-032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 038, and 3153-046-065. The majority of the project site is on the south side of AveJ-8. Parcel APN 3153-046-065 is located on the north side of Ave J-8.

A literature review was conducted by staff the South Central Coast Information Center at California State University Fullerton for the subject property and surrounding area. Archaeological reports and site records on file at the Information Center were reviewed within a ½-mile radius of the subject property. There have been 20 previous cultural resource studies within a half mile of the subject property. One prehistoric site, CA-LAN-765, (a temporary camp comprised of a lithic scatter, milling features, fire-affected-rock features, and small mammal bone) has been identified with in a 0.5-mile radius of the subject project site. The literature search indicates a possibility of archaeological materials in the project area.

The western portion of the property and parcel APN 3153-046-065 have been graded and cleared of most vegetation. There are light sparse scatters of construction debris and trash. The trash appears to be recent. The eastern portion of the subject property is comprised of low stale dunes with Joshua trees, shad scale, rabbit brush, and ephedra. No archaeological or historic resources were observed during the inspection of the parcel. Therefore there areno further concerns under CEQA.

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## Introduction

At the request of Norik Bedassian of AZ Geo Technics, Inc, an approximately 22.3-acre property (VTTM-66842) located along Avenue J-8 between 40th Street West and 36<sup>th</sup> Street Westin the City of Lancaster, in northern Los Angeles County (Figures 1 and2) was visually inspected by Mark Campbell. Mr. Campbell has his BA in anthropology from CSU Fresno and completed over 24 graduate units toward an MA in anthropology at CSU Northridge. He has over 25 years of professional experience.

The subject property is located in the western half of the northern eighth of the southwest quarter of section 19 in Township 7 North and Range 13 West San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. It appears on the Lancaster West USGS quadrangle, 7.5-minute series (Figure 2). The subject property is comprised of parcels APN 3153-021-032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 038, and 3153-046-065. The majority of the project site is on the south side of AveJ-8. Parcel APN 3153-046-065 is located on the north side of AveJ-8 (Appendix 1).

#### Background

#### **Physical Setting**

The subject property is located within the Antelope Valley in the Western Mojave Desert. It is within the Basin and Range physiographic province which is comprised of north south trending mountains and internally draining valleys. Many of the valleys contained lakes during the Pleistocene. The Western Mojave Desert gets its sideways "V" shape from the Garlock Fault pushing against the San Andreas Fault at the west end of the valley.

It is a geologically diverse area. Locally occurring sandstone, schist, granite, rhyolite, basalt, and quartz monzanite were utilized for ground stone plant food processing tools. Locally occurring steatite was utilized in the production of beads, ornaments, and pipes. Locally occurring chert, chalcedony, rhyolite, and basalt were utilized for making flaked stone tools such as scrapers, cutting tools, and projectile points.

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Figure 1: Vicinity Map

The region was biologically diverse as well. Low yield season plan foods such as one modium backwheat, mormon tea, and other desert scrub plants were available on the desert floor as were modium tricke plents such as Joshua trees, yueca and juniper that extended into the floor tills. Moreanally bight is that we was common both on the valley floor and in the scrub plants tricke tricket as a plant to be as Pinyon and oak are and were available in the summer plant plant, the beau such as long to be as a plant of the summer plant. The summer beaus were stored for use later in the year. Deer, bighter these, rectains and easing to be an additional tricket were available as meat sources.



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### **Cultural Overview**

The Antelope Valley is located near the interface of coastal California and the western most extension of the Great Basin Desert. Just as the area is a mixture of the geology and biota of the two regions is was home to a mixture of the prehistoric cultures. Wallace (1955), Warren (1968), King (1981), Warren (1984:388), Warren and Crabtree (1986), Robinson (1987a), Norwood (1987), McIntyre (1990), and Earle et al. (1997) are good examples of suggested local chronologies. The various coastal and desert chronologies suggested differ as to the names for the various periods and how many horizons, phases, or periods. However, there is general agreement on four very broad periods: early (more than 8000 years ago), middle (about 8000 to 2000 years ago), late (2000 to about the 1770's) and post contact (1770's on) (Norwood 1987). Sutton and others (Sutton et al. 2007) organize their chronology around geological periods. Most researchers use a modified version of chronology for the southwestern Great Basin proposed by Warren and Crabtree (1986) and is followed here.

Norwood's carly period corresponds with Warren and Crabtree's Lake Mojave period. It has been believed that prior to 10,000 years ago the inhabitants of the area were largely foragers who ate a variety of plant and animal foods (Moratto 1984). They may have engaged in hunting large game such as mammoths and sloths as suggested by larger spear points (Earle, McKeehan, and Mason 1995). Sites from this period are common around lake shores, grasslands, and mountain passes (Moratto 1984). By 10,000 years ago some of the interior population has move to the coast and started to exploit new resources (ibid.). Other interior populations rely heavily on the retreating lake shores (Earle et al. 1997). Both areas see a move to smaller game animals and an increase in plant foods as the larger game becomes extinct (Earle, McKeehan, and Mason 1995). At least 9 fluted or "Clovis like" projectile points have been found in the Kern County portion of the Western Mojave Desert. Researchers are reluctant to assign them to a specific time period since they have not been found in a datable context.

The Lake Mojave Period (10,000-5,000 B.C.) is named after Pleistocene Lake Mojave near Baker, California. This period is characterized by Lake Mojave style projectile points, Silver Lake style projectile points, large leaf shaped points, and crescents. Many researchers include fluted points in this period. This period has been generally regarded as Paleoindian which means a heavy reliance on big game hunting and lake shore adaption with little emphasis on plant foods. Big game means big horn sheep, deer and antelope. Early Lake Mojave Period sites were found around ancient lake shores. This may be in part because that is where researchers looked. Ground stone was rare in the earliest sites, the ones examined in the 1980s and earlier. As more Lake Mojave Period sites were examined more ground stone was found and researchers began to recognize a more generalized subsistence pattern. Lake Mojave Period sites are found throughout the Mojave Desert and Great Basin.

Norwood's middle period includes Warren and Crabtree's Pinto and Gypsum Periods. The Pinto Period (5,000-2,000 B.C.) is named after Pinto Basin in Joshua Tree National Park. It is characterized by Pinto and Little Lake points. It is considered to be early Archaic or generalized hunting and gathering with a greater use of seeds and plants than the Lake Mojave Period. It is recognized as being a continuation or outgrowth of Lake Mojave (Warren and Crabtree 1986). The view from the eastern Mojave and the great Basin sees Pinto sites as generally small sites. However, the central, western and northern Mojave have a number of large dense Pinto sites such as the Awl site at FT Irwin, the Stahl site at Little Lake, and several at Edwards AFB and the Antelope Valley. There is debate over whether these large dense sites indicate long term use by large groups or repeated use by small groups. A site complex excavated at Edwards AFB suggests gender specific task areas may have existed as early as the Pinto Period (Campbell 2001). Pinto sites were once thought to be tied to ancient river beds as the lakes dried up. Further wok shows they utilized a variety of environments and resources.

Sites dating between 7,000 and 4,000 years ago are found mostly near ephemeral lakes and now dry streams and springs (Warren 1984:411) suggesting a wetter climate than today. However, study of a pack rat midden radiocarbon dated to ca 5,000 years ago indicate that the plant community in that portion of Edwards

Air Force Base was essentially what it is today (Campbell 2001). Projectile points from this period are larger atlatl dart points rather than arrow points, which were introduced later. This period has been described by some, as a highly mobile desert economy with an emphasis on hunting, supplemented by the use of processed seeds (Wessel 1990:20). Plant food especially hard seeds are thought to provide the majority of the caloric intake with protein coming from smaller game such as deer and rabbit (Earle, McKechan, and Mason 1995).

The Gypsum Period (2,000 B.C.-A.D. 500) is named after Gypsum Cave east of Las Vegas. It is characterized by Gypsum, Elko, and Humboldt concave base points. It is recognized as Archaic or generalized hunting and gathering with solid evidence of the use of ground stone and the importance of seeds and other plant foods. Incised slate pendants are common during the Gypsum Period. During the Gypsum Period we see an increase in trade with the California coast and the Southwest. Split-twig figures like the one found at Newberry Cave date to this period and are considered to be a southwestern trait. One was found in the Antelope Valley. Even though the published literature says villages began during the Gypsum Period. At least two of these cemeteries have infant burials with thousands of shell beds. This has been interpreted by some researchers as a Chumash influence but these burials in the Antelope Valley predate similar one in Chumash land. The increasing complexity are emerging regional differences within the Mojave Desert may coincide with the emergence of various Takic and Numic language groups. Takic speakers may have expanded to the coast during this period.

Wessel (1990:20) cites Sutton and Robinson as dating the division of the Uto-Aztecan languages to approximately 3000-2500 years ago. The major language groups to emerge from this division are Numic, spoken by the Kawaiisu and Paiute; Takic, spoken by the Kitanemuk, Serrano, Gabrielino, and other southern California Shoshonean speakers; Hopic, spoken in the southwest; and Tubatulabalic, spoken by the Tubatulabal in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains It has been suggested that a shift in settlement patterns toward a more sedentary lifestyle occurred during this period. Sutton suggests the emergence of large, permanent or semi-permanent village sites and associated cemeteries during this period (Sutton 1988). Wessel (1990:20) notes four recorded "village/base camp sites" from the period in the Western Mojave Desert. A similar transition is evident among coastal groups as well (Earle, McKeehan, and Mason 1995). Early indications of trade between the coast and desert, as evidenced by shell beads, are seen during this period (Warren 1984:419). Recent work in the Antelope Valley has yielded shell breads that radiocarbon date to the Lake Mojave Period. There is an increase in milling stones and manos suggesting an increased use of hard seeds (Warren 1984:425; Earle, McKeehan, and Mason 1995).

Norword's late period includes the later part of Warren and Crabtree's Saratoga Springs and Shoshonean periods. Many researchers in the Western Mojave Desert refer to the Rose Spring Period instead of Saratoga Springs and Late Period instead of Shoshonean.

The Saratoga Spring Period (A.D 500-1200) is named after Saratoga Springs in southern Death Valley. The Rose Spring Period is named after Rose Spring just south of the Haiwee Reservoir between Coso Junction and Olanche. These are two names for the same period. Those of us working in the western Mojave Desert prefer Rose Spring because the Rose Spring site is in the Western Mojave and Saratoga Springs is in the Eastern Mojave. Diagnostic projectile points for this period include Rose Spring and Cottonwood points. Desert side notched points appear during this period in the Antelope Valley. These point types reflect the introduction of the bow and arrow since they are the first true arrow points. There was an Anasazi and Hakatayan presence in the eastern Mojave and at Halloran Springs during the later Rose Spring Period. The Hakataya are a good example of how one's perspective influences conclusions. The Great Basin volume of the Smithsonian Handbook describes them as a southwestern people who move into the Mojave Desert. The Southwest volume describes them as a Mojave Desert people who moved into the Southwest. While pottery appears in some areas during the late Rose Spring Period it is generally regarded as indicative of the Late Prehistoric. Warren sees a difference between the sites north of the Mojave River and those south of the Mojave River. Sites south of the Mojave River have few Rose Spring points and virtually no Anasazi pottery. Warren discusses Oro Grande as an example of how sites south of the Mojave River differ from those north of the River. Oro Grande is noticeably different from the sites in the Antelope Valley during this period. We see a reduction in the use of Coso obsidian during the Rose Spring Period even though Rose Spring points in the Antelope Valley show a definite preference for obsidian. Numic speakers appear to have begun their spread north and east across the Great Basin during the late Rose Spring Period.

Sometime between AD 500 and A.D.1200 Warren notes a change from larger dart points to smaller arrow points (Warren 1984:420). This, combined with evidence from rock art motifs, leads him to argue for a shift from atlatls to bow and arrow during this period. There is an increase in trade with Arizona and the Southwest during this period as well. Wessel (1990:21) notes an "intensive trade network in which Southwestern groups exchanged such items as pottery and turquoise". Warren (1984:425) indicates that Brown and Buff wares (pottery styles) of western Arizona made their way across the California desert by 900 AD and that the Anasazi mined turquoise in the eastern California desert about this time (Warren 1984:421).

The Late Period is from AD 1200 to European contact. This period is called the Shoshonean Period in older literature. Late Prehistoric has become the preferred name because it does not imply a connection with a particular ethnic group. It must be remembered that when Malcom Rogers talked about Mojave and Shoshone sites he was talking about time periods not ethnic groups. Major technological differences between the Rose Spring and Late Prehistoric Periods is the reduction or absence of Rose Spring points, the increase of Desert side-notched points and the abundance of pottery. Although never abundant in the Antelope Valley pottery is present during the Late Prehistoric, mostly brown or buff ware but some Anasazi pottery has been found. The various tribal groups and territories encountered at the time of European contact were in place by this time. The end of the Late Prehistoric Period is marked by the presence of glass trade beads and is often referred to as the Protohistoric or Ethnographic Period.

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The period between AD 1200 and historic contact is more accurately seen as a continuation of the previous with the development of many characteristics of the historic period (Warren 1984:424). This period is characterized by Desert Side Notch points (Warren 1984:425), Cottonwood points, and pottery such as Tizon Brown Ware and Owens Valley Brown Ware (Hester 1973:127).

While discussing the political geography of the Antelope Valley and the Western Mojave Desert at the time of the Spanish conquest, David Earle addresses the question of the depopulation of the Antelope Valley prior to 1700 AD. He cites several references to sizable villages or rancherias in the Antelope Valley (Earle 1990). He suggests that in addition to disease brought by the Europeans and the recruiting by the missionaries, the Antelope Valley Indians were plagued with Spanish and American military coming through the area and Chemcheuvi and other Paiute livestock rustlers (Earle 1990;96). He says that the area had become a dangerous military no-man's-land:

Given the operation of these factors at a relatively early date after Spanish contact, it is not to be wondered at that archaeologists working in the Antelope Valley should find only limited material evidence of historic Indian settlement, although such evidence does exist (ibid.).

Earle describes the surviving Antelope Valley Indian population as "very leery of coming into contact with outsiders, Indian or non-Indian" (ibid.). Perhaps, the Antelope Valley archaeological community needs to devote more attention to locating where these historic period Indians settled to avoid unwanted contact. Site concentrations in the Sierra Pelona Mountains between Ritter Ridge and Acton (Robinson 1987b: 35-47; Bissell 1989; Van Horn et al. 1989; Padon et al. 989) may indicate (especially the cupule sites) an area of ritual activity and suggest that the small canyons and springs in the mountains may deserve careful study.

Between 1772 and 1857 several travelers and explores passed through the Antelope Valley. Among them were Captain Pedro Fages, Father Garces, Jedediah Smith, John C. Fremont, Kit Carson, Manley and Rogers, Walker, and Lieutenant Edward Beale. During the late1800s mining was developed at several locations in or adjacent to the Antelope Valley. Cattle and sheep grazing also became common during this period. The Southern Pacific Railroad laid tracks through the Antelope Valley in1876 as part of their Los Angeles to San Francisco line. At this time they named a local stop "Lancaster." In 1884 ML Wicks bought 60 sections of land from the railroad. He laid out a town site at the Lancaster rail stop and began to attract settlers and businesses. One business he attracted to the new town of Lancaster was the Atlantic and Pacific Fibre Company, an English firm seeking wood to be made into paper for the *London Daily Telegraph*. They bought many acres of Joshua trees and brought in a large number of Chinese laborers to cut the trees to be made into paper.

Mining began in the region in the late 1800s. Gold was mined in Acton/Aqua Dulce area, the western Rosamond Hills, and at Ransburg and Johannesburg. Uranium was mine briefly south of Gem Hill in the 1950s. Tungsten and manganese have been mined in the Bissell Hills.

By the 1920s agriculture became a major activity in the Antelope Valley. Crops included alfalfa, pears, and almonds. The vast open areas also attracted the early aircraft industry and the army air corps. Rapid growth and affordable housing in the mid to late 1980s made the south Antelope Valley a bedroom community for Los Angeles.

#### **Ethnographic Overview**

Various tribal groups are known to have occupied, utilized, or traveled through the Antelope Valley during the late prehistoric and contact periods. These include the Kawaiisu, Kitanemuk, Vanyume, Paiute, Serrano, Chemehuevi, and Mojave. The farther back in time one goes the less certainty there is about ethnic identity. At the time of European contact, the Kawaiisu and Kitanemuk live in the northern Antelope Valley, the Vanyume occupied the southern Antelope Valley, and the Paiute and Mojave traveled through it. The groups most pertinent to the present study are Vanyume and Serrano.

#### Vanyume

Much of the southern Antelope Valley was occupied by the Vanyume, also referred to as Desert Serrano. They spoke a Takic language, generally viewed as a dialect of Serrano. Their territory extended east to the Mojave Sink. The area around the Mojave Sink and Soda Lakes appears to have been a joint use area (Vanyume, Kawaiisu, Timbisha, and Chemehuevi). Their territory may have included the northern slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains between Mt Gleason and Cajon Pass (Bean and Smith 1978). Lowell Bean and Charles Smith described the Vanyume as sparse poor mobile populations. David Earle described them as wealthy populations with villages and rancherias. In 1776 Garces visited a Vanyume village along the Mojave River. In his diary he said they honored him by pouring baskets of acorns and baskets of shell beads over him. This illustrates both their wealth and their role in trade routes since neither the acorns or shells were acquired locally. The Vanyume were organized into local lineages with hereditary chiefs. They relied primarily on collecting plant foods and hunting various animals supplemented by fishing.

#### Serrano

South of the Vanyume were the Serrano (Bean and Smith 1978). The name Serrano is Spanish and means "mountain people". They occupied the San Bernardino Mountains east of Cajon Pass and extended northeast into the Lucerne Valley and the mountains east of Victorville. Their territory extended east of Twentynine Palms. They collected plants and hunted animals like their neighbors. They were organized into exagomous clans which were organized into two exagomous moeities. Leadership of each clan was shared between a hereditary chief and another leader who was keeper of the sacred bundle.

#### **Previous Studies**

A literature review was conducted by staff the South Central Coast Information Center at California State University Fullerton for the subject property and surrounding area on November 19, 2015. Archaeological reports and site records on file at the Information Center were reviewed within a ½-mile radius of the subject property. There have been 20 previous cultural resource studies within a half mile of the subject property. One prehistoric site (CA-LAN-765) has been identified with in a 0.5-mile radius of the subject property. No historic period sites have been recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site. The literature search indicates a possibility of archaeological materials in the project area.

In addition to the reports and site records on file at the Information Center several historic maps in the possession of the author were reviewed. These include the 1911 Johnson Water survey, the 1923 reprint of the 1915 edition of the Elizabeth Lake, California USGS Quadrangle, and the 1938 Walsh Map of the Antelope Valley.

Previous studies within 1/2 mile of the current project:

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Hudlow, Scott M. 2004 A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for Property at 32nd West and Avenue J, City of Lancaster, California

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McKenna, Jeanette A. 2004 A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation for APNs 3153-005-024, -025, -028, -078, -087, and -088 (approximately 30 Acres), in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

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DeGiovine, Michael M. and Wilson, Stacy L. 2008 Second Addendum: Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company the 66KV Antelope Bus Split Project, Los Angeles County, CA

Loftus, Shannon L. and Robin D. Turner 2008 Cultural Resource and Paleontological Assessment, North Los Angeles / Kern County, Regional Recycled Water Master Plan, Los Angeles / East Kern Counties, California.

Billat, Lorna 2009 New Tower ("NT") Submission Packet, FCC Form 620, Project Name: Rawley Duntley Park, Project No. LA3721A

CA-LAN-765 is a temporary camp comprised of a lithic scatter, milling features, fire-affected-

rock features, and small mammal bone. It is located approximately <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile south of the subject property. It

establishes the potential for prehistoric sites in the vicinity

## Methods

A visual inspection of the property was conducted by the author on November 28, 2015. The property was inspected by walking east west trending transects at approximately 15 meter intervals. Surface visibility and ranged from 90-95%.

### Findings

The western portion of the property and parcel APN 3153-046-065 have been graded and cleared of most vegetation. There are light sparse scatters of construction debris and trash. The trash appears to be recent. The eastern portion of the subject property is comprised of low stale dunes with Joshua trees, shad scale, rabbit brush, and ephedra. No archaeological or historic resources were observed during the inspection of the parcel.

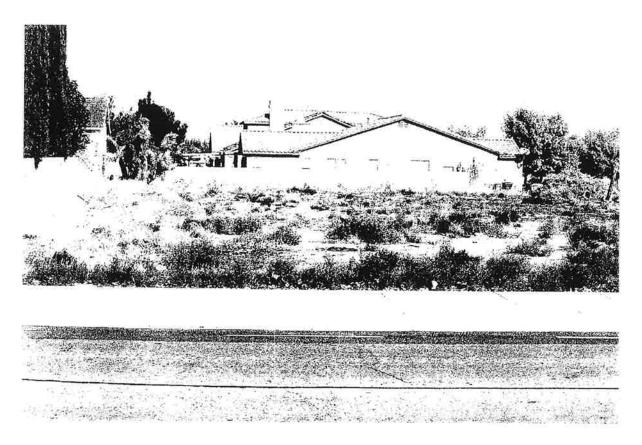


Figure 3: West End of Parcel APN 3153-046-065



Figure 4: View Southwest of Parcel FromNortheast corner

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Figure 5: View Southeast fromNorthwest Corner of Parcel

## Conclusion

No resources were observed. The surface of the western portion of the property is heavily disturbed. Therefore, there are no concerns under CEQA. No further consideration is necessary.

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APPENDIX 1: Tract Map

