

### REPORT

# PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION FOR 20 ACRES AT THE INTERSECTION OF 60TH STREET WEST AND WEST AVENUE K-12 LANCASTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**Prepared For:** 

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Job. No. 621

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Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 3204-008-048

Performed under: Private contract

USGS Quadrangle: Lancaster West, Calif. 7.5'

Area covered: 20 acres

Location: Township 7 North, Range 13 West, Section 27

Keywords: Antelope Valley, Lancaster

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- Native American Heritage Commission response
   Photographs

#### **SUMMARY**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the requirements of the City of Lancaster, a phase I cultural resource investigation was completed for a 20-acre property in Lancaster, California. The property is southwest of the intersection of 60<sup>th</sup> Street West and West Avenue K-12. The APN for the property is 3204-008-048. It is located in the northeast ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 27, Township 7 North, Range 13 West.

The purpose of the study was to identify and record all cultural resources within the subject property and recommend further measures, as warranted. This study updates the findings of a previous survey completed in 2005 (Morrill 2005) by C. A. Singer and Associates.

As a result of the investigation no Native American sites or artifacts were identified on the property. One historic period site was found and recorded as Site 621-1. It consists of concrete foundations, a holding pond, and remnants of an irrigation system. The site was determined to be not significant. Since no significant cultural resources are present, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated due to property development. No further cultural resource work is recommended.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the requirements of the City of Lancaster, a phase I cultural resource investigation was completed for a 20-acre property in Lancaster, California. The property is southwest of the intersection of 60th Street West and West Avenue K-12. It lies northwest of the unincorporated town of Quartz Hill. The property encompasses a portion of the northeast ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 27, Township 7 North, Range 13 West (Figures 1, 2). This investigation updates a previous survey of the property performed in 2005 (Morrill 2005) by C.A Singer and Associates.

The City of Lancaster required this study, under CEQA, because use or construction on the property has the potential to cause a "substantial adverse change" to any cultural resources that might be present. CEQA defines cultural resources as including archaeological sites, historic buildings, structures or objects, and properties of unique ethnic cultural value or religious/sacred uses.

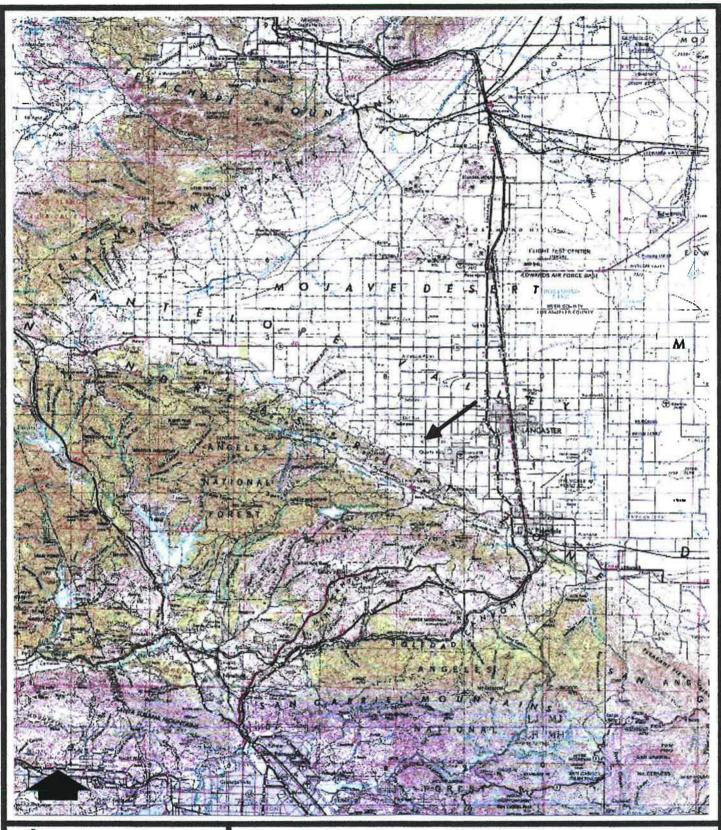
The purpose of the investigation was to identify the cultural resources within the subject property and recommend mitigation measures, as warranted. The scope of the investigation included an on-foot inspection of the property; a review of records, maps and literature; preparation and filing of any necessary record forms as specified by the Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines; and preparation of a phase I report.

#### II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The property has been previously cleared of native vegetation and extensively cultivated in the past. There are no standing buildings on the property. Previously cleared and cultivated land is located to the immediate west, north, south and a portion of the east across 60th Street West. There is an older single-family residential home to the south adjacent to West Avenue L.

The property lies near the base of the San Gabriel range on the southern margin of the Antelope Valley. The Antelope Valley is a broad, flat V-shaped basin in the Western Mojave Desert. The Valley is bounded in the north by the Tehachapi Mountains and in the south by the San Gabriel Mountains and extends eastward to the Mojave River Valley. Low points in the Antelope Valley are Rogers and Rosamond Dry Lakes with elevations of approximately 2275' above mean sea level. The subject property has an elevation range of approximately 2405-2415 feet above mean sea level.

Soil on the property is quaternary coarse-grained, well-drained, gravelly silt. Gravel contains a large portion of schist and very abundant white quartz. There are no notable physiographic features, outcrops, or readily apparent sources of permanent surface water on or near the subject property. The property lacks most native vegetation and the original contours have been altered by agriculture.



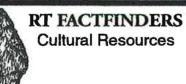
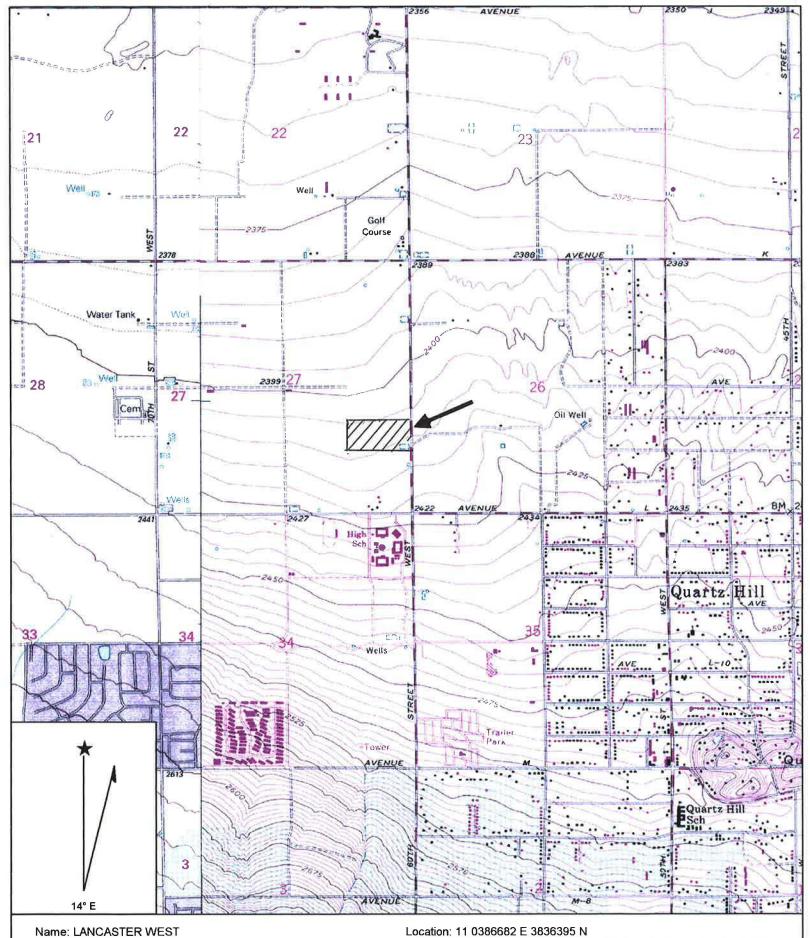


Figure 1: Project location depicted on Palmdale, California
USGS map of 01 July 1975 via Microsoft Terra Server

1" = about 7.5 miles



Date: 10/7/2018

Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Caption: Figure 2: Project location depicted on the Lancaster West 7.5'

USGS map.

#### III. CULTURAL SETTING

The Antelope Valley has a cultural history extending back over 10,000 years and this history is represented by thousands of archaeological and historic period sites. Most of the prehistoric periods are known only in general outline. As would be expected the later periods are the best known. General temporal and cultural sequences have been developed by a number of researchers for other areas of the Mojave Desert including Wallace (1962), Bettinger and Taylor (1974), Stickle and Weinman-Roberts (1980), Warren and Crabtree (1986), and Earle, et. al., (1997).

Local prehistoric cultural history can be classified into four periods: Early, Middle, Late and Post-Contact (Norwood 1987). These periods were created to recognize change in environmental variables, technological and stylistic change, and/or settlement pattern changes. The ethnography of the Antelope Valley floor is poorly known. Various Indian groups, including the Kitanemuk, Kawaiisu and Serrano/Vanyume, may have been present in the area. These people were hunters and gatherers with an intimate knowledge of local floral and faunal resources and were able to obtain and prepare them for food, medicines and other products. The ethnography of the Valley is discussed by Kroeber (1925), Bean and Smith (1978), Blackburn and Bean (1978), Sutton (1980), Zigmond (1986), and Earle (1996).

The historical context of the region is discussed in several publications including those by Starr (1988), Morris (1977), Earle, et. al. (1998), and Earle (1998). Also, a series of publications by the Kern-Antelope Historical Society and the West Antelope Valley Historical Society contain historical essays and interviews that are valuable for understanding the development of local historical context.

Prior to the last part of the 19th century, the history of the Antelope Valley is characterized primarily by people's efforts to pass through the Valley. Activity within the Valley was largely limited to cattle grazing, prospecting and hunting expeditions. Historic development of the Valley really began after the 1876 establishment of the Southern Pacific Railroad linking Los Angeles with the San Joaquin Valley. The mid-1880s brought the first actual land boom. This period saw the establishment of a number of settlements in the Valley and many settlers began successful orchards and small farms. There was a great deal of speculation and a variety of questionable schemes were used to entice people into the Valley.

Following this period the fortunes of the Valley were greatly altered by natural causes. In 1894, a 10-year drought began that devastated many settlers who had little practical knowledge or appreciation of the desert environment. These people lost crop after crop and eventually their homes and land. At the turn-of-the-century, much of the Valley was considered worthless and the ownership of many parcels reverted to the state. A reduced population of die-hards remained, some of whom were favored with land having a high water table and productive agricultural soil. The history of the earlier periods of occupation are, as would be expected, less clear than later periods, because there was an exodus of people and loss of records. There is still much to learn about the dynamics of local development prior to 1920-1925.

Worldwide during the same period many technological innovations were being introduced. In 1904, a gasoline engine was first used in the Valley to pump well water. By 1908-1914 there was an influx of people into the Valley due to the construction of the Los Angeles aqueduct. By 1904 improved conditions after the drought, improved irrigation techniques and increasing subsistence diversity enhanced the potential for economic success. Construction of an aqueduct for the Los Angeles basin between 1908-1914 brought people back into the Valley. The World War I period brought another influx of people as homesteading reached a peak of popularity and agricultural prices were relatively high.

By 1914, electricity was introduced to the Valley and by 1917 the introduction of electric water pumps and improved dry farming techniques resulted in the substantial growth and success of agriculture. Increased prices for agricultural produce during World War I stimulated additional growth and agricultural expansion. Other economic endeavors, such as poultry ranching and, after 1919, moonshining, became important economic drivers. By the mid-1920s Palmdale and Lancaster had assumed the characteristics and social institutions of small American rural towns of the period. World War II brought growth and radical change with the establishment of Edwards Air Force Base and the aerospace industry at Plant 42 in Palmdale

#### IV. RECORD, MAP AND SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH RESULTS

Record Search: Research was performed by reviewing previous studies within the area, historic period maps, and early land records. Research shows that there has been one previous cultural resource survey of the subject property (Morrel 2005) but there are no previously recorded sites on the property. Land adjacent to the north was surveyed in 2003 for a residential development (Norwood 2003). An irrigation system, holding pond and 1950s era refuse were noted. No significant sites were identified. Land adjacent to the south was surveyed in 2004. A historic period structure was identified and determined not significant (Norwood 2004). A survey of over 400 acres to the west in Section 27 resulted in the recording of various early to mid-20th century farm-related home sites, wells and other agricultural features (Norwood 2000). A little over a mile northwest, a disturbed Native American period site was discovered and tested (Norwood 1993a, 1993b) and an intact historic period house was evaluated. These were found to be not significant.

To the east of 60<sup>th</sup> Street West, in neighboring Section 26, a series of projects were completed. These include the following along with what was found.

2004b Norwood, Irrigation pond and refuse deposit.

2004c Norwood, 1930s era refuse deposit.

2004d Norwood, 1955 era homesite and refuse deposits.

2004e and 2004f, Norwood, 1920s-1950s refuse deposits.

2007a and 2007b, Norwood, 1940-1950s homesite and refuse deposits.

The area near the subject property is characterized by early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century resources, mostly homesites and refuse deposits. None these resources were determined to be significant.

**Map Search:** Local historic period maps and GLO records were reviewed to identify any potential historic sites or features on or near the property. Findings are discussed below:

GLO Records: The Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records (GLO) were reviewed for all of Section 27. This odd-numbered section was originally granted to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company on January 9, 1885. The railroad sold the land to other parties at a later time.

1911: The earliest regional map of Lancaster is Johnson's (1911) Water Supply map showing structure and well locations throughout the Antelope Valley. Data for this map is based on a 1909 field survey. Johnson's map shows no structures or wells on or near the subject property. There is nothing shown within the entire section.

1915: The 1915 Lake Elizabeth 15' USGS quad map shows a similar degree of development in the region as on Johnson's 1911 map. This map shows one structure and a holding pond the subject property. No other features are indicated anywhere else within Section 27.

1922: Carpenter and Cosby's Soil Survey map (1926), based on a 1922 field survey, reflects the same array of structures and roads that are shown on the 1911 and 1915 maps. At this time there is a diagonally-oriented dirt road shown passing through the section. A single structure is shown within the section. It is located on the subject property.

1931/1936 The Del Sur 7.5' USGS maps indicate a structure and holding pond on the subject property. Several other structures and features appear in Section 27 during this time.

1938: Walsh's 1938 real property map does not show the location or number of structures present, but it does show ownership. No ownership is shown for any parcels now comprising the subject property. An "A. Godde" is shown as owning the northwest 1/4 of Section 27.

1958: The Lancaster West 15' USGS map of 1958 shows that there had been some growth in the region. In 1958 depicts one structure and holding pond on the subject property as well as two structures in the southeast 1/4 of the Section 27. Another two structures are shown on the western margin of the section. Various wells and holding ponds are shown indicating this as an agricultural landscape. The most recent 1974 edition of this USGS map shows the holding pond feature but no structure.

In summary, it is apparent that the subject property was occupied by at least 1915 and the structures abandoned and demolished sometime between 1958 and 1974.

**Sacred lands file search:** A record search by The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) failed to indicate the presence of Native American resources on the property or in the immediate project area (Attachment 1). The NAHC provided a list of three Native American individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area.

#### V. SURVEY METHODS AND CONDITIONS

Field survey for the property was completed on October 12, 2018 by Richard Norwood (MA, Anthropology), Darlene Tefft Norwood, and Melinda Walton. Fieldwork required 14 personhours. The property was examined by walking a series of linear transects, oriented east to west, beginning at the northeast property corner. Spacing between transects did not exceed 15 meter intervals. Bare soil exists over large portions of the property. Dry conditions and minimal vegetation allowed for observation of bare soil surfaces and any artifacts present. Light conditions were excellent, with bright sun. In accordance with State Historic Preservation Office guidelines, any sites or artifacts greater than 50 years of age, if present, were to be noted and considered as potential cultural resources. There were no inhibiting factors that would have prevented the discovery and identification of surface evidence of Native American or historic period artifacts or features. The location of any finds were plotted using a Garmin E-Trex Summit GPS unit. IPhone 6 photos were taken to document notable features and conditions.

#### VI. SURVEY FINDINGS

No Native American sites or artifacts were identified on the property. One complex historic period site was identified. The site was recorded with a temporary number as 621-1. The site consists of two residential foundations, an outbuilding foundation, an earth banked holding pond, a well, landscape trees, and an agricultural irrigation system. The residential foundations and holding pond reflect locations plotted on the 1915 through 1958 historic period maps. The finds are described below.

Feature 1: This location has an L-shaped concrete outbuilding footing. The footing is 6 inches wide and has embedded wall-mounting bolts. The east/west portion of the L is 7 feet long. The north/south portion of the L is partial solid concrete footing and partially in-line concrete mounting piers. The length of this wall is about 18 feet. A number of the piers appear displaced. To the east of the feature there is a scattering of upright and downed posts including a railroad tie. There is also a short north/south oriented length of posts with attached electrical insulators. The wood all appears partially burned. The structure may have been used as a small barn or equipment shed. There is a small concrete buried irrigation feature just to the north. There is an associated light density artifact scatter with sanitary food cans, clear and white glass, a crushed 5-gallon oil can, barbed wire, ceramic insulators, a hose fixture. This feature does not appear on any historic period maps.

Feature 2: The feature is a small square-shaped concrete cistern-like irrigation feature that appears to have been displaced. The feature is 4-feet 6-inches square and 4-feet 8-inches tall. The walls are 4-inches thick. There is a 4-inch diameter steel pipe set into the base of the feature. The inside walls are water-stained. The feature is well made and has a hand-finished lip.

Feature 3: This is a complex concrete foundation pad. The pad is made up of separate concrete elements that are partially displaced in some cases. Some concrete surfaces appear fire-scorched.

The pad measures 59-feet 4-inches north/south. At maximum width, the pad measures 46-feet wide. An artifact scatter was found in association with the pad. Some of them appear fused and burned in a hot fire. Most artifacts observed are non-diagnostic for specific age and very fragmented. Roof, walls or other construction debris is not present suggesting purposeful demolition and removal. There is a standing wood post near the southeast pad corner. There is a small pad directly north of the main pad. It is 8 1/2 feet north/south and 5 1/2 feet east west. A broken-off concrete standpipe and north/south fence line lie just southwest of the structure. This structure location is shown on the 1915 USGS map through the 1936 Del Sur USGS map. It does not appear on the Lancaster West USGS map of 1958 suggesting it was demolished between 1935 and 1958. It may have burned sometime in that 23 year period.

Feature 4: This feature is an earth-banked holding pond. The pond is approximately 100-feet north/south and 200-feet east/west. Its eastern edge has been partly removed along 60<sup>th</sup> Street West. A substantial breach occurs in the center of the western bank. The interior of the pond contains a tall pole feature and an east/west trending linear concrete pipe arrangement. The feature is near the northeast pond corner.

Feature 5: A residential concrete foundation pad is at this location. It is made up of a series of separately poured smaller pads and is very similar to Feature 3. The intact portion of the pad measures 19-feet north/south and 17-feet east/west. The apparent bathroom in the northwest corner of the pad has asbestos tile. A portion of the eastern margin of the pad appears to be displaced by grading. There is an artifact scatter associated with the pad and as with Feature 3 most artifacts are badly fragmented. There is no remaining construction material and, as with Feature 3, it appears to have been purposefully demolished and cleaned up. Other than a few fragments of pre-1920 sun-altered amethyst glass there are no clearly early artifacts. There is a dug-out pit about 3-feet in diameter just north of this feature. It may be a bottle hunter's looting pit. The structure first appears on the 1958 edition of the Lancaster West USGS map. It does not appear on the 1974 edition of the same map.

Feature 6: This feature is an 11-inch diameter well. The well is sealed with a welded-on steel cap and any pumping equipment has been removed. The feature is set within the southwest corner of the holding pond. The well lies within a concrete vault measuring 7 feet east/west and 5 feet north/south. The vault is at least 4-feet 2-inches deep. Walls are approximately 8 inches thick. The west end of the vault had an inset 4-inch by 4-inch post which has been removed.

Feature 7. This feature is an irrigation system. The system is characterized by a series of concrete standpipes and a buried concrete pipe system. There is a buried pipeline along the southern boundary and at least one other line running north/south just west of Features 3 and 5. The standpipes are too tall to be measured and are about 3-feet in diameter. There is a small concrete pad and apparent valve gate where east/west and north/south lines intersect.

Feature 8: This designation is for the field delineation. The western 70% of the land consists of abandonded agricultural field. Plow furrows follow a north/south trending direction in the west. Furrows in the northeast corner of the property follow an east/west trend.

Feature 9: Landscaping is present on several portions of the property. The western boundary is marked by a line of still-living black locust trees. Living locust trees also occur on the southern banks of the holding pond. A living but unidentified nut tree and unidentified fruit tree were noted. Tree stumps were noted at both Features 3 and 5, probably indicating shade trees were present.

#### VII. MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has provisions to ensure that any cultural resources identified during the environmental review process need to be evaluated for significance, because unique or important resources require mitigation

Site 621-1 and all its features are considered under the criteria (A, B, C, D), for attaining eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. Eligible (Significant) sites are those:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past.
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

The site has minimal association with broad patterns of our history. This site represents the remains of early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century rural occupation circa 1915-1970s. Such sites are quite common throughout the Antelope Valley and only indirectly and non-specifically reflect the broad patterns of our history. The site cannot be associated with any past historically significant persons. The deposits do not meet any characteristic stated in criterion C, which is typically applied to intact buildings and structures. The site is of a common type and is in poor condition. The site is not likely to yield information important in history because it is of a redundant type, disturbed, and dates to better-known periods in Lancaster's history. Therefore, the site is considered not eligible to the National Register, hence, for the purposes of CEQA, is considered not significant.

Since no prehistoric archaeological or potentially significant historic resources were identified within the property, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated when development occurs. No further cultural resource measures are recommended.

While very unlikely, potentially significant buried resources could exist on the property. Under CEQA "inadvertent finds" (unexpected buried sites found after completion of a phase I or II

study as a result of construction exposure) are subject to evaluation and, if significant, appropriate impact mitigation. In the event unanticipated cultural materials (arrowheads, grinding stones, etc.) or features (old foundations, cellars, privy pits, etc.) are encountered, work must stop at the discovery site. A professional cultural resource consultant will need to evaluate the new find.

In the event any bones of possible human origin are uncovered, the Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified and permitted to investigate the find prior to any further disturbance at the location of discovery.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT	1

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION Cultural and Environmental Department 1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100 West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone: (916) 373-3710

Email: nahc@nahc.ca.gov Website: http://www.nahc.ca.gov

Twitter: @CA\_NAHC

October 8, 2018

Richard Norwood RTFactfinders

VIA Email to: artefct@gmail.com

RE 621 20 Acre, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Norwood,

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 are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Katy.Sanchez@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Katy Sanchez

Associate Environmental Planner

Attachment



#### **Native American Heritage Commission Native American Consultation List** 10/8//2018

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Lee Clauss, Director-CRM Dept.

26569 Community Center Drive

Serrano

Highland

CA 92346

Iclauss@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

(909) 864-8933

(909) 864-3370 Fax

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Donna Yocum, Chairperson

P.O. Box 221838

Fernandeno

Newhall

CA 91322

Tataviam

ddyocum@comcast.net

Serrano

(503) 593-0933

Vanyume

(503) 574-3308

Kitanemuk

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Lynn Valbuena

26569 Community Center Dr.

Serrano

Highland

CA 92346

(909) 864-8933

This list is current only as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

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 Code, or Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American Tribes for the proposed: 121 20 Acre, Los Angeles County

# ATTACHMENT 2

#### Project 621 Photos



Photo 1: View southwest from northeast property corner.



Phoro 2: Feature 1, foundation, view north.





Photo 4: Feature 5, foundation, view northwest.