

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
The Bloomington Gas Station Project
Bloomington, Unincorporated San Bernardino County, California

Prepared for:

Harry Sidhu
1240 East Washington Street
Colton, California 92335

Prepared by:

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA
BCR Consulting LLC
505 W. 8th Street
Claremont, California 91711

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USGS Quadrangle: 7.5-minute *Fontana, California* (1980)



BCRCONSULTING LLC

March 18, 2020

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Harry Sidhu to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Bloomington Gas Station Project (the project) in the community of Bloomington, unincorporated San Bernardino County, California. Tasks completed for the scope of work include a cultural resources records search, a reconnaissance-level pedestrian cultural resources survey, technical report, Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File Search, and paleontological overview. These tasks were performed in partial fulfillment of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The records search revealed that 24 cultural resource studies have occurred resulting in 26 cultural resources identified within one mile of the project. The nearest cultural resource was an isolated prehistoric projectile point 50 meters west of the project site on the northwest corner of Jurupa Avenue and Cedar Avenue. The project site has been partially assessed for cultural resources by one previous study, and no previously recorded resources have been identified within its boundaries.

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists did not discover any cultural resources, including prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or historic buildings, within the project boundaries. As a result BCR Consulting recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring is necessary for proposed project activities. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

If human remains are encountered during the undertaking, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

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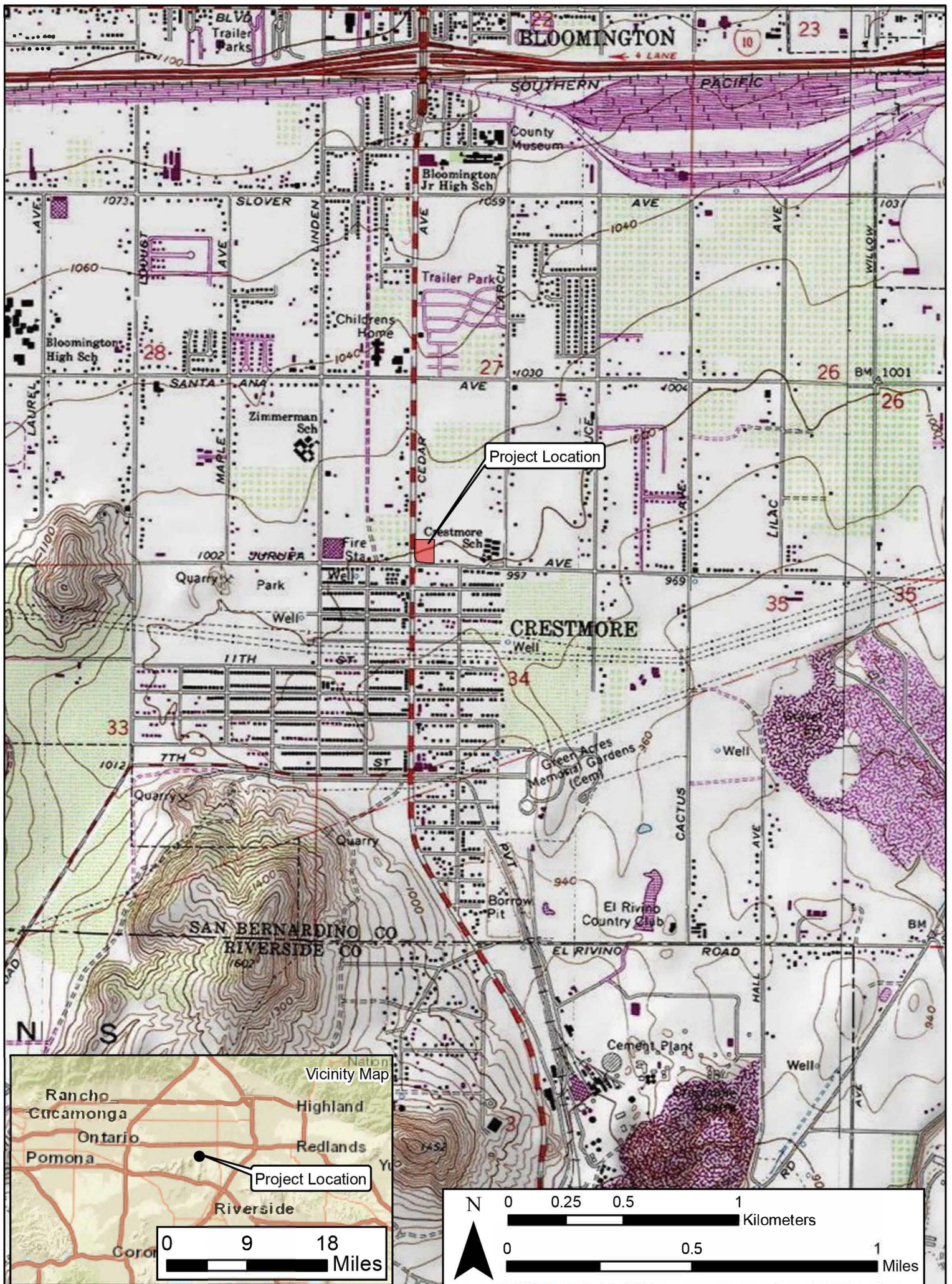
INTRODUCTION

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Harry Sidhu to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Bloomington Gas Station Project (approximately 2.3 acres; the project) in the community of Bloomington, unincorporated San Bernardino County, California. A reconnaissance-level pedestrian cultural resources survey of the project site was completed in partial fulfillment of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The project site is located in Section 27 of Township 1 South, Range 5 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, in San Bernardino County. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Fontana, California* (1980) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

NATURAL SETTING

The elevation of the project site is approximately 1000 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The property has been subject to disturbances related to a variety of natural and artificial factors, including surface erosion, discing for weed abatement, and excavation related to adjacent roads, and industrial and residential developments. The project site is covered with Holocene alluvial sand, gravel, and clay deposits (Qa) derived from the San Gabriel Mountains. This unindurated, undissected alluvium dominates the region, along with drift sand (Qs) (Morton and Matti 2001). Although some prehistoric sites have been identified in the general vicinity, the current study has not yielded any evidence that sediments on the project site have produced raw materials locally used in prehistoric tool manufacture. Local rainfall ranges from 5 to 15 inches annually (Jaeger and Smith 1971:36-37). The project site is flat, although the general slope conveys local water from north to south (USGS 1996). The project site is currently vacant, but was occupied by a small house, a barn, several trees, and row crops by 1938. These were all removed between 1959 and 1966 (United States Department of Agriculture 1938, 1959, 1966). No trace of a historic occupation remains (see Results/Field Survey). The demolition and removal of trees, landscaping, and buildings combined with other disturbances rendered the project completely flat and would have disturbed the top one to four feet of sediment throughout the project site.

Although recent and historic-period impacts have decimated local vegetation, remnants of a formerly dominant coastal sage scrub vegetation community have been sporadically observed in the area. Signature plant species include black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California brittlebush (*Encelia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovate*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), coastal century plant (*Agave shawii*), coastal cholla (*Opuntia prolifera*), Laguna Beach liveforever (*Dudleya stolonifera*), many-stemmed liveforever (*Dudleya multicaulis*), our Lord's candle (*Yucca whipplei*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.) (Williams et al. 2008:118-119). Signature animal species within Coastal Sage Scrub habitat include the kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys* sp.), California horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*), orange throated whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperthrus*), San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*), brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), and San Diego cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunnecapillus sandiegensis*) (Williams et al. 2008:118-120). Local native groups made use of many of these species (see Lightfoot and Parrish 2008).



Project Location Site
Bloomington Gas Station Project

Figure 1

Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning

Reference: ESRI; USGS Quad: Fontana, CA (1980)



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CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Context

The local prehistoric cultural setting has been organized into many chronological frameworks (see Warren and Crabtree 1986; Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Lanning 1963; Hunt 1960; Wallace 1958, 1962, 1978; Campbell and Campbell 1935), although there is no definitive sequence for the region. The difficulties in establishing cultural chronologies for western San Bernardino County are a function of its enormous size and the small amount of archaeological excavations conducted there. Moreover, throughout prehistory many groups have occupied the area and their territories often overlap spatially and chronologically resulting in mixed artifact deposits. Due to dry climate and capricious geological processes, these artifacts rarely become integrated in-situ. Lacking a milieu hospitable to the preservation of cultural midden, local chronologies have relied upon temporally diagnostic artifacts, such as projectile points, or upon the presence/absence of other temporal indicators, such as groundstone. Such methods are instructive, but can be limited by prehistoric occupants' concurrent use of different artifact styles, or by artifact re-use or re-sharpening, as well as researchers' mistaken diagnosis, and other factors (see Flenniken 1985; Flenniken and Raymond 1986; Flenniken and Wilke 1989). Recognizing the shortcomings of comparative temporal indicators, this study recommends review of Warren and Crabtree (1986), who have drawn upon this method to produce a commonly cited and relatively comprehensive chronology.

Ethnography

In general the project site is situated at an ethnographic nexus peripherally occupied by the Gabrielino and Serrano. Each group consisted of semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers who spoke a variation of the Takic language subfamily. Individual ethnographic summaries are provided below.

Gabrielino. The Gabrielino probably first encountered Europeans when Spanish explorers reached California's southern coast during the 15th and 16th centuries (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1925). The first documented encounter, however, occurred in 1769 when Gaspar de Portola's expedition crossed Gabrielino territory (Bean and Smith 1978). Other brief encounters took place over the years, and are documented in McCawley 1996 (citing numerous sources). The Gabrielino name has been attributed by association with the Spanish mission of San Gabriel, and refers to a subset of people sharing speech and customs with other Cupan speakers (such as the Juaneño/Luiseño/Ajachemem) from the greater Takic branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family (Bean and Smith 1978). Gabrielino villages occupied the watersheds of various rivers (locally including the Santa Ana) and intermittent streams. Chiefs were usually descended through the male line and often administered several villages. Gabrielino society was somewhat stratified and is thought to have contained three hierarchically ordered social classes which dictated ownership rights and social status and obligations (Bean and Smith 1978:540-546). Plants utilized for food were heavily relied upon and included acorn-producing oaks, as well as seed-producing grasses and sage. Animal protein was commonly derived from rabbits and deer in inland regions, while coastal populations supplemented their diets with fish, shellfish, and marine mammals (Boscana 1933, Heizer 1968, Johnston 1962, McCawley 1996). Dog, coyote, bear, tree squirrel, pigeon, dove, mud hen, eagle, buzzard, raven, lizards, frogs, and turtles were specifically not utilized as a food source (Kroeber 1925:652).

Serrano. Kroeber (1925) applied the generic term “Serrano” to four groups, each with distinct territories: the Kitanemuk, Tataviam, Vanyume, and Serrano. Only one group, in the San Bernardino Mountains and West-Central Mojave Desert, ethnically claims the term Serrano. Bean and Smith (1978) indicate that the Vanyume, an obscure Takic population, was found along the Mojave River at the time of Spanish contact. The Kitanemuk lived to the north and west, while the Tataviam lived to the west. All may have used the western San Bernardino County area seasonally. Serrano villages consisted of small collections of willow-framed domed structures situated near reliable water sources. A lineage leader administered laws and ceremonies from a large ceremonial house centrally located in most villages. Local Serrano relied heavily on acorns and piñon nuts for subsistence, although roots, bulbs, shoots, and seeds supplemented these. When available, game animals commonly included deer, mountain sheep, antelope, rabbits, small rodents, and various birds –particularly quail (Bean and Smith 1978:571).

History

Historic-era California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish or Mission Period (1769 to 1821), the Mexican or Rancho Period (1821 to 1848), and the American Period (1848 to present).

Spanish Period. The first European to pass through the area is thought to be a Spaniard called Father Francisco Garces. Having become familiar with the area, Garces acted as a guide to Juan Bautista de Anza, who had been commissioned to lead a group across the desert from a Spanish outpost in Arizona to set up quarters at the Mission San Gabriel in 1771 near what today is Pasadena (Beck and Haase 1974). Garces was followed by Alta California Governor Pedro Fages, who briefly explored the region in 1772. Searching for San Diego Presidio deserters, Fages had traveled through Riverside to San Bernardino, crossed over the mountains into the Mojave Desert, and then journeyed westward to the San Joaquin Valley (Beck and Haase 1974).

Mexican Period. In 1821, Mexico overthrew Spanish rule and the missions began to decline. By 1833, the Mexican government passed the Secularization Act, and the missions, reorganized as parish churches, lost their vast land holdings, and released their neophytes (Beattie and Beattie 1974).

American Period. The American Period, 1848–Present, began with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In 1850, California was accepted into the Union of the United States primarily due to the population increase created by the Gold Rush of 1849. The cattle industry reached its greatest prosperity during the first years of the American Period. Mexican Period land grants had created large pastoral estates in California, and demand for beef during the Gold Rush led to a cattle boom that lasted from 1849–1855. However, beginning about 1855, the demand for beef began to decline due to imports of sheep from New Mexico and cattle from the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys. When the beef market collapsed, many California ranchers lost their ranchos through foreclosure. A series of disastrous floods in 1861–1862, followed by a significant drought further diminished the economic impact of local ranching. This decline combined with ubiquitous agricultural and real estate developments of the late 19th century, set the stage for diversified economic pursuits that have continued to proliferate to this day (Beattie and Beattie 1974; Cleland 1941).

PERSONNEL

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA acted as the Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the current study. Mr. Brunzell provided project oversight and completed the technical report. BCR Consulting Archaeological Field Director Joseph Orozco, M.A., R.P.A, performed the cultural resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) located at California State University, Fullerton. BCR Consulting Staff Archaeologist Nicholas Shepetuk, B.A. performed the field survey.

METHODS

Records Search

Prior to fieldwork, an archaeological records search was conducted at the SCCIC. This included a review of all recorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, as well as a review of known cultural resources, and survey and excavation reports generated from projects completed within one half-mile of the project site. In addition, a review was conducted of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and documents and inventories from the California Office of Historic Preservation including the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures.

Field Survey

An archaeological pedestrian field survey of the project site was conducted on January 20, 2020. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart across 100 percent of the project site. Soil exposures, including natural and artificial clearings were carefully inspected for evidence of cultural resources.

RESULTS

Records Search

Data from the SCCIC revealed that 24 cultural resource studies have occurred resulting in 26 cultural resources identified within one mile of the project. The nearest cultural resource was an isolated prehistoric projectile point 50 meters west of the project site on the northwest corner of Jurupa Avenue and Cedar Avenue. Although this item was relatively near the project site, isolated finds are not considered “historical resources” under CEQA. They lack provenience and have little bearing on archaeological findings. The nearest prehistoric site was approximately three quarters of a mile to the west of the project site. The project site has been partially assessed for cultural resources by one previous study, and no previously recorded resources have been identified within its boundaries. The records search is summarized as follows:

Table A. Cultural Resources and Reports Located Within One Half-Mile of the Project Site

USGS 7.5 Min. Quadrangle	Cultural Resources Within One Mile of Project Site	Studies Within One Mile of Project Site
<i>Fontana, California</i> (1980)	P-36-714: Prehistoric Bedrock Milling (3/4 mile W) P-36-715: Prehistoric Bedrock Milling (1 mile W) P-36-1573: Prehistoric Lithic Scatter/Bedrock Milling (1 mile SW) P-36-12190: Historic-Period El Rivino Country Club (1 mile SE) P-36-20317: Historic-Period Jarrell House (1 mile N)	SB-15, 145, 298, 357, 388, 439, 1499*, 1651, 1771, 3597, 3999, 4000, 4370, 4775, 5064, 5066,

USGS 7.5 Min. Quadrangle	Cultural Resources Within One Mile of Project Site	Studies Within One Mile of Project Site
	P-36-20318: Historic-Period Johnson House (1 mile N) P-36-20319: Historic-Period Brown House (1 mile N) P-36-20320: Historic-Period Gilreath House (1 mile N) P-36-20322: Historic-Period Ramirez House (1 mile N) P-36-20323: Historic-Period Sun Country Farms (1 mile N) P-36-20324: Historic-Period Tilson House (1 mile N) P-36-20325: Historic-Period Houchens House (1 mile N) P-36-20328: Historic-Period Walker House (1 mile N) P-36-21605: Historic-Period Residence (1 mile N) P-36-21607: Historic-Period Bloomington Middle School (1 mile N) P-36-26933: Hist-Period Foundation, Refuse, and Well (1 mile E) P-36-32470: Historic-Period Single Family Residence (3/4 mile W) P-36-32471: Historic-Period Single Family Residence (3/4 mile W) P-36-32472: Historic-Period Single Family Residence (3/4 mile W) P-36-32473: Historic-Period Single Family Residence (3/4 mile W) P-36-32474: Historic-Period Single Family Residence (3/4 mile W) P-36-32475: Historic-Period Single Family Residence (3/4 mile W) P-36-32476: Historic-Period Single Family Residence (3/4 mile W) P-36-32477: Historic-Period Single Family Residence (3/4 mile W) P-36-32478: Historic-Period Single Family Residence (3/4 mile W) P-36-60213: Isolated Prehistoric Projectile point (50 meters W)	5643, 6139, 6532, 6719, 7393, 7581, 7810, 7811

*Previously assessed a portion of the project site.

Field Survey

During the field survey, Mr. Shepetuk carefully inspected the project site, and identified no cultural resources within its boundaries. Surface visibility was approximately 95 percent within the project site. Ground disturbances were severe and resulted from a variety of natural and artificial factors, including surface erosion, discing for weed abatement, and excavation related to adjacent roads, and industrial and residential developments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists did not discover any cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic-period archaeological sites or historic-period buildings) within the project site. Furthermore, the sediments, rocks, and topography of the project site did not exhibit any potential for significant cultural utility or sensitivity. The nearest cultural resource was an isolated prehistoric projectile point 50 meters west of the project site on the northwest corner of Jurupa Avenue and Cedar Avenue. Although this item was relatively near the project site, isolated finds are not considered “historical resources” under CEQA. They lack provenience and have little bearing on archaeological findings. All three prehistoric sites identified within the research radius are associated with bedrock milling activities nearly a mile from the project site. The project site lacks such exposed outcrops, and as such does not exhibit conditions that have locally indicated potential for prehistoric resources. Furthermore, and as indicated in the Natural Setting section (page 1), the top one to four feet of sediment have been subject to mechanical disturbance. As a result, BCR Consulting recommends a finding of no impacts to historical resources under CEQA for the current project. BCR Consulting also recommends that no additional cultural

resources work or monitoring is necessary during proposed activities associated with the development of the project site. Although the current study has not indicated sensitivity for cultural resources within the project boundaries, ground disturbing activities always have the potential to reveal buried deposits not observed on the surface during previous surveys. Prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, field personnel should be alerted to the possibility of buried prehistoric or historic cultural deposits. In the event that field personnel encounter buried cultural materials, work in the immediate vicinity of the find should cease and a qualified archaeologist should be retained to assess the significance of the find. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop or divert construction excavation as necessary. If the qualified archaeologist finds that any cultural resources present meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register, plans for the treatment, evaluation, and mitigation of impacts to the find will need to be developed. Prehistoric or historic cultural materials that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities include:

- historic artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;
- historic structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements;
- prehistoric flaked-stone artifacts and debitage (waste material), consisting of obsidian, basalt, and or cryptocrystalline silicates;
- groundstone artifacts, including mortars, pestles, and grinding slabs;
- dark, greasy soil that may be associated with charcoal, ash, bone, shell, flaked stone, groundstone, and fire affected rocks;

Please note that results for tribal cultural resources are not presented for the current study. CEQA guidelines define a tribal cultural resource as a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place or object, which is of cultural value to a tribe and is either on or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or that the lead agency at its discretion chooses to treat as a tribal cultural resource. Therefore, potential for impacts to tribal cultural resources will be determined by the lead agency during required consultation with tribes.

If human remains are encountered during any proposed project activities, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

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APPENDIX A

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

January 22, 2020

Joseph Orozco
BCR Consulting LLC

Via Email to: josephorozco513@gmail.com

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Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
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Chumash

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COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Christina Snider
Pomo

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

Re: Bloomington Gas Station Project, San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Orozco:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green
Staff Services Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
1/22/2020**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Patricia Garcia-Plotkin, Director
5401 Dinah Shore Drive Cahuilla
Palm Springs, CA, 92264
Phone: (760) 699 - 6907
Fax: (760) 699-6924
ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Jeff Grubbe, Chairperson
5401 Dinah Shore Drive Cahuilla
Palm Springs, CA, 92264
Phone: (760) 699 - 6800
Fax: (760) 699-6919

Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians

Amanda Vance, Chairperson
P.O. Box 846 Cahuilla
Coachella, CA, 92236
Phone: (760) 398 - 4722
Fax: (760) 369-7161
hhaines@augustinetribe.com

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

Doug Welmas, Chairperson
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway Cahuilla
Indio, CA, 92203
Phone: (760) 342 - 2593
Fax: (760) 347-7880
jstapp@cabazonindians-nsn.gov

Cahuilla Band of Indians

Daniel Salgado, Chairperson
52701 U.S. Highway 371 Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 763 - 5549
Fax: (951) 763-2808
Chairman@cahuilla.net

Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation

Andrew Salas, Chairperson
P.O. Box 393 Gabrieleno
Covina, CA, 91723
Phone: (626) 926 - 4131
admin@gabrielenoindians.org

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Anthony Morales, Chairperson
P.O. Box 693 Gabrieleno
San Gabriel, CA, 91778
Phone: (626) 483 - 3564
Fax: (626) 286-1262
GTTribalcouncil@aol.com

Gabrielino /Tongva Nation

Sandonne Goad, Chairperson
106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St., Gabrielino
#231
Los Angeles, CA, 90012
Phone: (951) 807 - 0479
sgoad@gabrielino-tongva.com

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council

Robert Dorame, Chairperson
P.O. Box 490 Gabrielino
Bellflower, CA, 90707
Phone: (562) 761 - 6417
Fax: (562) 761-6417
gtongva@gmail.com

Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe

Charles Alvarez,
23454 Vanowen Street Gabrielino
West Hills, CA, 91307
Phone: (310) 403 - 6048
roadkingcharles@aol.com

Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians

Shane Chapparosa, Chairperson
P.O. Box 189 Cahuilla
Warner Springs, CA, 92086-0189
Phone: (760) 782 - 0711
Fax: (760) 782-0712

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Denisa Torres, Cultural Resources
Manager
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 Serrano
Phone: (951) 849 - 8807
Fax: (951) 922-8146
dtorres@morongo-nsn.gov

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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Bloomington Gas Station Project, San Bernardino County.

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
1/22/2020**

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 Serrano
Phone: (951) 849 - 8807
Fax: (951) 922-8146
dtorres@morongo-nsn.gov

Ramona Band of Cahuilla

Joseph Hamilton, Chairperson
P.O. Box 391670 Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 763 - 4105
Fax: (951) 763-4325
admin@ramona-nsn.gov

Ramona Band of Cahuilla

John Gomez, Environmental
Coordinator
P. O. Box 391670 Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 763 - 4105
Fax: (951) 763-4325
jgomez@ramona-nsn.gov

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Donna Yocum, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838 Kitanemuk
Newhall, CA, 91322 Vanyume
Phone: (503) 539 - 0933 Tataviam
Fax: (503) 574-3308
ddyocum@comcast.net

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Lee Clauss, Director of Cultural
Resources
26569 Community Center Drive Serrano
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 864 - 8933
Fax: (909) 864-3370
lclauss@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians

Mercedes Estrada,
P. O. Box 391820 Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 659 - 2700
Fax: (951) 659-2228
mercedes.estrada@santarosacahuilla-nsn.gov

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians

Steven Estrada, Chairperson
P.O. Box 391820 Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 659 - 2700
Fax: (951) 659-2228
mflaxbeard@santarosacahuilla-nsn.gov

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (253) 370 - 0167
serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (909) 528 - 9032
serranonation1@gmail.com

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians

Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural
Resource Department
P.O. BOX 487 Cahuilla
San Jacinto, CA, 92581 Luiseno
Phone: (951) 663 - 5279
Fax: (951) 654-4198
jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov

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**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
1/22/2020**

***Soboba Band of Luiseno
Indians***

Scott Cozart, Chairperson
P. O. Box 487
San Jacinto, CA, 92583
Phone: (951) 654 - 2765
Fax: (951) 654-4198
jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov

Cahuilla
Luiseno

***Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla
Indians***

Michael Mirelez, Cultural
Resource Coordinator
P.O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA, 92274
Phone: (760) 399 - 0022
Fax: (760) 397-8146
mmirelez@tmdci.org

Cahuilla

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APPENDIX B

PALEONTOLOGICAL OVERVIEW



January 21, 2020

BCR Consulting LLC
Joseph Orozco
505 West 8th Street
Claremont, CA 91711

Dear Mr. Orozco,

This letter presents the results of a record search conducted for the Bloomington Gas Station Project in Bloomington, San Bernardino County, California. The project area is located north of Jurupa Avenue and east of Cedar Avenue in Section 27, Township 1 South, Range 5 West on the Fontana USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle.

The geologic units underlying this project are mapped entirely as young alluvial deposits dating from the late Holocene period (Morton & Miller, 2006). Holocene alluvial units are considered to be of high preservation value, but material found is unlikely to be fossil material due to the relatively modern associated dates of the deposits. However, if development requires any substantial depth of disturbance, the likelihood of reaching Pleistocene alluvial sediments would increase. The Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or within a 1 mile radius.

While the presence of any fossil material is unlikely, if excavation activity disturbs deeper sediment dating to the earliest parts of the Holocene or Late Pleistocene periods, the material would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area is unlikely to be paleontologically sensitive, but caution during development should be observed.

If you have any questions, or would like further information, please feel free to contact me at dradford@westerncentermuseum.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darla Radford', with a stylized, cursive script.

Darla Radford
Collections Manager

APPENDIX C

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Overview of project site from northwestern corner (view SE)



Photo 2: Overview of project site from northeastern corner (view SW)
