

## Results of the Cultural Resources Survey for the Monte Vista Regional Soccer and Wellness Park Project Imperial County, California

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#### NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA BASE INFORMATION

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Contract Number: RECON Number 9781

USGS Quadrangle Map: El Centro, California, quadrangle, 1979 edition

Acreage: 63 acres

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This report summarizes the results of the cultural resources field and archival investigation for the Monte Vista Regional Soccer and Wellness Park Project, in the county of Imperial, California. The approximately 80-acre project area is located within the city of El Centro, situated south of West McCabe Road, west of Sperber Road, east and adjacent to a portion of the Dahlia Canal, and approximately 2.5 miles north of the Imperial Valley Irrigation Network's Main Canal. The assessor's parcel number for the site is 054-510-001. A records search was conducted of the archaeological databases maintained at the California Historical Resources Information System, South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University. Two cultural resources were mapped within or adjacent to the current project area. They are P-13-008655 (Date Drain) and P-13-017171 (Dahlia Canal Lateral 1).

No previously unrecorded prehistoric cultural resources were located during the survey. One previously unrecorded historic-period resource, a set of earthen and concrete-lined canals servicing the project property (9781-NDY-1), was recorded using a California State Parks Department of Parks and Recreation 523 primary site form. In addition, a continuation sheet was completed for a previously unrecorded segment of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1 (P-13-017171).

It was determined that 9781-NDY-1 and P-13-017171 do not meet any of the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historic Places and are therefore not significant historical resources under the California Environmental Quality Act.

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#### **ATTACHMENT**

1: Native American Heritage Commission Response Letter

## **CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS (bound under separate cover)**

- 1: Record Search Results
- 2: Primary Site Form for 9781-NDY-1 and Continuation Sheet for P-13-017171

# List of Acronyms/Abbreviations

APE area of potential effect APN assessor's parcel number

BP before present

CEQA California Environmental Quality Act

City City of El Centro County County of Imperial

IID Imperial Irrigation District

NAHC Native American Heritage Commission

project Monte Vista Regional Soccer and Wellness Park Project

RECON Environmental, Inc.
SCIC South Coastal Information Center
USGS United States Geological Survey

# Management Summary

This report summarizes the results of the cultural resources field and archival investigation for the Monte Vista Regional Soccer and Wellness Park Project, in the County of Imperial, California. The project is located south of West McCabe Road, west of Sperber Road, east and adjacent to a portion of the Dahlia Canal, and approximately 2.5 miles north of the Imperial Valley Irrigation Network's Main Canal. The project area is located within the city of El Centro (City), in the county of Imperial (County).

A records search was conducted of the archaeological databases maintained at the California Historical Resources Information System, South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University (SCIC). The files at SCIC show two cultural resources mapped within a one-mile radius of the project area. They are P-13-008655 (a segment of the Date Drain) and P-13-009091 (a segment of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1).

No previously unrecorded prehistoric cultural resources were located during the survey. One previously unrecorded historic-period resource, a set of earthen and concrete-lined canals servicing the project property, was recorded using a California State Parks Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 primary site form. In addition, a continuation sheet was completed for a previously unrecorded segment of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1.

9781-NDY-1—a set of earthen and concrete-lined canals servicing the project property—and P-13-017171—a previously unrecorded segment of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1—located within the project area, do not meet any of the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historic Places and are therefore not significant historical resources under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Because none of these resources are significant historical resources under CEQA, there will be no adverse effect on historical resources as a result of the project.

The possibility of buried significant prehistoric cultural resources present within the project area is considered low. The topsoil within the project area has been heavily disturbed in the past due to agriculture, leaving no suitable areas where potentially significant prehistoric or historic cultural resources could be present. Construction monitoring is not recommend.

## 1.0 Introduction

This report summarizes the results of the cultural resources field and archival investigation for the Monte Vista Regional Soccer and Wellness Park Project (project). The project area is located south of West McCabe Road, west of Sperber Road, east and adjacent to a portion of the Dahlia Canal, approximately 2.5 miles north of the Imperial Valley Irrigation Network's Main Canal, located within City of El Centro (City), in the County of Imperial (County) (Figure 1). The assessor's parcel number (APN) is 054-510-001. The project area is on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographical map series, El Centro quadrangle 1979, in Section 19, Township 16 South and Range 14 East and Herber quadrangle 1976, in Section 19, Township 16 South and Range 14 East (Figure 2). The project is currently active agricultural land (Figure 3).

## 1.1 Future Development

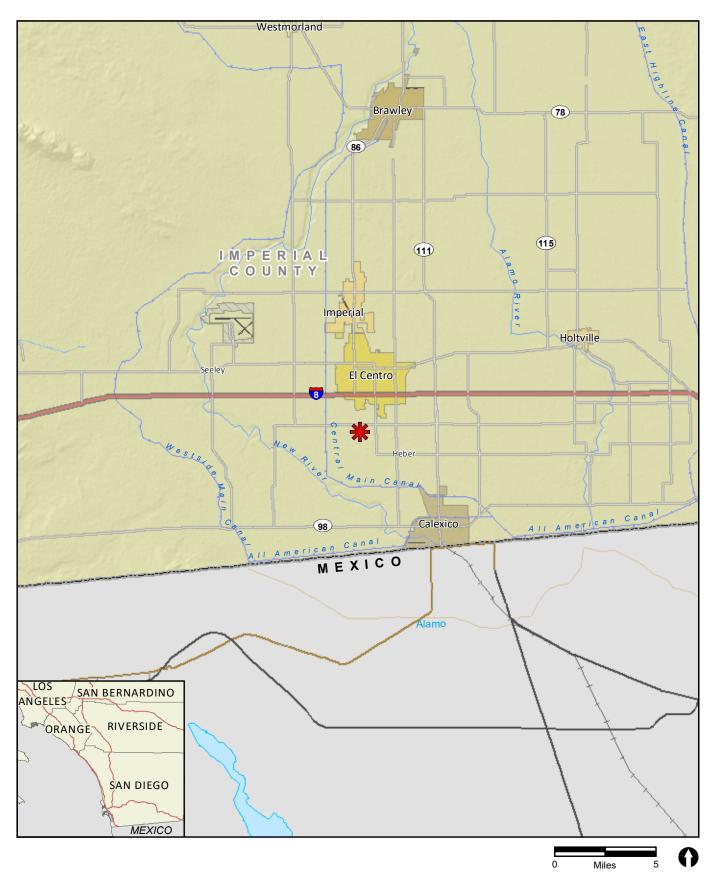
The proposed project will be developed on 63 acres of vacant land. The project will include 13 full-size soccer fields including a park fitness loop and a field house and a sustainable organic farm. The project is proposed to be completed in three phases. Phase 1 would accommodate five full-size soccer fields, parking lot, and a field house including restrooms. Phase II would accommodate five full-size soccer fields, parking lot, park fitness loop, playground and a sustainable organic farm/orchard. Phase III would accommodate three full-size soccer fields.

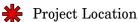
# 2.0 Physical and Cultural Setting

## 2.1 Physical Setting

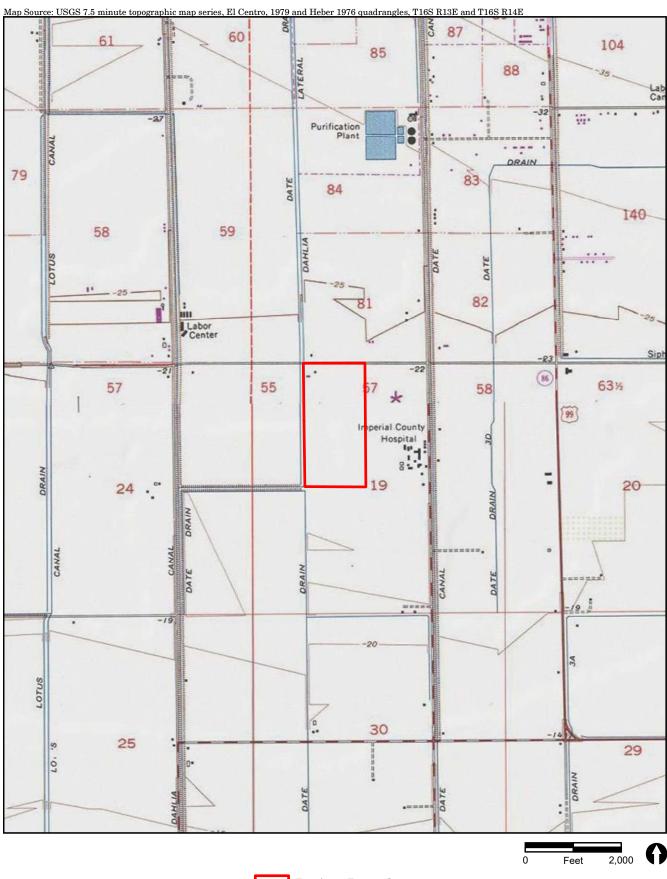
The project area is adjacent to or encompasses improved and unimproved dirt roads south of Interstate 8, surrounded by active agricultural fields, the Imperial County of Education, the Imperial County Probation Department, the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, and the Imperial County Animal Control Office. The project area includes portions of existing agricultural lands and water delivery network infrastructure. Elevation for the project ranges from minus 15 feet below mean sea level at the southwestern corner of the project area to minus 19 feet below mean sea level at the northeastern corner. Topography of the project area consists of leveled agricultural fields, a slightly raised road bed for agricultural field access, raised interior canals, and raised banks of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1. Predominant vegetation communities in the project area and vicinity consist of cultivars, non-native grasses, and saltbush (Atriplex lentiformis).

The project area is underlain by deep deltaic alluvial fills deposited by the Colorado River. Soils in the project area are described as Imperial-Glenbar silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes (115). Imperial-Glenbar typically has a surface layer that is pinkish gray silty clay loam to about 12 inches. The underlying material is pinkish gray and light brown silty clay to a depth of 60 inches. Efflorescences of gypsum and brown stains are common in the cracks and pores (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1981).









Project Boundary



**Project Boundary** Site Plan

400 Feet



## 2.2 Cultural Setting

The prehistory of Imperial County may be divided into three major temporal periods: Paleoamerican, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric. These time periods have regional expression through various regional archaeological complexes or archaeological cultures.

## 2.2.1 Paleoamerican Period

The earliest part of the Paleoamerican Period in the region is represented by the Fluted Point Tradition. Fluted points have been well documented and dated for the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains areas (Haury 1975; Hester 1972; Jennings 1978; McGuire and Schiffer 1982). In these regions, they are often associated with big game kill sites and are interpreted to reflect a Big Game Hunting Tradition. In the Great Basin and California, however, their dating is more problematic. They are typically found along the shorelines of Pleistocene playas, along fossil streams, and in passes connecting such places (Fredrickson 1973; Riddell and Olsen 1969). Some researchers suggest that this reflects a lacustrine or riparian adaptation ancestral to the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition or San Dieguito—Lake Mojave Complex that developed after about 12,000 Before Present (BP) (Moratto 1984).

The San Dieguito–Lake Mojave Complex is thought to have existed approximately 10,000 to 7,000 years ago during a time of greater rainfall than the present in southeastern California (Warren and Crabtree 1986). The assemblage consists of heavy percussion, core, and flake-based tools: domed and keeled choppers, planes, and scrapers. One also finds light-percussion flaked spokeshaves, flaked-stone crescentics, and leaf-shaped projectile points. In the Mojave Desert, one also finds the distinctive Lake Mojave and Silver Lake stemmed projectile points. Milling equipment is apparently rare or absent (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184). Subsistence is generally thought to have been focused on highly ranked resources such as large mammals. This subsistence strategy may have encouraged a pattern of relatively high residential mobility. Some cleared circles, trails, and geoglyphs in the Colorado Desert have been tentatively included in the San Dieguito–Lake Mojave Complex. Temporal placement of these sites is based on degree of embeddedness in desert pavements and patination, a dating method that has not been proven reliable (Hayden 1976; McGuire and Schiffer 1982; Rogers 1939).

## 2.2.2 Archaic Period

The early Archaic Period is represented by the Pinto Complex (7,000 to 4,000 BP) in the Colorado Desert. There is an apparent shift to a more generalized economy and a gradually increased emphasis on the exploitation of plant resources. The ground stone artifacts associated with this complex are typically thin slabs with smooth, highly polished surfaces, not the basin metates and manos typical of later times. Rogers (1939:52-53) argued that the thin, polished "slab metates" were not milling stones, but rather were used to process fibrous leaves or skins (Susia 1964; Wallace 1962; Warren 1984). Projectile points consist of the distinctive Pinto Series atlatl points made by hard hammer percussion technique. The assemblage also includes scrapers, knives, scraper-planes, and choppers. The mixed

core-based tool assemblage of the Pinto Complex may indicate a range of adaptations to a more diversified set of plant and animal resources brought about by a generalized desiccating trend in the West, punctuated by occasional, more mesic times. In general, archaeological sites dating to this period are rare in the Colorado Desert (Cleland et al. 2003).

According to Schaefer (1994), Indian Hill Rockshelter (CA-SDI-2537), located in the eastern foothills of the Jacumba Mountains, is the only well-documented site in the Colorado Desert of this period. This site contained rock-lined features, Elko points, core tools, hammerstones, manos reused as cooking stones and in hearths, brown ware and buff ware ceramics, ceramic pipes, and shell beads (McDonald 1992). The ceramics were found in the upper levels of the deposit and date to a later site component. McDonald (1992) suggests that Indian Hill Rockshelter was a multi-component site used as a food storage facility with numerous rocklined features, occupied during the winter and spring.

Following the Pinto Complex is the Gypsum Complex, or Amargosa Complex (4000 to 1500 BP). This complex is characterized by the presence of fine pressure-flaked Elko and Humboldt series and Gypsum-type projectile points. The assemblage also contains leaf-shaped points; rectangular-based knives; flake scrapers; T-shaped drills; and occasional large scraper-planes, choppers, and hammerstones. Manos and basin metates become relatively common, and the mortar and pestle were introduced late in the complex (Warren 1984:416). The diversity of tool types and the refinement of milling equipment suggest a more generalized and effective adaptation to desert conditions in the Greater Southwest (Warren and Crabtree 1986).

### 2.2.3 Late Prehistoric Period

The Late Prehistoric Period, also known as the Patayan Complex, begins by approximately 1500 BP. The Patayan Complex is characterized by dramatic cultural change and an expanded population in the Salton Trough. Paddle and anvil pottery was introduced, probably from Mexico by way of the Hohokam Complex of the middle Gila River area (Schroeder 1975, 1979; Rogers 1945). Lower Colorado Buff Ware, as described in the Patayan Complex, appears by about 1250 BP in the Colorado Desert (Waters 1982; Hildebrand 2003). Tizon Brownware, found in San Diego County, northern Baja California, and the western Salton Basin, occurs slightly later (Griset 1996).

The Patayan Complex is divided into three phases: Patayan I, II, and III. The terms Yuman I, II, and III—as termed by M. Rogers (1945)—coincide with the three Patayan periods with slight differences in terms of ceramic types and are defined by changes in ceramic types and the filling and desiccation of Lake Cahuilla (Waters 1982; Weide 1976).

The settlement system of Patayan I (1250–950 BP) is characterized by small mobile groups living in dispersed seasonal settlements along the Colorado River. Hunting and gathering was the subsistence strategy used by these mobile groups. A subsistence shift to floodplain horticulture occurred along the Colorado River and perhaps along the Alamo River and New River during the Patayan II Period (950–450 BP) (Baksh 1994; Forde 1931). Like elsewhere in the Southwest, principal crops were maize, beans, and squash, but mesquite was actually

more important to the diet. Fish from the Colorado River was the main source of protein (Castetter and Bell 1951). The shift to Patayan II coincides with the various filling—recession episodes of Lake Cahuilla and the lacustrine environment created by the lake. Yuman II also spanned from 900 to 450 BP and is characterized with an expansion into large settlement areas because of filling of Lake Cahuilla (Rogers 1945). During Patayan III (450–20 BP), there was a population shift because of the final desiccation of Lake Cahuilla (Rogers 1945; Waters 1982). Rogers (1945) also mentioned this population shift during his discussion of the Yuman III Period.

Smaller projectile points signifying the advent of the bow and arrow appear about 1050 BP in the Colorado Desert. Also during this period, burial practices shifted from inhumations to cremations. Other culture traits generally associated with this period include increasingly elaborate kinship systems, rock art including the famous geoglyphs or ground figures found along the Colorado River, and expanded trading networks as evidenced by the presence of shell from the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of California in Colorado Desert sites (Davis 1961; McGuire and Schiffer 1982; Warren 1984; Schaefer 1994).

The greatly increased number of Late Period archaeological sites suggests an expansion of population. The settlement pattern is characterized by small mobile groups living in seasonal settlements along the Colorado River floodplain. These locations were influenced by the filling and desiccation of Lake Cahuilla at least four times during this period (Schaefer 1994).

## 2.2.4 Ethnohistory

The project area was utilized prehistorically by a variety of Native American groups, including the Kumeyaay (the Kamia are a subset of this group), the Cocopah, and the Quechan. These three groups speak the language of the Yuman family of the Hokan language stock (Kroeber 1920). Short descriptions of their individual ethnographic context are outlined below.

At the time of the Spanish invasion, the Kumeyaay (also known as Kamia, Ipai, Tipai, and Diegueño) occupied the southern two-thirds of San Diego County. The term Kamia refers to the desert Kumeyaay while Ipai refers to the Kumeyaay north of Agua Hedionda to the San Luis Rey River and Tipai refers to the Kumeyaay south of Agua Hedionda to Todos Santos Bay, Mexico, and east to the Imperial Sand Dunes. The Kumeyaay lived in semi-sedentary, politically autonomous villages or rancherias. A settlement system typically consisted of two or more seasonal villages with temporary camps radiating away from these central places (Cline 1984). For example, the *Kwamai* (or *Kwaaymii*) clan spent their summers in the Laguna Mountains and their winters in the desert (Cline 1984:12-19; Spier 1923:306).

The Kumeyaay economic system consisted of hunting and gathering, with a focus on small game, acorns, grass seeds, and other plant resources. The most basic social and economic unit was the patrilocal extended family. A wide range of tools was made of both locally available and imported stone, including scrapers, choppers, flake-based cutting tools, and biface knives. Ground stone objects include mortars and pestles, and manos and metates typically made of locally available fine-grained granite. The Kumeyaay made fine baskets of either

coiled or twined construction. The Kumeyaay also made pottery, using the paddle-and-anvil technique. Most were a plain brown utility ware called Tizon Brownware, but some were decorated (May 1978; Meighan 1954; Spier 1923).

Trade was an important feature of Kumeyaay subsistence. Coastal groups traded salt, dried seafood, dried greens, and abalone shells to inland and desert groups for products such as acorns, agave, mesquite beans, and gourds (Almstedt 1982:10; Cuero 1970:33; Luomala 1978:602). Travel and trade were accomplished by means of an extensive network of trails. Kumeyaay living in the mountains of eastern San Diego County frequently used these trails to travel down to the Kamia settlement of *Xatopet* on the east/west portion of the Alamo River to trade and socialize in winter (Castetter and Bell 1951; Gifford 1918:168; Spier 1923:300; Woods 1982).

The Kamia traditional territory included the southern Imperial Valley from the latitude of the southern half of the Salton Sea to well below what is the U.S.–Mexico international border (Forbes 1965; Luomala 1978:593). Their main settlements were along the New and Alamo rivers (Gifford 1931).

Subsistence among the Kamia consisted of hunting and gathering, and floodplain horticulture (Barker 1976; Gifford 1931). In normal years, the Colorado River would overflow its banks in the spring and early summer and fill rivers such as the New and Alamo. When the floodwater receded, the Kamia would plant in the mud. A dam was maintained at *Xatopet* on the east/west portion of the Alamo River to control water flow and allow farming in years when water flow was insufficient (Castetter and Bell 1951:43). Gifford (1931:22) and Castetter and Bell (1951:43) suggested these were recent adaptations and not traditional life ways. Bean and Lawton (1973), Lawton and Bean (1968), and Shipek (1988) argue that irrigation was indigenous.

The Kamia's major food staple was mesquite and screwbean, called by the Kamia *anxi* and *iyix*, respectively (Gifford 1931:23). Seeds of the ironwood (*Palo fierro*) and palo verde were also used. Neither palo verde nor ironwood was considered a particularly desirable food resource (Castetter and Bell 1951:195-196). Acorns were at times an important food. They were gathered in the mountains to the west of Kamia territory in October and acquired through trade from the southern Kumeyaay (Gifford 1931).

Hunting contributed to the diet in a minor way in terms of overall caloric intake, but provided valuable protein, and skin and bone for clothing, blankets, and tools. Small game, primarily rabbits, was most frequently taken, using bow and arrow or rabbit stick (*macana*). Sometimes fires were set along sloughs to drive rabbits out. Individuals with bow and arrow also hunted deer and mountain sheep. Fish were also taken in sloughs with bow and arrow, by hand, hooks, basketry scoops, and seine nets (Gifford 1931:24).

The Cocopah lived on the west side of the Colorado River delta from the tidewater area, north from a little above the latitude of Volcano Lake or Cerro Prieta to several miles south of the US–Mexico border (Castetter and Bell 1951:52; Gifford 1933:261; Kroeber 1920). Like other river Yumans, the Cocopah settlements were dispersed residential areas or rancherias, not close-knit villages (Castetter and Bell 1951:53).

Cocopah subsistence was similar to other river Yuman people, although their location in the Colorado River delta area had a somewhat different environment from that of the upstream tribes. The Colorado River frequently changed course within the general floodplain throughout the area below the Grand Canyon. The river formed very active meanders in the delta region, requiring settlement and field movement among the Cocopah and other delta peoples (Castetter and Bell 1951; Sykes 1937). Mesquite and screwbean grew in profusion and formed a dietary staple of the Cocopah. Other important wild food sources of the delta region were "wild rice or wild wheat," and *quelite* or amaranth (Castetter and Bell 1951:192). The Cocopah planted a variety of maize, pumpkins, tepary beans, cowpeas, muskmelons, watermelons, and *heshmicha* (grain resembling wheat), and sugar cane (Gifford 1933).

Hunting was relatively unimportant and was confined primarily to the hills and mountains. Fish was the most important animal food among the Lower Colorado River peoples. The Cocopah fished in the Colorado and Hardy rivers, and occasionally parties would fish along the Gulf of California. Fish were also taken with bow and arrow, as well as by spears, gill nets, and dip nets (Castetter and Bell 1951:216; Gifford 1933:268).

The Cocopah frequently visited the mountainous Paipai country west of the delta to trade and to gather pine nuts and acorns. Tobacco, mescal (roasted agave), and mountain sheep skins were obtained from the Paipai in exchange for delta foodstuffs. The Cocopah also obtained tobacco and eagle feathers from the Kumeyaay (Castetter and Bell 1951:54; Kelly 1977; Sample 1950:22). At times, the Cocopah traded seashells to the Kamia (Gifford 1931:37). They also visited frequently with their allies, the Maricopa, on the middle Gila River and with the Halchidhoma who lived in the Blythe area from about 1700 to 1830 (Gifford 1933; Kelly 1977).

The Quechan (*Kwatsan*) were formerly called the Yuma Indians. Their territory was centered at the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers (present-day Yuma, Arizona), but extended north on the Colorado about 60 miles and 30 miles up the Gila. According to Quechan tradition, the northern boundary was in the vicinity of Blythe, California; the southern boundary reached into Baja California and Sonora, Mexico. Their neighbors on the northwest were the Cahuilla and Luiseño, and to the west the Kamia. Their eastern boundary was just west of Gila Bend, Arizona (Miguel n.d., cited in Bee 1982:37).

The Quechan had a relatively large population. The Quechan are not mentioned by Alarcon or Diaz at the time of first Spanish contact in 1540. The next visitor to the area, Juan Oñate, estimated a population of about 4,000 in 1604 (Bee 1983; Forbes 1965:343). He mentioned a stable horticultural and gathering economy. Throughout winter and spring, the Quechan lived in large seasonal settlements or rancherias located on terraces above the Colorado River floodplain. These winter settlements were moved from time to time, and establishing their precise locations is problematic (Bee 1982:40-44, 1983:87; Forde 1931:101). When the floodwaters of spring receded, the Quechan left their winter villages on the river terraces and dispersed into camps near their 2- to 3-acre horticultural plots distributed along the river floodplain. Extended families resided in these camps. Planting was done in the mud, as the river receded. Major crops included maize, squash, pumpkin, watermelon, and wheat (Castetter and Bell 1951). Wheat was introduced by Kino in 1700 (Castetter and Bell

1951:123). After the fall harvest season, the Quechan would reconvene in villages on terraces above the river to avoid seasonal flooding (Bee 1983:88; Forde 1931:101).

Quechan villages were actually a collection of houses, or rancherias, dispersed along the Colorado and Gila rivers. Households consisted of composite families that lived together and moved, more or less as a unit from place to place within a constantly changing floodplain environment. The annual flood of the Colorado constantly changed the gardening areas, eroding some, and burying others under tons of silt. This undoubtedly changed the desirability of potential village sites, campsites, and garden plots from time to time. The Quechan burned the houses and possessions of the dead (Bee 1982, 1983; Forde 1931; Trippel 1889:583), which also contributed to the movement of villages from time to time (Trippel 1889:583). Like other Lower Colorado Yuman peoples, the Quechan moved through their territory in a very dynamic cultural landscape (Bee 1982, 1983; Forde 1931).

## 2.2.5 Spanish/Mexican/American Periods

The Spanish Period (1769–1821) in the Colorado Desert begins with the Alarcon exploration up the Colorado River in 1540 and the land expedition to the Colorado River by Melchior Diaz in the same year. Cabrillo claimed the coast of Alta California for Spain in 1542. It was not until 1769 that a permanent settlement was founded. In that year, the San Diego Presidio and the San Diego Mission—in what is now Old Town—were established (Rolle 1998). Native American culture in the coastal strip of California rapidly deteriorated despite repeated attempts to revolt against the Spanish invaders (Carrico 1987; Cook 1976). One of the hallmarks of the Spanish colonial scheme was the rancho system, in which large land grants were made to meritorious or well-connected individuals to encourage settlement (Rolle 1998).

The first documented Spanish incursion into the Imperial Valley was that by Pedro Fages, who rode along the northwestern edge of the Colorado Desert while looking for deserters from San Diego in 1772. He entered the desert on an Indian trail that led through Oriflamme Canyon to Carrizo Creek and the desert floor (Bolton 1930:214; Lawton 1976:47; Pourade 1961:53-54). Fages was followed by Juan Bautista de Anza. Both the 1774 and 1775 Anza expeditions (guided by Padre Francisco Garcés) set out from Tubac, Sonora, to Yuma; south into Mexico; then west to Imperial Valley; and stopped at what he called Santa Rosa de las Lajas (Yuha Well). From there the expedition continued north through the Yuha Desert and went to what is now the community of Borrego Springs and north to San Gabriel (Forbes 1965). The route was abandoned in 1781 after the Quechan revolted against two Spanish settlements near Yuma (Forbes 1965). Both Fages and Anza expeditionary routes passed west of the project area.

During the Mexican Period (1822–1848), the mission system was secularized by the Mexican government and these lands allowed for the dramatic expansion of the rancho system. The southern California economy became increasingly based on cattle ranching. General Stephen Kearney, guided by Kit Carson, and his troops crossed the Colorado Desert east of the survey area in 1846 following the Native American trails. The famous Mormon Battalion, under the command of Philip St. George Cook, followed a similar route in 1847. The Mexican Period was brought to an end when Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2,

1848, concluding the Mexican–American War (1846–1848; Rolle 1998). California became a state in 1850 (Rolle 1998).

A great influx of Americans and Europeans followed the discovery of gold in northern California in 1848. The gold seekers and homesteaders traveled through the Colorado Desert using the same route as Kearny and the Mormon Battalion, then known as the Southern Emigrant Trail in the early 1900s. In 1853 the route was used by the Birch Overland Mail and later in 1858 by the Butterfield Southern Overland Mail Line. After 1861, when the mail route stopped service, the route was used mostly for cattle drives from Mason and Vallecitos valleys to Carrizo Valley and the Fish Creek area in the desert (Cook and Fulmer 1980). In 1890, prospectors in search of minerals in the Anza–Borrego Desert began using the route (Cook and Fulmer 1980). Today this old Indian and pioneer route is called County Route S2, or the Great Southern Overland Stage Route of 1849, which connects Ocotillo at Interstate 8 with Warner Springs to the north.

The segment of the Southern Pacific Railroad that runs northeast of the project area was constructed in the 1870s (Pourade 1964). Around the turn of the century, the Imperial Valley experienced considerable population growth after the construction of irrigation projects, and agriculture became a prime focus of economic activity. The first canal built was the Imperial Canal. The Westside Main Canal is a 40-mile canal alignment built in 1907 that later became part of the All-American Canal system. The construction of the All-American Canal to transport water from the Colorado River to Imperial Valley between 1934 and 1940 transformed agricultural development and settlement of the Imperial and Coachella valleys. The areas served by the canal have become one of the richest and most important agricultural areas in the U.S. since the completion of the canal in 1938 (Queen 1999).

## 3.0 Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect (APE) is considered for this report to be all of APN 054-510-001.

# 4.0 Study Methods

Site record searches were conducted through the California Historical Resources Information System, South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University (SCIC) (Confidential Attachment 1).

The project area was surveyed October 21, 2020 by RECON Environmental, Inc. (RECON) archaeologist Nathanial Yerka and RECON field assistant Jonathan Mercado, accompanied by Shuuluk Linton, Native American monitor from Red Tail Environmental, Inc. The field inspection was conducted on foot, in conditions of clear skies and bright daylight, with a slight breeze. The survey area consisted of the entire APE with the exception of the fully disturbed and active construction area in the northeast corner. The project area was covered in north—south transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart. Transects in the northern field utilized the rows from previous planting, while the survey of the southern portion employed

straight transects. Historic aerial photographs were also checked in order to see past development within and near the project area.

# 5.0 Survey Results

## 5.1 Record Search

The records search obtained from the SCIC identified two cultural resources within a onemile radius of the project area. They are P-13-008655 (a segment of the Date Drain) and P-13-017171 (a segment of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1). P-13-008655 was identified and recorded in 2001 as a portion of the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) Date Drain, which is situated west of and extends the length of the current project area. The Date Drain is mostly earthen lined, has portions which have been undergrounded, is about 25 to 30 feet in width, and averages 15 to 20 feet in depth (Lortie 2001). The northern, eastward trending segment of P-13-008655 was determined not eligible for inclusion in the National Register by the California State Historic Preservation Officer in 2002 (Shultz 2017). P-13-017171 is a segment of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1 that was recorded by RECON in 2017. P-13-017171 is concrete lined from the south side of McCabe Road, north to Valleyview Road, where it has been relocated and undergrounded by the IID as part of the Buena Vista Park Subdivision. The lateral returns to its previous course and construction from north of Manuel Ortiz Avenue, north to Danenberg Drive, where it is turned eastward, and undergrounded again at Turnout 18A. The lateral is approximately 10 feet wide, though widths are greater at gates, underpasses, and turnouts (RECON 2017). Record search results are included as Confidential Attachment 1.

Fifteen reports have been recorded at the SCIC occurring within one mile of the project area. Two of these include a portion of the project area. The Determination of No Effect on Historic Properties: Construction of Juvenile Dorms Addition at El Centro Facility by the Office of Historic Preservation includes a portion of the eastern boundary of the project area. A list of all reports is included in Confidential Attachment 1.

A letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento on October 22, 2020 requesting a search of their Sacred Lands File. The NAHC replied on November 4, 2020, indicating that they had no record of Native American cultural resources in the immediate area of the project. The response letter from the NAHC is included as Attachment 1.

# 5.2 Field Survey Results

The field survey was conducted on October 21, 2020 by RECON archaeologist Nathanial Yerka and RECON field assistant Jonathan Mercado, accompanied by Shuuluk Linton, Native American monitor from Red Tail Environmental, Inc. The vast majority of the project property is currently active agricultural fields. Situated adjacent to the northeast is the Imperial County Office of Education West complex with associated parking, currently under construction (Photograph 1). The Dahlia Canal Lateral 1 (P-13-017171) runs north-south

adjacent to the western boundary of the project area, while the Date Drain (P-13-008655) runs parallel a road-width apart (approximately 20 feet) to the west of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1.

Ground visibility was less than 5 percent across the project area (Photographs 2 and 3). At the time of the survey the property had been planted resulting in ground cover from cultivars. The ground was compact and relatively easy to walk on. The entire parcel has suffered ground disturbance. Disturbances include the storage/laydown area in the northwest corner (Photograph 4), the cultivated fields, the dirt roads adjacent to the fields, and the interior canals. The roads and interior canals are raised approximately 30 inches above the adjacent fields and are most probably artificially raised.

No previously unrecorded prehistoric archaeological resources were located during the survey. One previously unrecorded historic-period resource, a set of earthen and concretelined canals servicing the project property was recorded. The two interior canals appear on a 1953 aerial (Nationwide Environmental Title Research LLC 2020). The two canals are temporarily designated 9781-NDY-1. The features consist of two east-west trapezoidal shaped canals. The northern canal bisects the property and the southern canal makes up the southern boundary (Photographs 5 and 6). The northern canal is earthen-lined and is connected to P-13-017171 (Dahlia Canal Lateral 1) via an 11-inch interior diameter concrete conduit that is serviced by turnout gate 14A (Photograph 7). The canal is approximately 8 feet wide at the top, a base width of approximately 3 feet, and an approximate depth of 3 feet. The canal has a central check gate composed of a 42-inch-by-42-inch concrete frame with a 36-inch-by-36-inch sheet metal slide closure with handle. The southern concrete canal is poured in place with a 76-inch width at the top and a 24-inch base. The sides measure 48 inches and are angled at approximately 50 degrees. There is one metal check gate at the center of the span with small turnout gates set in the sides of the canal. These consist of small pipes leading to the fields covered by metal rectangles that slide in metal channels attached to the concrete canal. The rectangles have long, heavy gauge, wire handles. The southern canal is connected to P-13-017171 (Dahlia Canal Lateral 1) via an 11-inch interior diameter concrete conduit that is serviced by turnout gate 14 (Photograph 8). No date stamps or other identifiable marks were observed.

An unrecorded segment of P-13-017171, the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1, was checked to determine if there were any notable changes from the description of its original recording (Photograph 9). The unrecorded segment runs approximately 2,603 feet from the head gate located on the south side of West McCabe Road to the terminus at the southwest corner of the current project (APN 054-510-001). The concrete structure supporting the drop gate labeled "LAT1" is situated 1,275 feet from the south side of West McCabe Road and appears to have been recently replaced. The concrete is precast and does not match the sloping and soft corner design of most of the previous recording. Black ink stenciling on the vertical face of the south-facing and western side of the foundation reads, "Oldcastle Precast" with an affixed paper label reading "IID 4' W, 6' Base 0370014" (Photograph 10). This segment of P-13-017171 has turnout gates that service the project property labeled "14A" (northern turnout gate) and "14" (southern turnout gate). No date stamps or other identifiable marks were observed.



PHOTOGRAPH 1 Imperial County Office of Education West Complex, Looking Northwest



PHOTOGRAPH 2 Typical Ground Cover of Northern Agricultural Field, Looking South





PHOTOGRAPH 3 Typical Ground Cover of Southern Agricultural Field, Looking Southwest



PHOTOGRAPH 4 The Storage/Laydown Area in the Northwest Corner of Project Area, Looking West





 $\begin{array}{c} {\bf PHOTOGRAPH~5} \\ {\bf The~Northern~and~Earthen-Lined~Interior~Canal~that~Bisects~the} \\ {\bf Project~Area,~Looking~East} \end{array}$ 



 ${\bf PHOTOGRAPH~6}$  The Southern and Concrete-Lined Interior Canal, Looking West





 ${\bf PHOTOGRAPH~7}$  Overview of Turnout Gate "14A", Looking Southwest



 ${\bf PHOTOGRAPH~8}$  Overview of Turnout Gate "14", Looking East-Northeast





PHOTOGRAPH 9 A Portion of the Unrecorded Segment of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1, Looking South



PHOTOGRAPH 10 Overview of Head Gate "LAT1", Looking East-Northeast



## 6.0 Guidelines and Recommendations

## 6.1 California Environmental Quality Act

According to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a significant impact is a project effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Adverse changes include physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings resulting in the impairment of the resource's significance (Section 15064.5.4b, CEQA Guidelines). Mitigation measures are required for adverse effects on significant historical resources (Section 21083.2, CEQA Code).

State criteria are those listed in CEQA and used to determine whether a historic resource qualifies for the California Register of Historical Resources. CEQA also recognizes resources listed in a local historic register or deemed significant in a historical resource survey. Some resources that do not meet these criteria may still be historically significant for the purposes of CEQA.

A resource may be listed in the California Register of Historical Resources if it is significant at the federal, state, or local level under one of more of the four criteria listed below.

- 1. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history and cultural heritage of California or the United States.
- 2. Are associated with the lives of persons important to the nation or to California's 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 in prehistory or history of the state or nation.

In addition to meeting one of the above criteria, a resource must have integrity; that is, it must evoke the resource's period of significance or, in the case of criterion 4, it must retain reliable research data (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 11.5, Section 4852 (c)). Most archaeological sites that qualify for listing do so under criterion 4. Integrity is evaluated in terms of retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Since resources that are not listed or determined eligible for the state or local registers may still be historically significant, their significance must be determined if they are affected by a project.

# 6.2 Evaluation of Resources under CEQA Guidelines

9781-NDY-1 (interior canals) will be impacted by construction of project components and P-13-017171 (Dahlia Canal Lateral 1) will potentially be impacted by construction of project components. They are evaluated below for significance.

• Are the resources associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history and cultural heritage?

No information was found that associated P-13-017171, the unrecorded segment of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1 adjacent to the project, with a significant event in history. This particular canal was not a key canal to the overall development of the irrigation system in Imperial Valley.

9781-NDY-1 is also not significant under this criterion. The small canal system on the project was constructed to service the specific parcels whose development as agricultural lands was not a significant event in the history of the Imperial Valley or the El Centro area.

• Are the resources associated with the lives of persons important in local or California's past?

No information could be found that directly associated P-13-017171, the unrecorded segment of the Dahlia Canal Lateral 1 adjacent to the project, with a person significant in the history of El Centro or Imperial Valley. IID was formed in 1911 under the California Irrigation District Act to acquire the properties of the bankrupt California Development Company and its Mexican subsidiary. The IID was formed as a public agency, acquiring 13 mutual water companies in the valley that had developed and operated water distribution canals. As such the IID canal system itself is not associated with a specific person for its design or development. This particular canal segment cannot be associated with a specific person for its construction.

9781-NDY-1 is also not significant under this criterion. No information was found to associate the development of this field of agriculture with a person significant in El Centro or Imperial County history.

• Do the resources embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction? Does it represent the work of an important creative individual, or does it have high artistic values?

9781-NDY-1 and P-13-017171 do not embody distinctive characteristics of canals particular to the Imperial Valley specifically, or to a specific period of time. They also do not have unique methods of canal construction. These canal segments show construction characteristics typical of canals in the Imperial Valley in their general shape and gate configuration. Some gates along the current alignment display construction dates from various times, indicating when they were replaced due to wear. This is particularly true of P-13-017171, which is a dirt

ditch with few permanent features. The lateral has been continually repaired and cleaned out by use of a mechanical excavator for tens of years, and its condition and appearance have changed accordingly. The IID canal system as a whole probably lacks uniqueness in construction methods or design. And, since it has been periodically upgraded since its initial construction in the early 1900s, it lacks distinctive construction characteristics of a specific time period. There is no evident connection to a famous or important architect or builder working in El Centro or Imperial County with the canal design or construction.

The same is true of 9781-NDY-1. These interior canals demonstrate construction techniques and designs typical of canals in the Imperial Valley in general shape and gate configuration, as well as the use of common materials in construction.

 Have the resources yielded, or be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history?

There is no likelihood that 9781-NDY-1 or P-13-017171 will yield information important to history or prehistory. The only information available from the canals and lateral is the actual construction techniques and materials used in building them. The canals and lateral segment within the project area are not fully original in construction, but upgrades, and as such, little to no information about early 1900s canal construction can be obtained from them. As for the resources retention of integrity, location is maintained; however, design, setting, materials, and workmanship have been altered due to upgrades, e.g., the southern canal of 9781-NDY-1 is now concrete-lined with upgraded and consistent turnout gates; P-13-017171 has replaced the footing of headgate LAT1. The overall setting has changed from being fully surrounded by agricultural fields to a semi-built environment with the development of a small housing tract to the north and the Imperial County of Education, the Imperial County Probation Department, the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, and the Imperial County Animal Control Office to the east.

9781-NDY-1 and the segment of P-13-017171 in and adjacent to the project area, do not meet any of the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historic Places and are therefore not significant historic resources under CEQA.

## 6.3 Recommendations

9781-NDY-1 (interior canals) and the unrecorded segment of P-13-017171 (Dahlia Canal Lateral 1) within and adjacent to the project area do not meet any of the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historic Places and are therefore not significant historical resources under CEQA. The project would likely remove 9781-NDY-1 considering its location within the project area and P-13-017171 may be modified (such as modifying for proposed "Future Sustainable Organic Farm/Orchard, future bioswale, or terminating the turnout gates) during project construction. Because none of these resources are significant historical resources under CEQA, there will be no adverse effects to them as a result of project development. RECON will complete a California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) primary site form for 9781-NDY-1, and a California DPR continuation sheet update for P-13-

017171 and submit these forms to the SCIC (Confidential Attachment 2). RECON recommends no additional mitigation measures for these resources.

The possibility of buried significant prehistoric cultural resources present within the project area is considered low. The topsoil within the APE has been heavily disturbed in the past due to agriculture, leaving no suitable areas where potentially significant prehistoric or historic cultural resources could be present. RECON recommends no further cultural resources work; construction monitoring is not recommended.

# 7.0 Certification and Project Staff

This report was prepared in compliance with the CEQA (Section 21083.2 of the Statutes and Appendix K of the Guidelines) and with policies and procedures of the City of El Centro. To the best of our knowledge, the statements and information contained in this report are accurate.

Nathanial Yerka, Project Archaeologist

The following individuals participated in the field tasks or preparation of this report.

Carmen Zepeda-Herman Principal Investigator

Nathanial Yerka Project Archaeologist/Author

Jonathan Mercado Field Assistant

Shuuluk Linton Native American Monitor

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# **ATTACHMENTS**



# **ATTACHMENT 1**

Native American Heritage Commission Response Letter



CHAIRPERSON **Laura Miranda** *Luiseño* 

VICE CHAIRPERSON Reginald Pagaling Chumash

SECRETARY

Merri Lopez-Keifer

Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN Russell Attebery Karuk

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**NAHC HEADQUARTERS** 

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#### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

November 4, 2020

Carmen Zepeda-Herman RECON Environmental

Via Email to: czepeda@reconenvironmental.com

Re: Imperial County Office of Education Monte Vista Soccer Complex Project, Imperial County

Dear Ms. Zepeda-Herman:

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 <u>negative</u>. 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: steven.quinn@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Steven Quinn

**Cultural Resources Analyst** 

teuer Quin

Attachment

#### **Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contact List Imperial County** 11/4/2020

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Jamul Indian Village

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Indians

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Phone: (760) 765 - 0845 Fax: (760) 765-0320

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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Imperial County Office of Education Monte Vista Soccer Complex Project, Imperial County.

#### **Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contact List Imperial County** 11/4/2020

#### La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

Gwendolyn Parada, Chairperson

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#### Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation

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#### Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

Michael Linton, Chairperson

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Quechan

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#### Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee

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#### Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

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e.com

#### San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

John Flores, Environmental

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## San Pasqual Band of Diegueno

Mission Indians

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P.O. Box 365

Diegueno

Diegueno

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#### Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

Kristie Orosco, Kumeyaay

Resource Specialist

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#### Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

Cody Martinez, Chairperson

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#### Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Ernest Pingleton, Tribal Historic Officer, Resource Management

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Kumeyaay

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#### Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contact List Imperial County 11/4/2020

Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians John Christman, Chairperson 1 Viejas Grade Road Alpine, CA, 91901

Diegueno

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# **CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS**

(Bound Under Separate Cover)