



January 8, 2018

Valerie Koh, Vacationland LLC
c/o Tariq Shamma, P.E., S.E.
TMS Consortium
email: tmsconsortium@sbcglobal.net

Re: Cultural Resources Assessment Findings Memo for the Victorville Tentative Tract 18980 Project,
City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Ms. Koh,

This letter report documents the results of the Cultural Resources Assessment (CRA) conducted for the Victorville Tentative Tract 18980 Project (Project) by ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM). The study was completed in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. It was requested by the City of Victorville Department of Development for Planning Commission review as part of the approval process for the Project.

The study included a records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), a search of the Sacred Lands File of the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and a pedestrian survey of accessible portions of the Project area to determine the presence or absence of historic resources.

Project Description and Location

The proposed Project site is approximately 5 acres located on the west side of 2nd Avenue, north of Silica Drive and south of Country Ranch Court, in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The Project is shown on the USGS 7.5-minute Hesperia, Calif. topographic quadrangle in Section 33, Township 5 North, Range 4 West (Figure 1). The proposed Project comprises a 20-lot single family subdivision (Tract 18980) designated APN 3091-141-02.

Cultural and Environmental Setting

Natural Setting

The City of Victorville is located in southwestern San Bernardino County, in the area of the southwestern Mojave Desert known as the Victor Valley, which is separated from other urbanized areas in southern California by the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains. It is approximately 80 miles (mi.) northeast of Los Angeles, 34 mi. south of Barstow, and 37 mi. north of San Bernardino. The Project site is located in the southeastern portion of the City, north of Hesperia and west of Apple Valley. The elevation at City Hall is approximately 2,950 feet (900 m) above sea level. The general setting of the Project area is primarily residential, and the Project area itself is surrounded by vacant lots.

Prehistoric Cultural Setting

The following brief overview of the prehistory of the region is adapted from Moratto (1984), Warren (1984), and Warren and Crabtree (1986).

Lake Mojave Period (Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic; ca. 12,000 – 7000 B.P.)

The Lake Mojave complex represents the earliest human occupation in the Mojave Desert region, beginning at about 12,000 B.P. (Grayson 1993; Wallace 1962). Considered a Paleo-Indian assemblage, it is thought to be ancestral to the Early Archaic cultures of the subsequent Pinto period (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184). Claims for archaeological assemblages dating to periods earlier than Lake Mojave period, such as those made for Tule Springs (Harrington and Simpson 1961), China Lake (Davis 1978), and Manix Lake (Simpson 1958, 1960, 1961), are controversial and, even if eventually proven to be authentic, these manifestations appear to have no relationship to later cultural developments in the region (Warren and Crabtree 1986). This era, at the close of the Pleistocene, was a time of extreme environmental change as the relatively cool and moist conditions of the terminal Wisconsin glacial age were gradually replaced by the warmer and drier conditions of the Holocene (Spaulding 1990). Desertification continued throughout the period with mesquite appearing by ca. 8000 B.P. (DuBarton et al. 1991).

Cultural materials characteristic of the Lake Mojave Complex include Lake Mojave, Parman, Silver Lake, and rare fluted projectile points (Clovis). Other artifacts typically found in these assemblages include lunate and eccentric crescents, small flake engravers, technical scrapers, leaf-shaped knives, drills, and heavy choppers or hammer stones. Milling stones are generally absent in the Lake Mojave Complex (Campbell et al. 1937; Warren and Crabtree 1986).

In the Mojave Desert and southern Great Basin, this assemblage is typically (but not exclusively) found in association with Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene lake stands and outwash drainages, although the role of the lakes in the overall adaptation remains in dispute (e.g., Bedwell 1970, 1973; Davis 1978; Warren 1967; Willig 1988). Some researchers have argued that lacustrine resources were the subsistence focus, while others suggest that grasslands suitable for the grazing of Late Pleistocene megafauna would have surrounded the lakes, and that these were the primary subsistence focus of the Lake Mojave cultures. Warren (1967) postulated that the assemblages are the remains of a widespread, generalized hunting adaptation found throughout the western Great Basin. Bedwell (1970, 1973), Hester (1973), and others interpret the same assemblages as indicating a specialized exploitation of the lacustrine resources of the pluvial lakes and call the complex the “Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition.” Jonathan O. Davis (1978) proposes a combination of these models positing a generalized hunting and collecting economy, in which lakeside sites represent the seasonal exploitation of marsh resources.

This complex represents Early Man in the Mojave Desert, and exhibits similarities to sites in the western Great Basin and to the San Dieguito complex of the southern California culture area (Warren and Crabtree 1986). Alternate designations for the manifestation of the complex in the interior desert area include: Lake Mojave Culture (Campbell et al. 1937; Wallace 1962), San Dieguito Complex (Warren 1967) and Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition (Bedwell 1970; Moratto 1984). Establishing strong temporal definition of the period is also hampered by the shortage in datable sites throughout the Great Basin and Mojave Desert. Few sites dating to the early portion of the Lake Mojave period have been excavated and little direct evidence of subsistence practices has been reported. When sites do contain datable materials, artifacts are generally found on the surface with no stratigraphic separation. Unlike sites in the Southwest, no early Great Basin projectile point types have been found in undisputed association with the large mega-fauna known to have existed during that time (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184). Characterization of this period of prehistory in California is extremely complex due to the large number of competing models. For detailed discussions of the Lake Mojave period, see Moratto (1984), Warren and Crabtree (1986), and Warren’s contributions in Blair et al. (2004).

Pinto Period (Middle Archaic; ca. 7000 - 4000 B.P.)

The transition from pluvial to arid conditions at the end of the early Holocene appears to have been the most extreme environmental change in the southern Great Basin during post-Pleistocene times. Increasingly arid conditions prevailed throughout the region between about 7500 and 5000 B.P. (Hall 1985; Spaulding 1991). Woodland environments reached their approximate modern elevations and the modern desert scrub communities appeared with the migration of plant species such as creosote bush into the area.

Warren (1984) sees the cultural manifestations of this period as indicative of adaptation to increasing aridity. As the Pleistocene lakes and rivers dried up and plant and animal life changed, human populations adapted or withdrew to more desirable areas. Pinto populations appear to have withdrawn to desert margins and scattered oases, undergoing the changes as the Pinto Basin Complex assemblages gradually replace those of the preceding Lake Mojave period (Warren 1984:414). As in the Lake Mojave period, Pinto period sites are usually found in open settings in relatively well-watered locales representing isolated oases of high productivity. Artifacts dating to the Pinto period include Pinto series projectile points, leaf-shaped points and knives, domed and elongated keeled scrapers, and occasional Lake Mojave and Silver Lake points. Simple flat milling stones, occasional shallow-basined milling stones, and hand stones also occur in Pinto period sites (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184-187). Warren (1990) attributes the latter development to the exploitation of hard seeds, which is seen as part of a process of subsistence diversification brought on by increased aridity and reduced ecosystem carrying capacity. Big-game hunting probably continued as an important focus during this time, but the economic return of this activity likely decreased as artiodactyl populations declined in response to increased aridity (Warren and Crabtree 1986).

The appearance of Pinto projectile points in the archaeological record denote this period in the Mojave Desert, although their dating remains controversial (Lyneis 1982:176; Schroth 1994; Warren 1984). Warren and Crabtree (1986) and Warren (1984:414) postulate that the Pinto Complex represents a continuation and evolution from the hunting complexes of the Lake Mojave period. During this period, small, mobile populations continued to be dependent upon hunting and gathering. The use of grinding implements is expanded; however, these were poorly developed as might be expected in a newly acquired technology. This development suggests that the processing of hard seeds was becoming more important in the subsistence system, although it is believed that Pinto period people maintained a mobile subsistence strategy focused primarily on the hunting of highly ranked large game (Elston 1982).

The question of how people adjusted to environmental change is central to varying interpretations of the Pinto period (Warren 1984:410-411). Some (Donnan 1964; Kowta 1969; Wallace 1962) argue the desert was essentially abandoned between 7000 and 5000 B.P., while others (Susia 1964; Tuohy 1974; Warren 1980) argue that no evidence of an occupational hiatus of such magnitude exists in the archaeological record. The ongoing debate revolves around the definition and dating of Pinto projectile points (Schroth 1994; Warren and Crabtree 1986:184).

Gypsum Period (Late Archaic; ca. 4000 - 1500 B.P.)

Gradual improvement of the climate began by around 5000 B.P. culminating in the Neoglacial at about 3600 B.P. A period of greater effective moisture emerged in the latter part (by 3000-4000 B.P.) of the middle Holocene (for an overview of Neoglacial and Little Ice Age environments in the Mojave Desert, see Enzel et al. 1989, 1992; Spaulding 1995). At this time, the barren pans in the Mojave Sink intermittently held perennial water (Enzel et al. 1992), although it is not known if this was the case for other closed basins in the region.

The Gypsum period is characterized by population increases and broadening economic activities as technological adaptation to the changing environment evolved. Hunting continued to be an important subsistence activity, but the increase in the occurrence and diversity of ground stone artifacts indicate that plant foods were becoming a more important subsistence item. The reduction in the size of projectile points about 1350 B.P. marks the introduction of the bow and arrow (Bettinger and Eerkins 1999), increasing the efficiency of hunting and possibly indicating a shift from larger to smaller game. Perhaps as a result of these new adaptive mechanisms, the increase in aridity during the late Gypsum period (after ca. 2500 B.P.) seems to have had relatively little consequence on the distribution and increase in human populations (Warren 1984:418-420; Warren and Crabtree 1986:189).

The use of rock shelters appears to have increased at this time although the occupation of open sites continues. Base camps with extensive midden development are a prominent site type in well-watered valleys and near concentrated subsistence resources (Warren and Crabtree 1986). Additionally, several types of special purpose sites in upland settings begin to appear during this period. Considerable evidence is present indicating increased contact with the California coast and the Southwest, and the presence of split-twig figurines and zoomorphic petroglyphs, thought to date to this period, suggest a rich ritual life was present (Fowler and Madsen 1986). Evidence of this increased ritual life is clearly seen in the archaeological record at Newberry Cave (Davis and Smith 1981), where split-twig figurines, ritual bows, arrows, pictographs, and what was interpreted as a wand were recovered supporting what was interpreted as ritual hunting magic.

Gypsum period artifact assemblages are characterized by medium- to large-stemmed and notched projectile points (i.e., Elko series, Humboldt Concave Base, and Gypsum types). The assemblages also include rectangular-based knives, flake scrapers, infrequently large scraper planes, choppers, and hammer stones. Milling equipment becomes more common and the mortar and pestle appear for the first time.

Sites dated to the Gypsum period are well represented in the mountains and in adjoining areas toward the coast. The Siphon site in Summit Valley, characterized by Sutton et al. (1993) as a middle to late Millingstone horizon base camp, has been dated to about 1550 B.C. Other sites in the area from this period include those at Yucaipa (Grenda 1998) and at Prado Basin (Grenda 1995). In general, the Gypsum period was a time of intensified settlement and exploitation of the desert valley floor and surrounding mountains.

Saratoga Springs Period (ca. 1500 - 750 B.P.)

During the Saratoga Springs period, marked regional diversification in artifact and site types is evidenced throughout the region (Warren and Crabtree 1986). The primary projectile point types of the southern Mojave Desert—and by extension, the San Bernardino Mountains—are Cottonwood and Desert Side-notched points. The Rose Spring types common to the north are rarer in the San Bernardino Mountains but have found around Baldwin Lake, while Eastgate and Rose Spring points began to dominate assemblages in other parts of the Mojave Desert and southern Great Basin (Lyneis 1982). These regional variations might have been the result of intensified contact with neighboring groups along the coast, in the mountains, and in the southwest. Evidence from the Oro Grande site on the Mojave River below the northern slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains indicates trade with coastal groups during this period and a more structured settlement hierarchy centered on large village sites (Rector et al. 1983). Cultural developments south of the Mojave River and Providence Mountains diverge from those in the northern area during this period, reflecting influence from Hakataya developments along the lower Colorado.

Ceramics were likely introduced into the region during this period, though evidence is scarce. Lower Colorado Buff Ware and Tizon Brown Ware ceramics are often associated with Cottonwood and Desert Side-notched points and likely date from the very end of the Saratoga Springs period and into protohistoric times. Unlike some communities farther to the north who were using Anasazi-inspired

pottery as early as A.D. 500 (Warren 1984:421–422), the southern desert and mountain groups seem to have concentrated on contacts with coastal communities. For example, marine shell beads are much more common at Saratoga Springs period sites, suggesting trade with the southern California coast, probably along the Mojave River valley route later known as the Mojave Trail (Warren 1984).

Evidence for Ancestral Puebloan influence or occupation is limited to the occurrence of pottery, which has been found as far west as the Halloran Spring (Blair 1985; Blair and Winslow 2004; Leonard and Drover 1980; Rogers 1929; Warren 1980) and the Cronise Basin in California (Larson 1981; Rogers 1929). It is unclear whether the pottery was left by small foraging or hunting parties (Berry 1974:83-84; Fowler and Madsen 1986:180; James 1986:114-115; Rafferty 1984:30-35; Shutler 1961:7; Warren and Crabtree 1986:191), the result of Ancestral Puebloan people working the turquoise mines near Halloran Springs (Blair 1985:2-4; Blair and Winslow 2004; Leonard and Drover 1980:251; Rogers 1929:12-13; Warren 1980:81-84), or if it was being traded along the Mohave trading route along with shells, obsidian and salt (Harrington 1927:238-239; Heizer and Treganza 1944; Hughes and Bennyhoff 1986; Morrissey 1968; Pogue 1915:46-51; Ruby 1970; Shutler 1961:58-66). Overall, the nature of the Ancestral Puebloan presence in the Mojave Desert is poorly understood at this time and warrants future research. In contrast, a strong Ancestral Puebloan influence is seen in the northeastern Mojave, where this horticultural people (termed the Lowland Virgin Branch Anasazi) resided in residential communities along the Muddy and lower Virgin rivers in southeastern Nevada and adjacent portions of Utah and Arizona (Fowler and Madsen 1986:175-181; Lyneis 1982, 1995; Lyneis et al. 1978:178-179; Warren and Crabtree 1986:191; Winslow 2003a, 2003b).

In the remainder of the Mojave Desert region, sites of this period seem to exhibit general continuity with the Gypsum pattern. One of the most conspicuous changes from the earlier period is the reduction in size of projectile points. Rose Spring and Cottonwood series points dominate assemblages of this period and are morphologically similar to Gypsum period points with the exception of their smaller size, and milling equipment (i.e., metates, manos, mortars and pestles) continues to be in use (Warren and Crabtree 1986).

Late in prehistory (approximately 1000 B.P.), it is theorized, groups of people speaking Numic languages expanded from somewhere in the Death Valley area across the Great Basin. The Numic Expansion hypothesis gained widespread support in the years following its introduction by Sydney Lamb in 1958 (Lamb 1958). Bettinger and Baumhoff (1982:485) believe that the Numa were able to displace the previous inhabitants because of low-cost adaptive strategies oriented around the exploitation of diverse plant resources. This hypothesis is supported by similarities in artifact types and glottochronological theory advanced by Lamb (1958:99). Young and Bettinger (1992:85), supporting Bettinger and Baumhoff (1982), propose that a competitive interaction existed between the Numic and pre-Numic groups in the Great Basin. In recent years, however, the hypothesis has been challenged and remains controversial.

Protohistoric Period (750 B.P. to Contact)

The Protohistoric era, a transitional period between the prehistoric and the historic/ethnohistoric, dates from ca. 750 B.P. and continues until first contact with Euro-Americans (Warren 1980; Warren and Crabtree 1986). Cultural developments established earlier during the Saratoga Springs period continue with some modifications. Numerous sites dating to this most recent period of prehistory are located along the Mojave River (Altschul et al. 1989; Schneider 1988; Smith 1963), in the San Bernardino Mountains (Simpson et al. 1972; White and Reeder 1970), and in the inland valleys to the south of the mountains (Grenda 1998). Diagnostic artifacts for this period are Desert Side-notched points and various poorly defined types of brown ware pottery. Most archaeologists agree that trade along the Mojave Trail was steady throughout this period, accounting for much of the coastal and Colorado River influences in the San Bernardino Mountains (Warren 1984).

Regional diversity continued during this period (Warren and Crabtree 1986:191). South of the Mojave River, the influence of the Yuman-speaking Hakataya continued. It is clear that by around A.D. 600, Hakatayan groups occupied a wide area in western Arizona, southeastern California, and southern Nevada (Schroeder 1979). The Hakataya were centered primarily on the lower Colorado River, however, and their assemblages, characterized by brown, buff, and red-on-buff pottery, and Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood Triangular points, are found along the length of the Mojave River to the Mojave Sinks (Drover 1979; Rogers 1929; Smith 1963). These ceramics, along with the continued use of coastal artifacts such as shell beads, suggest fairly long-distance trade contacts and possibly more extensive seasonal rounds.

North of the Mojave River, the Saratoga Springs artifact assemblage continued, with the addition of Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood Triangular points and Great Basin Brown Ware pottery. Also present in these assemblages are steatite beads, large triangular knives, unshaped manos and milling stones, mortars and pestles, incised stones, slate pendants, and shell beads (Warren and Crabtree 1986). Bettinger (1975, 1976, 1977) attributes the beginning of regular pinyon exploitation to this period, as shown by the appearance of camps in the pinyon-juniper woodland (Warren 1984:424-427; Warren and Crabtree 1986:191-192). Warren and Crabtree (1986:191-192) note that the initial occurrence of this assemblage is linked with the ancestors of the historic Southern Paiute and is roughly contemporaneous with the terminal date for the Ancestral Puebloan occupation of the region. Virgin Anasazi development and influence had been curtailed in the eastern Mojave Desert by the Protohistoric period (Warren 1984:427). Occupation by the hunter-gatherer groups present earlier, however, appears to have continued relatively unchanged.

Ethnohistoric Background

The major ethnographic group associated with the Project area was the Serrano (Bean and Smith 1978; Benedict 1924; Kroeber 1925:611-619; Strong 1929:5-35). The following summary is closely drawn from a recent ethnography by Lerch and Ciolek-Torrello (2007). Details concerning other aspects of Serrano culture, such as social organization and religion, may be found in a number of sources, including Benedict (1924), Gifford (1918), Kroeber (1907, 1925), Strong (1929), Bean and Smith (1978) and Bean et al. (1981). The Serrano were so called by the Spanish because they lived in and around the San Bernardino Mountains (*serrano*, from *sierra*, means “mountain dweller” in Spanish). The Serrano’s own general name for themselves was *Takhtam*, or “people,” although most individuals were identified by the name of their particular clan or village, and these names are frequently referred to as “tribes.”

The Serrano language is part of the Takic subfamily of the larger Uto-Aztecan language family (Ergle 1999; Moratto 1984:534), which includes a wide variety of language groups extending as far south as the Basin of Mexico. Closer to home, the culture groups neighboring the Serrano to the south of the San Bernardino Mountains—the Gabrielino, Luiseño, and Cahuilla—were also Takic-language speakers. The Serrano appear to have been most closely linguistically aligned with the Cahuilla people, the easternmost of the three. In the Mojave Desert, to the west, north, and east, were the Kawaiisu, Panamint, and Chemehuevi, who spoke Numic languages, another subfamily of the Uto-Aztecan language family. Although these language group names are often understood as some sort of tribal identity reflecting politically unified groups, this was clearly not the case. Designations such as Serrano and Chemehuevi are purely linguistic labels that, when applied to a geographic region, simply refer to the total territory inhabited by a number of independent bands who spoke a common language. Very often, significant cultural interactions crosscut language groups as a result of topography or other factors. The Serrano, in particular, seem to have maintained close ties with peoples on both sides of the mountains, regardless of linguistic affiliation.

The Serrano, and many neighboring language groups, were organized into independent but interconnected village communities. Each of these villages consisted of one or more patrilineal clans that belonged to one

of two exogamous moieties, named coyote or wildcat. The clan-based villages and the larger moiety groups maintained complex ceremonial relationships with one another (Gifford 1918; Strong 1929). Frequently, a number of communities would combine to celebrate important festivals, harvest cycles, and other ceremonial events, occasionally inviting distant, linguistically unrelated groups.

Prior to European contact, the Serrano were hunters and gatherers who exploited a wide variety of resources from the mountains, the desert, and the Mojave River, including both large and small game, as well as numerous plant resources. Large game—such as deer, mountain sheep, and pronghorn—was hunted with bow and arrow, and smaller animals such as rabbits, rodents, and reptiles were taken with throwing sticks, nets, and snares. Acorns, pinyon nuts, and mesquite beans were among the staple foods, which were seasonally supplemented by chia and ricegrass seeds, roots, tubers, and various fresh greens (Bean and Smith 1978; Lerch 2002).

The presence of a perennial water source was the determining factor in the nature, duration, and distribution of Serrano villages (Benedict 1924:368). Most Serrano village-hamlets “were in the foothill Upper Sonoran life-zone while a few were out on the desert floor (near permanent water sources) or in the forest Transition zone” (Bean and Smith 1978:570). Small villages were more common, although there were larger villages in the Summit Valley and the Cajon Pass. Small special purpose sites, such as temporary camps, food processing stations, and lithic procurement areas, were located as needed. The Serrano who inhabited the San Bernardino Mountains would inhabit the milder areas of Apple Valley and Lucerne Valley during the winter and the area in and around Baldwin Lake during the summer.

In the early literature, there are only occasional references to the Project study area and the Native Americans who once lived there (Beattie and Beattie 1951:421; Brown and Boyd 1922:21-25; Pierson 1970:110-111; Smith et al. 1978), although contact with Europeans may have occurred as early as 1771. By 1806, the Serrano were recruited into the mission systems and most of them were removed from their homelands to the missions (Beattie and Beattie 1939:366). Missionization led to the loss of their native lifeways; although, northeast of the San Gorgonio Pass, Serrano culture survived.

By 1975, most Serrano lived on two southern California reservations (Morongo and San Manuel), where with other native Californians, they participated in ceremonial and political affairs on a pan-reservation. According to Bean and Smith (1978:543), at the time of the writing, only slightly over 100 people claimed Serrano descent, reduced from a pre-contact figure between 1,500 (Kroeber 1925:617) and 2,500 (Bean 1962-1972), and even fewer speak their native language; however, all recall with pride their history. Ethnic identity is strong and they remain a readily identifiable cultural entity.

Brief History of Victorville

The introduction of the Spanish mission system in the mid to late 1700s gradually eroded the Serrano’s way of life. Villages were abandoned, hunting and gathering were disrupted by agricultural practices, and Indian populations were significantly reduced by European diseases. In the late 1700s, the Spanish, led by the famed Spanish explorer Francisco Garcés, explored the Western Mojave Desert in an unsuccessful search for an overland route from the Colorado River to Monterey. The Spaniards traveled through the Victor Valley along an ancient Indian trading route, known today as the Mojave Trail (City of Victorville 2008).

In the early 1830s, part of this trail was incorporated into a pack-train road known today as the Old Spanish Trail, which extended between southern California and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Some 20 years later, when the historic wagon road known as the Mormon Trail or Salt Lake Trail was established between Utah and southern California, it followed essentially the same route across the Victor Valley area (City of Victorville 2008). Mining became an important part of the local economy with the discovery of gold as well as silver, copper, marble, limestone, and borax in the 1860s (City of Victorville 2008).

In 1885, the newly established telegraph station at the railroad siding of “Victor,” named for California Southern Railroad (Santa Fe Railroad) construction superintendent Jacob Nash Victor, was the beginning of today’s Old Town Victorville. The village that sprang up around that railroad facility, which was built approximately 1 mi. northwest of the narrows of the Mojave River, became known by the same name of Victor. On January 18, 1886, the Plan of the Town of Victor was prepared, creating the grid pattern of the original town. This original subdivision included property between “A” Street through “G” Street and First Street through Eleventh Street, encompassing an area of approximately 200 acres or one-third of a square mile (<http://www.victorvilleca.gov/Site/AboutVictorville.aspx?id=64>).

Agricultural development occurred as a result of available water and rich river bottom lands. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, settlers in the valley attempted a number of money-making endeavors, such as growing alfalfa and deciduous fruits and raising poultry, with only limited success (City of Victorville 2008).

In 1901, at the suggestion of local postmistress Abbey Turner, the U.S. Post Office Department changed that name to Victorville to stop the postal confusion with the town of Victor, Colorado. Near the turn of the century, large deposits of limestone and granite were discovered that brought cement manufacturing to surrounding areas. In 1916, the Southwestern Portland Cement Company began operation in Victorville (City of Victorville 2008). Since then the cement manufacturing industry has emerged as the single most important industry of the Victor Valley (<http://www.victorvilleca.gov/Site/AboutVictorville.aspx?id=64>).

In 1926, U.S. Route 66 was established, which was one of the main arteries of the National Highway System linking Chicago, Illinois, with California. In Victorville today, US 66 is marked on D and Seventh streets, with a section of Interstate 15 going towards the Cajon Pass. It is the primary street through Old Town Victorville.

The Victorville Army Airfield was constructed beginning in 1941. It was renamed as the George Air Force Base when the U.S. Air Force was established in October 1947. At its peak capacity, the base employed approximately 6,000 civilian and military personnel. The base was deactivated on December 15, 1992; and on July 21, 1993, it was annexed into the City and has since been developed as the Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA). The former Air Force base housing area is now vacant. It forms a ghost town that is used for military training by troops from the U.S. Army’s Fort Irwin Military Reservation. The Victorville Federal Penitentiary has been built on another part of the former air base.

The city of Victorville was officially incorporated by the State of California on September 21, 1962. Since then, Victorville has grown from a community of 8,110 residents and an area of 9.7 square miles to a community of 121,096 residents (as of the 2013 census) and an area of approximately 74 square miles. It has become the major business and commercial center for the Victor Valley.

The Project site is within the East Bear Valley Planning Area, which includes the area east of Interstate 15, north of Bear Valley Road, west of the Ridgecrest Road, and south of Yates Road/Green Tree Boulevard (City of Victorville 2008). According to the City of Victorville General Plan (2008), pursuant to California Senate Bill 18, the City consulted with tribal representatives from several Native American communities to request their input to identify sacred sites in the Planning Area, so they could be recognized and addressed in the Plan. No such sites were identified by any of the tribes; however, each tribe requested an ongoing consultation process with the City, to ensure that planning and construction future development projects include adequate investigations and monitoring efforts to identify and protect potential Native American resources (City of Victorville 2008).

Study Methods

Methods used to assess the presence of and potential for cultural resources within the property included a search of existing records and a pedestrian field survey. The records search was conducted by the SCCIC and included the Project area and a radius of 1 mi. around it. Historic aerial photographs and historic USGS topographic maps of the Project area were consulted from historicaerials.com.

The field survey was conducted on December 14, 2017 by ASM Senior Archaeologist Sherri Andrews. Field methods consisted of a pedestrian survey of the proposed Project site using transects spaced at 15-m intervals.

Study Results

Records Search Results

The records search conducted by the SCCIC identified 36 previous cultural resource studies that had been conducted within a 1-mi. radius (Table 1). One of the studies, SB-01218, was adjacent the eastern edge of the Project area; none of the other studies encompassed any portion of the Project area.

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Reports within 0.5-mi. Records Search Radius

Report No. (SB-)	Year	Author(s)/Affiliation	Title
00535	1977	Hearn, Joseph E. / San Bernardino County Museum Association	Bear Valley Cutoff HO 6452
00612	1978	San Bernardino County Museum Association	An Archaeological – Historical Assessment for the Proposed System Improvements for a Water System Master Plan for Victor Valley County Water District
00794	1979	San Bernardino County Museum Association	Cultural Resources Assessment for Sycamore Hills Ranch, Hesperia, California
00996	1975	Harris, Ruth O. / San Bernardino County Museum Association	Big Bear Valley Cutoff Road
00997	1976	Hearn, Joseph E. / San Bernardino County Museum Association	Archaeological – Historical Resources Assessment of Proposed Road Construction, Victorville Area
00998	1978	Hearn, Joseph E. / San Bernardino County Museum Association	Hesperia Road from Bear Valley Road to Ottawa Street HO 7034 Cultural Resources Assessment
00999	1980	Smith, Gerald A. / San Bernardino County Museum Association	Cultural Resources Assessment: Hesperia Road from Bear Valley Road to Ottawa Street
01218	1981	Weil, Edward B. / Larry Seeman Associates Inc.	Cultural Resource Survey of Bear Valley Road Redevelopment Project Study Area, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California
01820	1988	Peak & Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resource Survey and Clearance for Re-Routed Portions of the Proposed American Telephone and Telegraph Las Vegas to San Bernardino Fiber Optics Communication Route
02668	1992	McKenna, Jeanette / McKenna et al.	Archaeological Investigations of Well Sites and Proposed Facility Locations for the Victor Valley Water District, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California
02738	1993	Alexandrowicz, J. Stephen, and Susan R. and Eric Scott / Archaeological Consulting Services	Cultural and Paleontological Resources Investigations for the Proposed Medical Facilities at 12141 Second Avenue, City of Victorville, County of San Bernardino, CA
02739	1993	Alexandrowicz, J. Stephen, Mari Parker, and Eric Scott / Archaeological Consulting Services	Monitoring Report for Cultural and Paleontological Resources at the Proposed Medical Facilities at 12141 Second Avenue, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA
03704	2002	Alexandrowicz, J. Stephen / ACS	Historical & Paleontological Resources Monitoring for the Parcel Map 15791 Project, City of Victorville, CA

Report No. (SB-)	Year	Author(s)/Affiliation	Title
03972	2003	Wlodarski, Robert / HEART	A Phase I Archaeological Study for a 20 Acre Parcel of Land, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA
03982	2003	Alexandrowicz, John Stephen / Archaeological Consulting Services	Historical & Paleontological Resources Monitoring for Tract 16244, Victorville Desert Sands Development, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA
04181	2004	Cerreto, Richard, and Christy Malan / Analytic Archaeology	Cultural Resource Assessment for TT 16860, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA
04185	2004	Hogan, Michael / CRM Tech	Paleontological Monitoring of Earth-Moving Activities, Foxborough Grading Project, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA
04221	2004	Mirro, Michael / Applied Earthworks	Cultural Resources Survey of 249 Acres on the Krauss & Adjacent Property for NRCS
04411	2001	Alexandrowicz, John Stephen / Archaeological Consulting Services	Cultural & Paleontological Monitoring for the Foxborough Development, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA
04420	2001	Alexandrowicz, John Stephen, and Barbara Loren Webb / Archaeological Consulting Services	Cultural and Paleontological Resources Monitoring for Portrait Homes Tract No. 14538-3, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA
05215	2005	Malan, L. Christine, and Richard Cerreto / Analytic Archaeology	Cultural Resources Assessment for Tentative Tract No. 16900, APN# 3092-391-02, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California
05369	2005	Sander, Jay K. / Chambers Group	Cultural Resources Survey for Proposed 10-Acre Residential Development, Tract 14627, APN 3090-121-01, Victorville, California
05370	2007	Jordan, Stacey C. / Jones & Stokes	Archaeological Survey Report for the Southern California Edison Company DSP – Monaloe 12 KV O/O Savage Sub Project, San Bernardino County, California (WO#6073-5316, AI#6-5302)
05462	2007	Billat, Lorna / EarthTouch, Inc.	Property Assessment for the Balsom Mojave Park / CA-5356C Wireless Telecommunications Service (WTS) Facility, at 16252 Burwood Avenue, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California
05468	2005	n/a	Balsam – CA5356
05766	1997	Love, Bruce / CRM Tech	Cultural Resources Report: Bakersfield—Rialto Fiberoptic Line Project, Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, California
05773	2007	Sanka, Jennifer M. / Michael Brandman Associates	Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment and Paleontological Records Review, Bear Valley Road Project, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California
06544	2009	Billat, Lorna / EarthTouch, Inc.	Property Assessment for Silica/CA2612ATCO Wireless Facility, 17199 Jasmine Street, in Victorville, San Bernardino County, California
06545	2009	Bonner, Diane F., and Robert J. Wlodarski / HEART	Cultural Resources Record Search and Archaeological Survey Results for the proposed Royal Street Communications, California, LLC, Site LA3344A (Mojave Park) located at 16252 Burwood Avenue, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California 92392
06956	2010	Bonner, Wayne H., and Marnie Aslin Kay / Michael Brandman Associates	Cultural Resource Record Search and Site Visit Results for T-Mobile USA Candidate IE25556A (Mojave Vista Park), 16252 Burwood Avenue, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. EBI Job no. 61104185
06999	2010	Wlodarski, Robert J. / CARE	Record Search Results for the Proposed AT&T Wireless Telecommunications Site ES0233 (Mojave Vista Park), 16252 Burwood Avenue, Victorville, California 92395
07156	2011	Tang, Bai “Tom”, Daniel Ballester, and Nina Gallardo / CRM Tech	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Water Supply System Improvements Projects, Fiscal Years 2010/2011 – 2014/2015, Victorville Water District, San Bernardino County, California

Report No. (SB-)	Year	Author(s)/Affiliation	Title
07403	2012	Tang, Bai "Tom" / CRM Tech	Building Renovation Project, 16453 Bear Valley Road, City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County
07404	2013	Basalik, Kenneth J. / Cultural Heritage Research Services, Inc.	Phase I Archaeological Survey, Martin Environmental Solution, Inc. Site # 2012-TWC-0005 (Silica), Victorville, San Bernardino County, California
07843	2013	Wlodarski, Robert J. / CARE	Records Search Results for the Proposed AT&T Wireless Telecommunications Site ES0233 (Mojave Vista Park), 16252 Burwood Avenue, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California 92392
08039	2016	Goodwin, Riordan / LSA Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resources Assessment Space Center Project, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California

A total of 12 cultural resources have been previously recorded within the 1-mi. records search radius (Table 2). All but one of the 12 are prehistoric, and of the 11 prehistoric resources, all but one consist of isolated debitage or lithic tools, with the exception being a small sparse lithic scatter. The single historic resource is a road known as the Big Bear or Bear Valley Cutoff, which lies 800 m south of the Project area. No resources have been recorded nearer than 650 m to the Project area.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within the 1-mi. Records Search Radius

Primary # (P-36-)	Trinomial (CA-SBR-)	Recorded by / Date	Site Type	Description	Attribute Codes	Relationship to Project Area
007061	7061H	Tramper / 2011; McKenna / 1991	Historic	Big Bear Cutoff; Bear Valley Cutoff	AH07. Roads/trails/railroad grades; HP37. Highway/trail	800 m S
012596	12324	Cerreto and Malan / 2006	Prehistoric	debitage and ground stone	AP2. Lithic scatter	950 m W
012991	n/a	Sanka / 2007	Prehistoric	isolated debitage	AP16. Other -- isolate	650 m S
020184	n/a	Alexandrowicz / 2001	Prehistoric	isolated debitage	AP16. Other -- isolate	1.1 km NE
027463	n/a	Malan / 2005	Prehistoric	isolated core	AP16. Other -- isolate	650 m W
060841	n/a	Alexandrowicz / 1993	Prehistoric	isolated debitage – collected	AP16. Other -- isolate	650 m S
060842	n/a	Alexandrowicz / 1993	Prehistoric	isolated debitage and core – collected	AP16. Other -- isolate	750 m S
060843	n/a	Alexandrowicz / 1993	Prehistoric	isolated debitage – collected	AP16. Other -- isolate	750 m S
060844	n/a	Alexandrowicz / 1993	Prehistoric	isolated debitage – collected	AP16. Other -- isolate	650 m S
060845	n/a	Alexandrowicz / 1993	Prehistoric	isolated spall or core – collected	AP16. Other -- isolate	675 m S
064607	n/a	Alexandrowicz / 2002	Prehistoric	isolated flake tool	AP16. Other -- isolate	1.2 km NE
064608	n/a	Alexandrowicz / 2002	Prehistoric	isolated biface	AP16. Other -- isolate	1.15 km NE

Historical Research

Historic aerials from 1952, 1968, 1969, 1994, 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2012 were analyzed on historicaerials.com, as were historic topographic maps dated 1902, 1906, 1912, 1923, 1936, 1942, 1945, 1957, 1970, 1980, and 1984.

No structures or land use is depicted in proximity to the Project area on any of the topos from 1902 through 1984, other than a roughly east-west road south of the area that first appears on the topo in 1957. This same road appears in the first available aerial photo from 1952. An additional but more ephemeral north-south road appears to the east of the Project area on the 1968 and 1969 aerials. On the 1994 aerial, a parcel to the north of the Project appears graded and a baseball diamond-shaped area appears across the road to the east. The 2005 aerial depicts a number of houses within the Country Ranch Court cul-de-sac to the north of the Project, and all of the lots in this development have houses on them in the 2009-2012 images. Paved roads appear to the west of the Project parcel for the first time on the 2009 aerial, but the area adjacent to the parcel on the west has remained undeveloped, as have the parcels directly to the north and south.

NAHC Sacred Lands File Search

On November 20, 2017, ASM sent a request to the NAHC to search their Sacred Lands File (SLF) to determine whether their files contained any information relating to the presence of Native American cultural resources within the Project parcel. Response from the NAHC was received on January 8, 2017, indicating that no such resources were found as a result of the SLF search. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of Native American cultural resources within the Project area. A list of seven tribal contacts who may have interest in the Project area was provided with the NAHC response; this response and contact list is provided with this report as Appendix A.

Pedestrian Survey Results

The Project area is a vacant lot that is crisscrossed by informal vehicle tracks as well as some more established dirt roads, especially along the edges of the parcel. Other than the vehicle tracks, the ground surface is largely undisturbed within the central portion of the parcel except by some large animal burrows, appearing to be an otherwise largely unmodified desert landscape. The topography is characterized by a roughly north/south rise through the center, with the landscape sloping gently away to both the east and west. The site is moderately vegetated with sparse creosote, buckwheat, mustard, and other intrusive plants and grasses. Surface visibility across the entire parcel was adequate to conduct this survey. The parcel has been used for informal dumping of household and garden refuse, particularly along 2nd Avenue and the dirt road that traverses the south edge of the parcel. No prehistoric or historic resources were identified as a result of the survey.

California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR)

For purposes of CEQA, a historic resource is any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript listed in or eligible for listing in the CRHR (PRC §5024.1, Title 14 CCR, §4852). The four criteria for listing in the CRHR closely mirror the criteria for listing in the NRHP. A resource is eligible for listing in the CRHR if it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage
- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past
- (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

Prehistoric archaeological sites are typically evaluated only under Criterion 4 for their potential to yield data important to understanding the prehistory of the area or region. Historical archaeological sites and architectural resources may be evaluated under any of the four criteria because their features, plus available historical documentation, may be used to inform our understanding of their association with

events, people, workmanship, or other important historical information. Isolates are not eligible for the listing in the CRHR because they lack association and context with other archaeological materials. Recording the physical description and location of an isolate exhausts its research potential.

Local Ordinances

At this time, the City does not maintain a list of designated historic sites. However, the Resource Element of the General Plan (2015) presents as its Goal #5, Preservation of Important Cultural Resources, the purpose of which is to “protect identified archaeological, paleontologic resources and historic resources within the planning area.” The current survey was conducted in accordance with Objective 5.1: Preserve known and expected cultural resources; Policy 5.1.1: Determine presence/absence of and consider impacts to cultural resources in the review of public and private development and infrastructure projects.

Recommendations

No prehistoric or historic resources were identified during the current survey. As such, no historical resources that would require further consideration as defined under CEQA were identified within the Project area.

However, the results of the records search indicate a moderate archaeological sensitivity for the Project area. Additionally, consultation between the City of Victorville and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians revealed that the Project lies within an area considered sensitive to the tribe. As such, it is recommended that future ground-disturbing construction activities be monitored by qualified archaeological and Native American monitors. Alternately, monitoring could be avoided if an archaeological testing program approved by the tribe is conducted within the Project area that returns negative results. In the event that any archaeological materials are encountered during future development activities, all activities must be suspended in the vicinity of the find until the deposits are recorded and evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If evaluated as eligible for the CRHR and if impacts to the resource cannot be avoided, mitigation would be necessary. In addition, if significant subsurface prehistoric resources are encountered that will be subject to impacts from the project, Tribes with historic and cultural ties to the area shall be contacted.

If human remains of any kind are found during construction, the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) and AB 2641 shall be followed. According to these requirements, all construction activities must cease immediately and the San Bernardino County Coroner and a qualified archaeologist must be notified. The Coroner will examine the remains and determine the next appropriate action based on his or her findings. If the coroner determines the remains to be of Native American origin, he or she will notify the NAHC. The NAHC will then identify the most likely descendants (MLD) to be consulted regarding treatment and/or reburial of the remains. If an MLD cannot be identified, or the MLD fails to make a recommendation regarding the treatment of the remains within 48 hours after gaining access to the remains, the property owner shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

Should you have any questions regarding this study, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



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Senior Archaeologist

Attachments

- Figure 1. Project location.
- Figure 2. Overview from southeast corner of parcel, view toward northwest.
- Figure 3. Overview from northeast corner, view toward west.
- Figure 4. Dumping along east edge of parcel, view toward north.
- Appendix A. NAHC response including tribal contact list.

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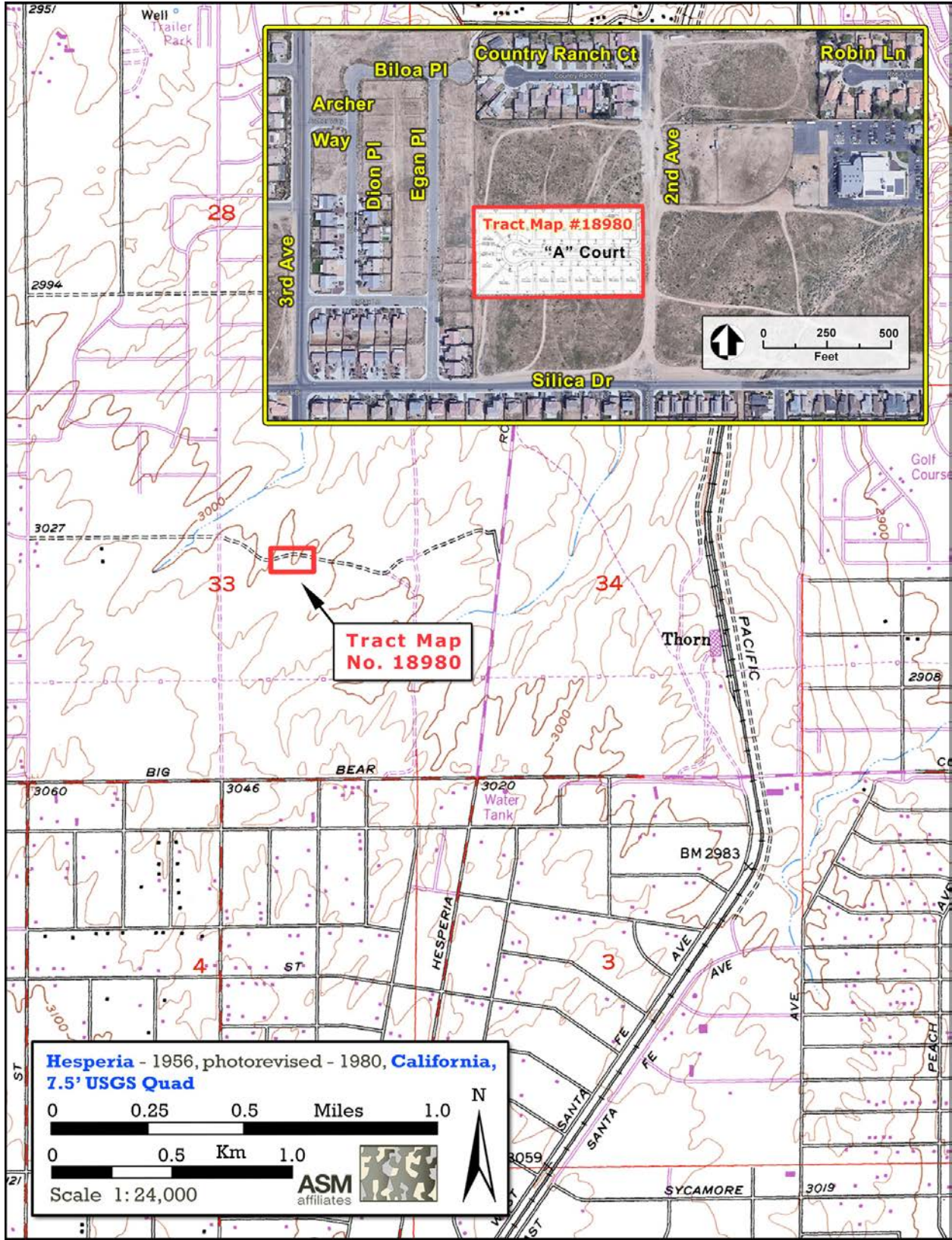


Figure 1. Project location.



Figure 2. Overview from southeast corner of parcel, view toward northwest.



Figure 3. Overview from northeast corner, view toward west.



Figure 4. Dumping along east edge of parcel, view toward north.

APPENDIX A
Native American Heritage Commission Response

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Cultural and Environmental Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 373-3710



January 8, 2018

Sherri Andrews
ASM Affiliates

Sent by E-mail: sandrews@asmaffiliates.com

RE: Proposed CORRECTED INFORMATION for the City of Victorville Tract 18980 Project, City of Victorville; Hesperia USGS Quadrangle, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Ms. Andrews:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) *Sacred Lands File* was completed for the area of potential project effect (APE) referenced above with negative results. Please note that the absence of specific site information in the *Sacred Lands File* does not indicate the absence of Native American cultural resources in any APE.

Attached is a list of tribes culturally affiliated to the project area. I suggest you contact all of the listed Tribes. If they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. The list should provide a starting place to locate areas of potential adverse impact within the APE. By contacting all those on the list, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the NAHC requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact via email: gayle.totton@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Gayle Totton, M.A., PhD.
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
(916) 373-3714

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Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
8/23/2017

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Cahuilla
Serrano

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Chemehuevi

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Kitanemuk
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Serrano

**Serrano Nation of Mission
Indians**

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Serrano

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed City of Victorville Tract 18940 Project, San Bernardino County.