

Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz Tract 53642 Project Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Pacific Communities Builder, Inc. (Developer) proposes the development of a 216-unit single-family residential community on 36.99 acres of vacant land in the city of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Under contract to the Developer, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) conducted a Phase I cultural resource assessment of the Pacific Topaz Tract 53642 Project (Project) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City of Lancaster is the Lead Agency for compliance with CEQA.

This report summarizes the methods and results of the Phase I cultural resource investigation of the Project area. Æ's assessment included a records search and literature review, communication with Native American tribal representatives, and an archaeological survey of the Project area. The purpose of the investigation was to determine the potential for the proposed Project to impact historical resources eligible for or listed on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).

The literature and records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System indicates 46 previous cultural resource investigations and 12 cultural resources are documented within a 1-mile radius of the Project area (Study Area). None of these previously identified cultural resources are located within the Project area.

As part of the cultural resource investigation, Æ sent a request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a search of their Sacred Lands File (SLF). Results of the SLF search indicate no known Native American cultural resources within the Project area. Æ contacted Native American individuals and organizations to elicit information on Native American resources or concerns within the Project area, if any. Of the six groups and/or individuals contacted, Æ received responses from representatives of three—the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation, and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Æ Archaeologist Keith Warren completed an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the Project area on October 26, 2021. No cultural resources were encountered within the Project area during this Phase I survey. The terrain throughout the entire Project area has been disturbed previously by grading, stockpiling of fill soils, and modern dumping. No buried paleosols (Ab horizons) are present among the soils mapped within the Project area, and the mapped soil series are thought to have a low sensitivity for buried archaeological sites. Therefore, intact and significant buried archaeological deposits are unlikely, and no further cultural resource management of the Project area is recommended.

Field notes documenting the current investigation are on file at Æ's Hemet office. A copy of the final report will be placed on file at the SCCIC.

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.....	1
1.2	REGULATORY CONTEXT.....	1
1.3	REPORT ORGANIZATION.....	4
2	SETTING.....	5
2.1	ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	5
2.2	PREHISTORIC SETTING	6
2.2.1	Pleistocene (circa 10,000 to 8000 B.P.).....	6
2.2.2	Early Holocene (circa 8000 to 6000 B.P.)	7
2.2.3	Middle Holocene (circa 7000 to 3000 B.P.)	7
2.2.4	Late Holocene (circa 2000 B.P. to Contact)	8
2.3	ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING.....	9
2.3.1	Tataviam	9
2.3.2	Kitanemuk.....	10
2.4	HISTORICAL SETTING	11
2.4.1	Antelope Valley	11
2.4.2	City of Lancaster.....	12
3	SOURCES CONSULTED.....	14
3.1	CULTURAL RESOURCE LITERATURE AND RECORDS SEARCH.....	14
3.2	HISTORICAL MAP REVIEW.....	17
4	NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS	18
5	CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS	19
5.1	SURVEY METHODS	19
5.2	SURVEY RESULTS	19
6	MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	22
7	REFERENCES.....	23

APPENDICES

A Native American Communication

FIGURES

1-1	Project vicinity in Los Angeles County, California.....	2
1-2	Project location map	3
5-1	Overview of eastern half of the Project area (facing southwest)	19
5-2	Overview of stockpiles in northwest portion of the Project area (facing northwest)	20
5-3	Modern refuse dumping in the Project area (facing south).....	20

TABLES

3-1	Previous Cultural Resource Studies in the Study Area.....	14
3-2	Cultural Resources in the Study Area.....	17

1

INTRODUCTION

Pacific Communities Builder, Inc. (Developer) proposes the development of a 216-unit single-family residential community on 36.99 acres of vacant land in the city of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. At the request of the Developer, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) completed a Phase I cultural resource assessment for the Pacific Topaz Tract 53642 Project (Project) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the City of Lancaster (City) is the lead agency for compliance with CEQA.

M. Colleen Hamilton, M.A., a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA 12588), served as Æ's principal investigator and was responsible for overall quality control. Æ Senior Archaeologist Joan George, B.S., Registered Archaeologist (RA 28093) served as project manager. Fieldwork was conducted by Æ Senior Archaeologist Keith Warren.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project is in the southwest portion of the city of Lancaster (Figure 1-1). The southern boundary is Avenue K-8, the western boundary is 60th Street West, the northern boundary is Avenue K-4, and its eastern boundary is the northward extension of 57th Street West. The Project area is mapped in the northwest quarter of Section 26 in Township 7 North, Range 13 West, as shown on the Lancaster West, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map (Figure 1-2). Elevation is approximately 2,400 feet above mean sea level (amsl).

The Project proposes the development of a 200+ unit detached single-family 55+ community on 36.99 acres of presently vacant land. The Project area will be excavated and graded to create compacted housing pads, and paved streets will be installed throughout the community to serve the new neighborhood. The site will be served by public utilities, both wet and dry, and will have perimeter landscaping and fencing. Maximum depth of proposed disturbance associated with Project construction is expected to reach 13 feet below ground surface (bgs).

1.2 REGULATORY CONTEXT

The Project requires discretionary approval from the City and is therefore subject to the requirements of CEQA. The CEQA Statute and Guidelines direct lead agencies to determine whether a project will have a significant impact on historical resources. A cultural resource is considered historically significant if it is included in a local register of historical resources, is listed on or determined eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or if it meets the requirements for listing on the CRHR under any one of the following criteria of historical significance (Title 14, California Code of Regulations [CCR], Section 15064.5):

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;

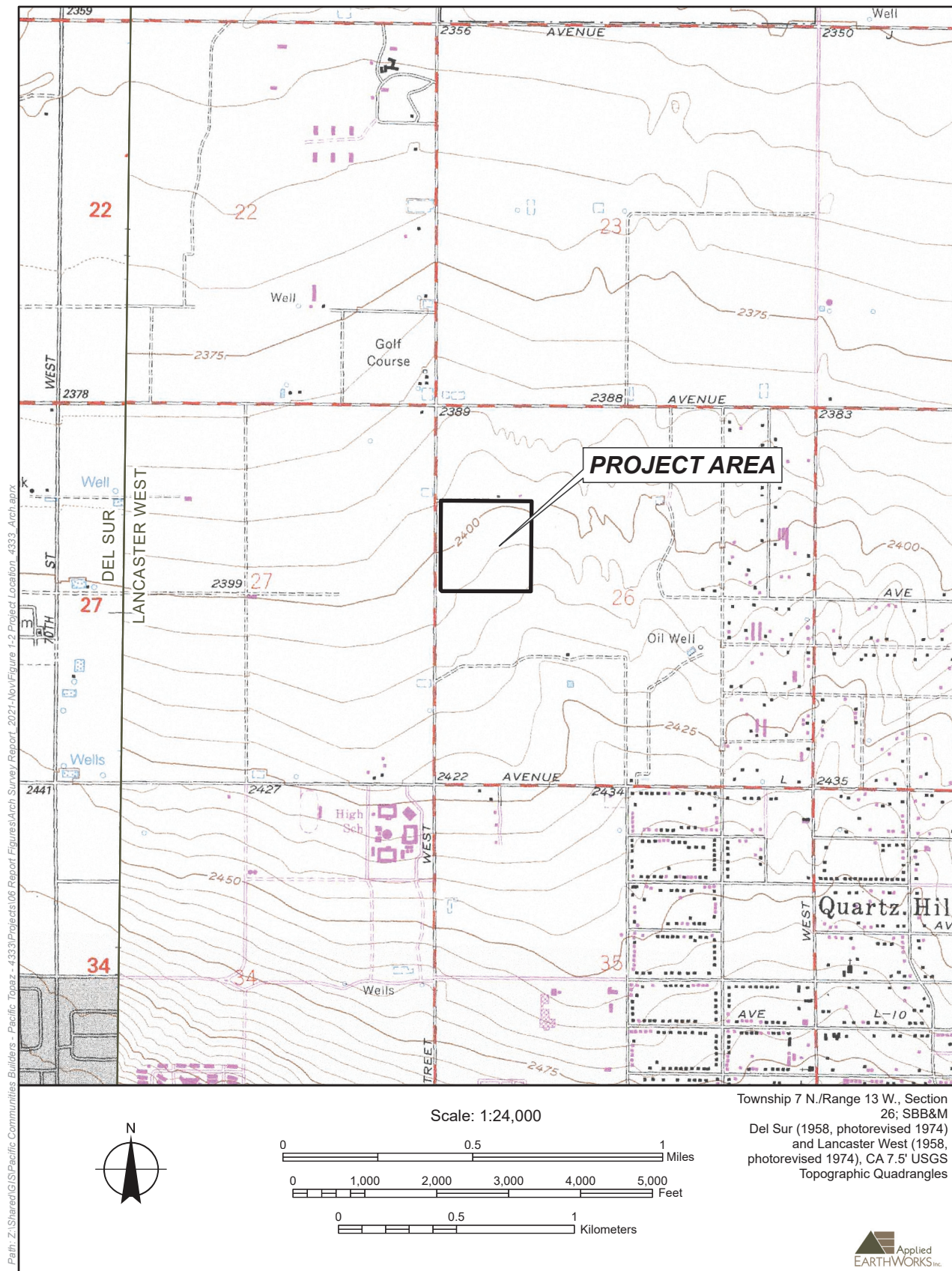


Figure 1-2 Project location on USGS Lancaster West 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or,
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Compliance with CEQA's cultural resource provisions typically involves several steps. Briefly, archival research and field surveys are conducted, and identified cultural resources are inventoried and evaluated in prescribed ways. Prehistoric and historical archaeological sites, as well as standing structures, buildings, and objects deemed historically significant and sufficiently intact (i.e., historical resources), must be considered in project planning and development.

A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant impact on the environment (14 CCR 15064.5[b]). The lead agency is responsible for identifying potentially feasible measures to reduce impacts to a less than significant level (14 CCR 15064.5[b]4).

1.3 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This report documents the results of a Phase I cultural resource investigation of the proposed Project area. Chapter 1 describes the Project and its location, defines the scope of the cultural resource investigation, and states the regulatory context. Chapter 2 summarizes the natural and cultural setting of the Project area and surrounding region. Chapter 3 presents the results of the archaeological literature and records search. Chapter 4 summarizes the results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and Native American communications. The field survey methods and results are discussed in Chapter 5. Cultural resource management recommendations are provided in Chapter 6, and bibliographic references are cited in Chapter 7. Results of the SLF search and correspondence with Native American groups are included as Appendix A.

2 SETTING

This chapter describes the prehistoric, ethnographic, and historical cultural setting of the Project area to provide a context for understanding the nature and significance of cultural resources identified within the region. Prehistorically, ethnographically, and historically, the nature and distribution of human activities in the region have been affected by such factors as topography and the availability of water and natural resources. Therefore, prior to a discussion of the cultural setting, the environmental setting of the area is summarized below.

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project area is in the city of Lancaster in Los Angeles County along State Route 14 within the western portion of the Mojave Desert of Southern California and is characterized by interior drainage basins and ranges. This high desert city is in the Antelope Valley of the Mojave Desert and bordered by the Tehachapi Mountains to the north and the San Gabriel Mountains to the south. Climate is a midlatitude desert type environment with cool, slightly moist winters and dry, hot summers. Temperatures range from well below freezing in the winter to 100 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer. Rainfall occurs during the winter; annual precipitation is less than 5 inches per year.

During the Pleistocene, the deserts contained woodlands, the basins were joined by rivers, and herds of horses, camels, and mammoths roamed the fertile basins. As the glaciers retreated between 12,100 and 10,100 before present (B.P.), both vegetation and animals began to move to higher elevations. Due to fluctuations in the lake levels in the southern portion of the Mojave Desert, the floral and faunal composition of the region did not become established until after 4300 B.P. during the late Holocene. Based on research from pollen records and pack rat middens, it is believed that the low-elevation woodlands of the Mojave Desert were replaced by desert vegetation between 12,000 and 8000 B.P. (Earle et al. 1997; Mehringer 1967; Van Devender and Spaulding 1979).

Vegetation in the Project area is currently composed of Mojave Desert scrub, including saltbush scrub (halophytic and arid phases), creosote bush scrub, Joshua tree and juniper woodland, and wash wetlands or mesquite communities (Earle et al. 1997; Sawyer 1994; Vasek and Barbour 1977). Numerous plant species in these communities were utilized as foods and medicines, or provided materials for making bows, arrows, baskets, cordage, digging sticks, houses, or fuel for Native American groups. The region also provides habitat for a variety of animals, including birds, insects, reptiles, rodents, pronghorn and bighorn sheep, coyote, and fox, which may have been hunted by Native American groups (Earle et al. 1997).

Soils in the Project area, as mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service are Cajon loamy sands and Adelanto sandy loams (Soil Survey Staff 2021). More than half of the Project area consists of Cajon series (67.6 percent) with the remaining portions made up of Adelanto series (32.4 percent).

Cajon soil series are very deep, somewhat excessively drained soils that formed in sandy alluvium from dominantly granitic rocks on moderately sloping alluvial fans, fan aprons, fan skirts, inset fans, and river terraces. Cajon soils have light gray moderately alkaline sand A horizons, no B horizons, and very pale brown sand and gravelly sand C horizons. These soils have a typical pedon of light gray (10YR 7/2) moderately alkaline sand A horizon 0–14 inches thick, which overlies very pale brown (10YR 7/3) sand C1-C4 horizons (3–6 inches thick). The 2C5-2C7 horizons are also very pale brown (10YR 7/3) gravelly sand that are 3–15 inches thick (Soil Survey Staff 2015b).

Adelanto soil series are very deep, well-drained soils that formed in granitic parent material on nearly level to gently sloping alluvial fans and plains. The Adelanto soils have brown and light brown slightly acid neutral sandy loam A horizons, reddish-brown, moderately alkaline somewhat finer-textured sandy loam B2t horizons, and brown coarser sandy loam alluvial C horizons. These soils have a typical pedon of brown (10YR 5/3) slightly acid and neutral coarse sandy loam A1 horizon 6–17 inches thick, which overlies a light brown (7.5YR 6/4) sandy loam (AB) 0–11 inches thick. An A3 or AB horizon is usually present, or the boundary between A and Bt is not abrupt. The Btk horizon is light brown (7.5YR 6/4) sandy loam (6–16 inches thick) that grades to Bt horizons (B1, Bt2, Bt3) of reddish-brown (5YR 5/4) moderately alkaline somewhat finer-textured heavy sandy loam (6–18 inches thick) and brown (7.5YR 5/4) somewhat coarser sandy loam alluvial C horizons that are many feet thick (Soil Survey Staff 2015a).

The soil series mapped in the Project area do not include buried A (Ab) horizons. The maximum depths of ground disturbance are 13 feet (bgs) for the Project, which exceeds the depth of the typical pedons. The likelihood of encountering intact buried cultural resources is very low and AEC recommends a low archaeological sensitivity designation for the Project.

2.2 PREHISTORIC SETTING

Over the past century, archaeologists have generally divided the prehistory of the Western Mojave Desert into five distinct periods or sequences distinguished by specific material (i.e., technological) or cultural traits. Early cultural chronologies were proposed by Amsden (1937), Campbell et al. (1937), and Rogers (1939). These were later adapted by Warren and Crabtree in 1972 and later published (Warren and Crabtree 1986) and further detailed by Warren (1984), in what many consider to be the most influential cultural sequence proposed for the region. Alternative sequences have since emerged (e.g., Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Hall 1993; Yohe 1992) proposing new nomenclature (e.g., Newberry Period vs. Rose Spring Period vs. Saratoga Springs), slightly adjusted cultural chronologies, or attempting to link the Great Basin chronological framework to the Mojave Desert. Sutton et al. (2007:233) propose a cultural-ecological chronological framework based on climatic periods (e.g., Early Holocene) “to specify spans of calendric time and cultural complexes (e.g., Lake Mojave Complex) to denote specific archaeological manifestations that existed during (and across) those periods.” The new sequence draws heavily from (Warren and Crabtree 1986) and (Warren 1984), as well as from the vast body of recent archaeological research conducted in the region.

2.2.1 Pleistocene (circa 10,000 to 8000 B.P.)

The earliest cultural complex recognized in the Mojave Desert is Clovis, aptly named for the fluted projectiles often associated with Pleistocene megafaunal remains. Arguments for pre-

Clovis Paleoindian human occupation in the desert rely on relatively sparse evidence and unpublished data, although in light of the growing body of evidence suggesting a pre-Clovis occupation of the Americas, the argument cannot simply be ruled out. Paleoindian culture is poorly understood in the region due to a relative dearth of evidence stemming from a handful of isolated fluted point discoveries and one presumed occupation site along the shore of China Lake. Archaeologists tend to interpret the available data as evidence of a highly mobile, sparsely populated, hunting society that occupied temporary camps near permanent Pleistocene water sources.

2.2.2 Early Holocene (circa 8000 to 6000 B.P.)

Two archaeological patterns are recognized during the Early Holocene: the Lake Mojave Complex (sometimes referred to as the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition), and the Pinto Complex. The Lake Mojave Complex is characterized by stemmed projectile points of the Great Basin Series, abundant bifaces, steep-edged unifaces and crescents. Archaeologists have also identified, in less frequency, cobble-core tools and ground stone implements. The Pinto Complex, on the other hand, is distinguished primarily by the presence of Pinto-style projectile points. Although evidence suggests some temporal overlap, the inception of the Pinto Complex is assigned to the latter part of the Early Holocene and is generally considered a Middle Holocene cultural complex.

During the Early Holocene, the Lake Mojave cultural complex utilized more extensive foraging ranges, as indicated by an increased frequency of extra-local materials. Spheres of influence also expanded, as potential long-distance trade networks were established between desert and coastal peoples. Groups were still highly mobile but practiced a more forager-like settlement-subsistence strategy. Residential sites indicate more extensive periods of occupation and recurrent use. In addition, residential and temporary sites also indicate a diverse social economy, characterized by discrete workshops and special-use camps (e.g., hunting camps). Diet also appears to have diversified, with a shift away from dependence upon lacustral environments such as lakeside marshes, to the exploitation of multiple environments containing rich resource patches.

2.2.3 Middle Holocene (circa 7000 to 3000 B.P.)

The Pinto Complex is the primary cultural complex in the Mojave Desert during the Middle Holocene. Once thought to have neatly succeeded the Lake Mojave Complex, a growing corpus of radiocarbon dates associated with Pinto Complex artifacts suggest that its inception could date as far back as the latter part of the Early Holocene. Extensive use of tool stone other than obsidian and high levels of tool-blade reworking were characteristic of this complex and the earlier Lake Mojave Complex. A reduction in tool stone source material variability, however, suggests a contraction of foraging ranges that had expanded during the Early Holocene. Conversely, long-distance trade with coastal peoples continued uninterrupted, as indicated by the presence of *Olivella* shell beads.

The emphasis on milling tools indicates greater diversification of the subsistence economy during the Middle Holocene. Groups increased reliance on plant processing while continuing to supplement their diet with protein from small and large game animals.

Recent archaeological research in the Mojave Desert suggests there was a greater degree of regional cultural diversity during the Middle Holocene than once previously thought. Sutton et al. (2007) have proposed a new Middle Holocene cultural complex associated with sites exclusively located at Twentynine Palms in the southeastern Mojave Desert. Artifacts recovered from Deadman Lake Complex sites, such as *Olivella dama* from the Sea of Cortez, and contracting-stem and lozenge-shaped projectiles similar to those recovered from Ventana Cave in Arizona, may suggest closer cultural contact with Southwest Archaic cultures than Pinto cultures to the north and west. However, it is also possible that the proposed complex simply reflects a technologically distinct segment of the Pinto culture, rather than a distinct culture.

2.2.4 Late Holocene (circa 2000 B.P. to Contact)

The Late Holocene in the greater Southern California region is characterized by increases in population, higher degrees of sedentism, expanding spheres of influence, and greater degrees of cultural complexity. In the Mojave Desert, the Late Holocene is divided into several cultural complexes; namely the Gypsum Complex, the Rose Spring Complex, and Late Prehistoric Complex.

The Gypsum Complex is defined by the presence of side-notched (Elko series), concave-based (Humboldt series), and well-shouldered contracting-stem (Gypsum series) projectile points. Other indicative artifacts include quartz crystals, rock art, and twig figures, which are generally associated with ritual activities. (Warren 1984) considers the appearance of these artifact types at Gypsum Complex sites as evidence of the Southwest's expanding influence in the region. Conversely, Sutton et al. (2007) opt to associate Gypsum sites, which tend to cluster in the northern Mojave Desert, with temporal sequences modeled for the adjacent Great Basin. It is most likely, however, that the Gypsum Complex was exposed to various cultural influences stemming from long-distance exchange and social interaction networks that linked groups occupying the Mojave Desert to those on the Pacific Coast, the American Southwest, and the Great Basin.

The Rose Spring Complex can also be defined by the presence of distinct projectile points (i.e., Rose Spring and Eastgate series) and artifacts, including stone knives, drills, pipes, bone awls, milling implements, marine shell ornaments, and large quantities of obsidian. Of greater significance, however, are the characteristic advancements in technology, settlement strategies, and evidence for expanding and diverging trade networks.

The Rose Spring Complex marks the introduction of the bow and arrow weapon system to the Mojave Desert, likely from neighboring groups to the north and east. As populations increased, groups began to consolidate into larger, more sedentary residential settlements as indicated by the presence of well-developed midden and architecture. West and north of the Mojave River, increased trade activity along existing exchange networks ushered in a period of relative material wealth, exhibited by increased frequencies of marine shell ornaments and tool stone procured almost exclusively from the Coso obsidian source. East and south of the Mojave River, archaeological evidence suggests there was a greater influence from Southwest and Colorado River cultures (i.e., Hakataya, Patayan).

Between approximately A.D. 1100 and contact, a number of cultural complexes emerged that archaeologists believe may represent prehistoric correlates of known ethnographic groups.

During the Late Prehistoric Cultural Complex, material distinctions between groups was more apparent, as displayed by the distribution of projectile point styles (e.g., Cottonwood vs. Desert side-notched), ceramics, and lithic materials. Long-distance trade continued, benefiting those occupying “middleman” village sites along the Mojave River where abundant shell beads and ornaments, and lithic tools were recovered from archaeological contexts (Rector et al. 1983). Later on, however, trade in Coso obsidian was significantly reduced as groups shifted focus to the procurement of local silicate stone.

The Late Prehistoric Cultural Complex was also a time of increasing regional influence and territorial expansion. Warren (1984) noted “strong regional developments” in the Mojave Desert that included Anasazi interest in turquoise in the Mojave Trough, Hakatayan (Patayan) influence from the Colorado River, and the expansion of Numic Paiute and Shoshonean culture westward. These developments led Sutton (1989) to propose that a number of interaction spheres were operating in the Mojave Desert during the Late Prehistoric. Sutton (1989) delineated interaction spheres based on the distribution of projectile point styles, ceramics, and obsidian and argued that the spheres broke along geographical lines that reflected the territorial boundaries of known ethnohistoric groups.

2.3 ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING

The Mojave River corridor is generally included within the ethnographic territory of the Serrano, a Takic-speaking group from the northern branch of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic family. Anthropologists divide the Serrano into three or four geographically, and presumed dialectically, distinct groups—the Serrano, Vanyume, Kitanemuk, and Tataviam. The Kitanemuk and Tataviam once occupied territories near the edge of the Antelope Valley that, respectively, included the Tehachapi Mountains bordering Chumash and Yokut territory, and the Sierra Pelona Mountains and Santa Clarita Valley bordering the Serrano to the west and the Gabrielino to the south.

2.3.1 Tataviam

The Tataviam, which means “People who face the sun,” are a Native American group that resided in and around the area encompassing the Project area. They belong to the family of Serrano people who migrated down into the Antelope, Santa Clarita, and San Fernando valleys some time before 450 A.D. They settled into the upper Santa Clara River Drainage. Some Tataviam settlements in the Santa Clarita and upper valleys were Nuhubit (Newhall); Piru-U-Bit (Piru); Tochonanga, which is believed to have been located at the confluence of Wiley and Towsley canyons; and the very large village of Chaguibit, the center of which is buried under the Interstate 5 Rye Canyon exit. The Tataviam also lived where Saugus, Agua Dulce, and Lake Elizabeth are located today. This places the Serrano among the larger “Shoshonean” migration into Southern California that occurred 2,000 to 3,000 years ago (Higgins 1996).

The Tataviam people lived primarily on the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River drainage system, east of Piru Creek, but they also marginally inhabited the upper San Fernando Valley, including present-day San Fernando and Sylmar (which they shared with their inland Tongva/Gabrieño neighbors). The traditional Tataviam territory lies primarily between 1,500 and 3,000 feet above sea level. Their territory also may have extended over the Sawmill

Mountains to include at least the southwestern fringes of the Antelope Valley, which they apparently shared with the Kitanemuk, who occupied the greater portion of the Antelope Valley.

These hunter-gatherers lived in small villages and were seminomadic when food was scarce. They were organized into a series of clans throughout the region. There is no information regarding Tataviam social organization, although information from neighboring groups shows similarities among Tataviam, Chumash, and Gabrieleño ritual practices. Like their Chumash neighbors, the Tataviam practiced an annual mourning ceremony in late summer or early fall, which would have been conducted in a circular structure made of reeds or branches. At first contact with the Spanish in the late eighteenth century, the population of this group was estimated at less than 1,000 persons. However, this ethnographic estimate of the entire population is unlikely to be accurate, since it is based only on one small village complex and cannot necessarily be indicative of the entire population of Tataviam. Given the archaeological evidence at various Tataviam sites, as well as the numbers incorporated into the Spanish missions, precontact population and early contact population easily exceeded 1,000 persons (Blackburn 1963; Johnston 1962).

The primary foods consumed by the Tataviam included yucca, acorns, juniper berries, sage seeds, deer, the occasional pronghorn, and smaller game such as rabbits and ground squirrels. Larger game was generally hunted with the bow and arrow, while snares, traps, and pits were used for capturing smaller game. At certain times of the year, communal hunting and gathering expeditions were held. Faunal resources available to the desert-dwelling Serrano included deer, mountain sheep, pronghorn, rabbit, small rodents, and several species of birds (quail being their favorite). Meat was generally prepared by cooking in earth ovens, boiling, or sun-drying. Cooking and food preparation utensils consisted primarily of lithic (stone) knives and scrapers, mortars and metates, pottery, and bone or horn utensils. Resources available to the desert-dwelling Tataviam included honey mesquite, piñon nuts, yucca roots, mesquite, and cacti fruits (Solis 2008). These resources were supplemented with roots, bulbs, shoots, and seeds that, if not available locally, were traded for with other groups. Jimsonweed, native tobacco, and other plants found along the local rivers and streams provided raw materials for baskets, cordage, and netting.

Labor was divided between the sexes. Men carried out most of the heavy but short-term labor, such as hunting and fishing, conducted most trading ventures, and had as their central concerns the well-being of the village and the family. Women were involved in collecting and processing most of the plant materials and basket production. The elderly of both sexes taught children and cared for the young.

2.3.2 Kitanemuk

Ethnographers group the Kitanemuk with the northern section of the people known as the “Serrano.” The name “Serrano,” however, is only a generic term meaning “mountaineers” or “those of the Sierras.” The Kitanemuk were grouped with the Serrano based on linguistic similarities, although the Kitanemuk did not identify themselves as Serrano. They lived on the upper Tejon and Paso creeks. They also held the streams on the rear side of the Tehachapi Mountains in the same vicinity and the small creeks draining the northern slope of the Liebre and

Sawmill Range, Antelope Valley, and the westernmost part of the Mojave Desert (Kroeber 1925). The extent of their territorial claims in the desert region is not certain.

While they lived in permanent winter villages of 50–80 people or more, during the late spring, summer, and fall months the the Kitanemuk dispersed into smaller, highly mobile gathering groups. They followed a seasonal round, visiting different environmental regions as the important food-producing plants became ready for harvest. Some staple foods important to the Kitanemuk include acorns and piñon pine nuts (Antelope Valley Indian Museum 2021); yucca, elderberries, and mesquite beans were available as well (Duff 2004). While traveling in the Antelope Valley in 1776, Spanish explorer and Franciscan priest Francisco Garcés encountered the Kitanemuk living in a communal tule house. His written account describes that dwelling as consisting of a series of individual rooms surrounding a central courtyard. Each room housed a family and its own door and hearth. Garcés also relates that the Kitanemuk had extensive trade relations with sometimes distant groups. For example, he writes that the Kitanemuk traded with the “Canal” (Chumash of the Santa Barbara Channel region) and describes wooden vessels with inlays of *Haliotis* that bore stylistic similarities to decorations found on the handles of Chumash knives and other objects (Kroeber 1925).

The Kitanemuk were culturally distinct from at least some other Serrano-speaking groups. They apparently lacked Wildcat and Coyote moiety divisions and possibly patrilineal clans, hallmarks of Serrano social organization. While Kitanemuk consultants denied knowledge of patrilineal clans, their traditional kinship terminology suggested that these might once have existed. Their mourning ceremony and other religious institutions show the influence of their Chumash neighbors. They interred their dead rather than cremating them, and used grave poles reminiscent of those of the Chumash. Supernatural beliefs also show Yokuts influence (Blackburn and Bean 1978).

2.4 HISTORICAL SETTING

The history of Antelope Valley has been compiled by Gurba (2005), Tang et al. (2006), and the City of Lancaster (2021). A brief summary of historical local events in the Project area is provided below.

2.4.1 Antelope Valley

The Antelope Valley is in northern Los Angeles County and the southeastern portion of Kern County, California. It includes two main communities—Lancaster and Palmdale. Named for its legendary pronghorn (colloquially referred to as antelope) herds, the valley was a trade route for Native Americans traveling from Arizona and New Mexico to California’s coast. During the early 1770s, a small force of Spanish soldiers under the command of Pedro Fages became the first Europeans to set foot in the Antelope Valley. Over the next century, a number of famous explorers, including Francisco Garcés, Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, and John C. Fremont, traversed the Antelope Valley, but their explorations brought little permanent change to the region (Tang et al. 2006).

Several developments were integral to the valley’s growth starting in the mid-1800s, including gold mining along the Kern and Owens rivers, cattle ranching, and the start of the Butterfield Stagecoach route in 1858. The Butterfield mail station, the Los Angeles to San Francisco

telegraph line, and the Southern Pacific Railroad brought people and communication through the valley during the 1860s and 1870s.

During the 1870s, completion of a Southern Pacific Railroad line through Antelope Valley changed the region from an isolated basin to a magnet for settlers. The railroad had been looking for an inland route between San Francisco and Los Angeles since 1853. The passage of the Homestead Act and the Pacific Railroad Act gave railroad companies land to encourage settlement near train routes and sale of public land, making family farming affordable. The Southern Pacific Railroad finished its route through the valley in 1876 and settlers soon migrated to the region and established homesteads in areas near surface water, launching a boom growth period. Abundant rainfall during the 1880s and early 1890s attracted many farmers who produced alfalfa and grain for some time until several dry years ensued. The decade-long drought that began in 1894—the worst in Southern California’s recorded history—decimated the regional economy and forced many settlers to abandon their homesteads. The turn of the twentieth century brought improving irrigation methods and introduced electricity, which promoted the return of local farming. The 1913 completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct spanning 233 miles between the Owens Valley and Los Angeles also revived the valley’s economy. Edwards Air Force Base (formerly Muroc Army Air Field) was established in 1933. Following World War II, the aircraft (now called aerospace) industry took hold in the valley. Today the Antelope Valley retains vestiges of its agricultural past but its economic base is now supported by aerospace and defense industries.

2.4.2 City of Lancaster

The history of today’s city of Lancaster began in the summer of 1876, when the Southern Pacific Railroad Company chose Antelope Valley for its line between the San Joaquin Valley and the Los Angeles Basin and established a string of regularly spaced sidings and water stops across the desert. By 1880, the Lancaster stop had made its way into the railroad timetable. In 1883, the first artesian well in the valley was sunk near the Southern Pacific track for locomotive use. In 1884, taking advantage of its location on the first railroad line in Southern California, Moses Langley Wicks, a prominent real estate developer who was active in many parts of California, laid out the townsite of Lancaster on 60 sections that he had purchased from the Southern Pacific Railroad and the U.S. government.

During the 1880s, the Lancaster downtown area formed at the intersection of 10th Street and Antelope Avenue (today’s Lancaster Boulevard and Sierra Highway, respectively), boasting three general stores, a hardware store, three saloons, and the Lancaster House, a hotel built by Wicks in 1884. By 1886, the *Los Angeles Times* described Lancaster as the business center of the Antelope Valley, known for its concentration of taverns and roadhouses. Lodging houses were built to accommodate the influx of visitors and prospective settlers, including the Hotel Lancaster and the Gillwyn Hotel. In 1889, the Lancaster grammar school was built on 10th Street using bricks produced in a kiln not far from town. Before the building of the brick grammar school between 1884 and 1889, classes were held in the Fuller apartment buildings. The first teacher was Emily Parmelee. It was not until 1913 that people voted for a new site for the grammar school on Cedar Avenue. The post office service expanded under the direction of Abbie Dunning, the first postmistress.

Ample rainfall in the early 1890s contributed to harvests of some 60,000 acres of wheat and barley, and to the first yields of alfalfa, a fast-growing perennial plant that could be cut nearly monthly. Eventually, alfalfa would become the region's primary crop to the extent that "alfalfa is king" became the slogan for the agricultural interests in the valley. Beginning in 1895, however, several years of continuous drought affected Lancaster and other settlements in the Antelope Valley and forced nearly all settlers to abandon their land and leave the parched region.

In 1898, gold was discovered in the hills north of Lancaster and attracted scores of prospectors who staked claims that are still visible, some of which are still being prospected. The old-time miners would rig V-shaped wagons with sails and "tack" across Muroc Dry Lake going to and from work. Also in 1898, borax was found in the mountains surrounding the Antelope Valley, sparking the world's largest open-pit borax mine.

Lancaster recovered slowly from the drought years after the turn of the century, but its renewal was spurred in part by the construction of the local stretch of the Los Angeles Aqueduct around 1905. The Southern Pacific depot remained the focal point of the town, and what little commerce there was gathered around it and the intersection of 10th Street and Antelope Avenue. With the adoption of electric water pumps, irrigated agriculture became the primary means of livelihood in the region. The arrival of the automobile and the growth of downtown Lancaster as a regional commercial hub resulted in the construction of paved roads, and the community was eventually connected with Los Angeles by a paved highway via Mint Canyon known as Sierra Highway/ U.S. Route 6/State Route 138.

By the early 1930s, the town of Lancaster had expanded a little farther to the north, east, and southwest of its original downtown where several small satellite communities formed, mostly as small ranching and farming communities. In 1933, on a dry lakebed nearly 6 miles to the northeast of downtown, the Muroc Bombing and Gunnery Range, later renamed the Muroc Army Air Base, was established (Tang et al. 2006). Military housing was available on base, but its presence sparked a new development boom that spread to nearby Lancaster and Palmdale, providing for the numerous military and civilian employees that worked on the base.

After World War II, the aerospace and defense industry overtook agriculture as the most important sector in the Antelope Valley economy. In 1977, Lancaster was incorporated as a city. Since then, the city has experienced rapid growth including the expansion of housing, turning vacant land to the southwest and southeast of downtown Lancaster into new population centers. In contrast, much of the area at the far north and east have remained largely rural in character into modern times.

3 SOURCES CONSULTED

3.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE LITERATURE AND RECORDS SEARCH

On October 14, 2021, prior to the field survey of the Project area, a literature and records search was conducted by staff at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) of the California Historical Resource Information System, housed at the California State University, Fullerton. The objective of this records search was to determine whether any prehistoric or historical cultural resources had been recorded previously within an area encompassing a 1-mile radius around the Project area (Study Area).

Results of the records search indicated 46 cultural resource investigations have been conducted previously within the Study Area (Table 3-1). Four of the previous investigations—LA-06633, LA-06636, LA-07991, and LA-08441—included portions of the Project area. As such, 100 percent of the Project area has been investigated previously.

**Table 3-1
Previous Cultural Resource Studies in the Study Area**

Author(s)	Date	SCCIC Reference #	Title
Norwood, Richard H.	1989	LA-01737	Cultural Resource Survey for GPA 88-14 Lancaster, California
Singer, Clay A. and John E. Atwood	1989	LA-01917	Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for Six Properties near Lancaster (GPA Group), Los Angeles County, California.
Singer, Clay A. and John E. Atwood	1989	LA-01919	Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for Four Properties near Lancaster (GPA Group 1), Los Angeles County, California.
Singer, Clay A. and John E. Atwood	1990	LA-02063	Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for Four Properties in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.
Macko, Michael E.	1992	LA-02583	An Archaeological Assessment of CUP 91-370, Olivet Southern Baptist Church Quartz Hill, California
Norwood, Richard H.	1993	LA-02805	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Tentative Tract No's. 49830 and 49831 Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Norwood, Richard H.	1993	LA-03074	Phase II Cultural Resource Investigation for Sites CA-LAN-2099/H and CA-LAN-2091H Tentative Tract No. 49830 Lancaster, Los Angeles County California
Maki, Mary K.	1999	LA-04391	Negative Phase I Archaeological Survey and Impact Assessment of 10,250 Linear Feet for the DWP Quartz Hill Basin Project Quartz Hill, Los Angeles County, California
Love, Bruce	2000	LA-04904	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report
White, Robert S. and Laura S. White	2000	LA-05320	A Cultural Resources Assessment of Tentative Tract No. 53136, a 5.5± Acre Parcel Located Adjacent to 60th Street West, City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County
McKenna, Jeanette A. and R. Charles Ferguson	2003	LA-06624	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation for the Forecast Homes Property (66 Acres) in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

Table 3-1
Previous Cultural Resource Studies in the Study Area

Author(s)	Date	SCCIC Reference #	Title
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2003	LA-06633*	Addendum Report: A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation for the Pacific Lane Company Property (APN 3204-009-011), in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2003	LA-06634	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation for the Sayani Property, 22 Acres in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2003	LA-06636*	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation for the Pacific Land Company Property (Tract 53642) in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2003	LA-06637	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of 18 Parcels in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2003	LA-06882	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation for the Sayani Property, APNs 3203-031-003, 3203-031-010, and 3203-031-011 in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2003	LA-06935	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation for the Sayani Property Located Near 60th Street West and Avenue K-8, in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Hudlow, Scott M.	2006	LA-07968	A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for APN 3203-032-025 and -026, Avenue J-12 and 55th Street West, City of Lancaster, California
Tang, Bai "Tom," Michael Hogan, and Josh Smallwood	2006	LA-07991*	Cultural Resources Technical Report, City of Lancaster, General Plan Update
Hudlow, Scott M.	2005	LA-08022	A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for a Property at 50th Street West and Avenue J-8, City of Lancaster, California
Jordan, Stacey C.	2007	LA-08168	Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company Antelope-Bailey Reconductoring Project, Los Angeles County, California
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2007	LA-08234	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Approximately 17.5 Acres of Land on the Northwestern Corner of Avenue K and 60th Street West in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Simon, Joseph M.	2003	LA-08328	Phase I Archaeological Survey of Tracts 54275 and 54276, City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Simon, Joseph M.	2004	LA-08329	Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lancaster 98 Study Area, City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2006	LA-08344	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation for the Antelope Valley Land, LLC Properties (APNs 3204-006-028, -036, and -037) in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Cooley, Theodore G.	2007	LA-08426	Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company Antelope-Quartz Hill No. 2 66kV Line Project, Los Angeles County, California (job# 3196 0468)
Cooley, Theodore G.	2007	LA-08427	Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company 66kV Antelope Bus Split Project, Los Angeles County, California
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2004	LA-08441*	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation for the Taft Corporation Property in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

Table 3-1
Previous Cultural Resource Studies in the Study Area

Author(s)	Date	SCCIC	
		Reference #	Title
McKenna, Jeanette A.	2004	LA-08442	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Assessor Parcel Number No. 3203-018-005, Located in City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Hudlow, Scott M.	2004	LA-08451	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for Property at 60th West and Avenue K, City of Lancaster, California
Hudlow, Scott M.	2004	LA-08452	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for Property at the Southwest Corner of 60th West and Avenue K, City of Lancaster, California
Hudlow, Scott M.	2004	LA-08455	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for Property at 55th West and Avenue K, City of Lancaster, California
Hudlow, Scott M.	2004	LA-08456	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for Property at 45th West and Avenue J-8, City of Lancaster, California
Hudlow, Scott M.	2004	LA-08457	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for Property at 57th West and Avenue K, City of Lancaster, California
Lloyd, Jay B.	2007	LA-08941	Cultural Resources Survey for the Lan Ranch Towne Center Project in Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Parr, Robert E.	2008	LA-09393	Archaeological Assessment of 21 Deteriorated Power Poles on the Southern California Edison Godde, Lariat, Zappa, Stealth, Museum, Force, Petan, Yoda, and Hughes Lake 12kV Circuits Los Angeles County, California
Doolittle, Christopher and Virginia Austerman	2005	LA-09692	Cultural Resources Assessment of Assessor's Parcel No. 061989, Approximately 20 Acres in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Lorna Billat	2009	LA-09826	New Tower Submission Packet- AM-PM, LA3738A
DeGiovine, Michael M. and Wilson, Stacy L.	2008	LA-10144	Second Addendum: Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company the 66kV Antelope Bus Split Project, Los Angeles County, California
Wlodarski, Robert	2009	LA-10372	A Phase I Archaeological Study for Tentative Tract 70761 Located East of 60th Street West and South of Jamaica Lane, City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Lloyd, Jay B.	2007	LA-10586	Cultural Resources Survey for the Commons at Quartz Hill Project in Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
Bonner, Wayne	2010	LA-10691	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for T-Mobile USA Candidate SV12514-A (QHHS), 6040 West Avenue L, Quartz Hills, Los Angeles County, California
Orfila, Rebecca	2011	LA-11453	Archaeological Survey for the Southern California Edison Company: Nineteen Deteriorated Power Poles on the Petan 12kV, Forage 12kV, Hangar 12kV, Lupine 12kV Assembly 12kV, Force 12kV, Moonglow 12kV, and Hughes Lake 12kV Circuits in Los Angeles County, California
Bonner, Wayne	2013	LA-12377	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for AT&T Mobility Candidate NL0263 (Quartz Hill High School), 6040 West Avenue L, Quartz Hill, Los Angeles County, California
Haas, Hannah and Ramirez, Robert	2014	LA-12576	Bruin Engineering Assessor Parcel Numbers 3203-017-006 and 3203-017-011, Cultural Resources Study
Grabski, David K. and Smith, Brian F.	2014	LA-12806	Cultural Resources Survey of the Avanti North Project, City of Lancaster, California

*Studies overlapping the Project area.

The archaeological records search also indicated 12 cultural resources had been identified previously within the Study Area (Table 3-2): 2 built environment resources, 1 archaeological site with both prehistoric and historic-period components, 6 historic-period archaeological sites, 1 prehistoric archaeological site, and 2 prehistoric isolated artifacts. The built environment resources include residential structures and structures associated with the Meadowlark Golf Course. The historic-period archaeological sites include refuse scatters and farmstead remnants, and housing/outbuilding foundations. The prehistoric archaeological site consists of a lithic scatter and the prehistoric isolated finds include a metate fragment and a lithic fragment. None of these resources are located within the Project area.

Table 3-2
Cultural Resources in the Study Area

Primary	Trinomial	Description
Built Environment Resources		
19-002091	CA-LAN-2091H	Homestead-residential structure
19-003676	CA-LAN-3676H	Residential/agricultural property associated with the Meadowlark Golf Course
Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites		
19-002099	CA-LAN-2099/H	Prehistoric temporary camp with extensive artifact scatter and historic-period refuse scatter
Historic Archaeological Sites		
19-002885	CA-LAN-2885H	Historic-period refuse scatter
19-003383	CA-LAN-3383H	Historic-period refuse scatter and housing foundations
19-003692	-	Historic-period refuse scatter
19-003693	-	Historic-period refuse scatter
19-003694	-	Historic-period refuse scatter
19-004900	-	Historic-period farmstead with house and outbuilding foundations
Prehistoric Archaeological Sites		
19-004427	CA-LAN-4427/H	Prehistoric lithic scatter
Isolated Prehistoric Finds		
19-100315	-	1 fined-grained green metamorphic rock metate fragment
19-100419	-	1 lavender rhyolite flaked lithic fragment

3.2 HISTORICAL MAP REVIEW

A series of historical maps were consulted to assess land use and development in the Study Area. Maps consulted included USGS topographic quadrangle maps: Del Sur 1:24,000 (1931) and Lancaster West 1:24,000 (1958 and 1975). No structures, roads, or other features of interest are shown within, or in the vicinity of, the Project area on any of the historical maps.

4

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS

Æ contacted the NAHC on August 13, 2021, for a review of the SLF, to determine if any known Native American cultural properties (e.g., traditional use or gathering areas, places of religious or sacred activity) are present within or adjacent to the Project area. The NAHC responded on September 15, 2021, stating the SLF search was completed with negative results. The NAHC requested Æ contact Native American individuals and organizations to elicit information regarding cultural resource issues related to the proposed Project, if any.

Upon review of the Native American contact list and after removing redundancies, Æ narrowed the list to six individuals and organizations traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area where the Project is located. Æ sent out Project scoping letters via email on October 28, 2021, describing the Project and asking these individuals and organizations for their input. Copies of the letters, the list of contacts, and responses are included in Appendix A. Æ sent follow-up email correspondence on November 12, 2021 to the organizations who had not responded to the initial request on October 28, 2021.

Individuals/organizations contacted include:

- Jairo Avila, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer for the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Ann Brierty, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer for the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
- Donna Yocum, Chairperson of the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
- Ryan Nordness, Cultural Resources Analyst for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Mark Cochrane/Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson of the Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

As of the date of this report, three responses have been received. The Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians noted the Project is of interest to the Tribe and the Tribe is interested in consulting with the CEQA lead agency (City). The Tribe also requested a copy of the cultural report for review during the consultation process. The Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation had no comments regarding the Project, deferred to the other local Tribes, and will support their decisions regarding the Project. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians noted that the proposed Project is not located near any known Serrano villages, sites, or features.

5

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

The Project area was entirely accessible during the survey completed by Æ Senior Archaeologist Keith Warren on October 26, 2021.

5.1 SURVEY METHODS

The survey started in the southeast corner of the Project area at 60th Street West and Avenue K-8 and was completed along north–south transects spaced 10 meters (33 feet) apart. All portions of the Project area were surveyed systematically, and survey included inspection of any unusual landforms, contours, soil changes, features (e.g., road cuts, drainages), and other potential cultural site markers.

5.2 SURVEY RESULTS

The topography of the Project area is generally low relief; 85–90 percent of the ground surface covered in annual grasses (Figure 5-1). Artificial fill is present throughout the Project area and concentrated in stockpiles (Figure 5-2). The fill consists of gray to light brown, very fine- to coarse-grained sands and gravels with abundant refuse such as concrete blocks, metal scraps, and erosion control matting. Ground surface visibility ranged between 60 and 80 percent, depending on the density of vegetation. The Project area is littered with modern debris (Figure 5-3).



Figure 5-1 Overview of eastern half of the Project area (facing southwest).



Figure 5-2 Overview of stockpiles in northwest portion of the Project area (facing northwest).



Figure 5-3 Modern refuse dumping in the Project area (facing south).

Multiple modern dirt tracks and berms created for recreational off-road use were observed around the perimeter of the Project area. Off-road vehicle tracks and walking trails indicate that the Project area is used for recreational activities. No cultural resources were observed during the survey of the Project area.

6 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Results of the records search indicate 12 previously recorded cultural resources have been identified within one mile of the Project area, but the cultural resource investigation identified no archaeological or built environment resources. The Project area is within undeveloped land heavily modified by modern activities. Because the terrain has been disturbed previously by grading, stockpiling of fill soils, and modern dumping, AE suggests a low sensitivity ranking for the potential for intact and buried archaeological remains. Furthermore, the Cajon and Adelanto series soil maps do not illustrate buried paleosols (Ab horizons) and the Project area is thought to have a low sensitivity for buried archaeological sites. Therefore, no further cultural resource management of the Project area is recommended.

It should be noted that the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians stated that the proposed Project is not located near any known Serrano villages, sites, or features. The Fernand o Tataviam Band of Mission Indians is interested in consulting with the Lead Agency (City) about the Project, but the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation had no comments regarding the Project, deferred to the other local Tribes, and will support their decisions regarding the Project.

In the event potentially significant archaeological materials are encountered during construction, all work must be halted in the vicinity of the discovery until a qualified archaeologist can visit the site of discovery and assess the significance of the find. If significant archaeological remains are encountered, the impacts of the Project must be mitigated appropriately. Any such discoveries, and subsequent evaluation and treatment, should be documented in a cultural resource monitoring and treatment report, which should be submitted to the SCCIC for archival purposes.

Additionally, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 mandate the process to be followed in the unlikely event of an accidental discovery of human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Finally, if the Project is expanded to include areas not covered by this survey or other recent cultural resource studies, additional cultural resource studies may be required.

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APPENDIX A

Native American Communication

LIST OF NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS AND RECORD OF RESPONSES

Name	Date of Follow up and Response	Responses
Jairo Avila Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians	October 28, 2021 October 28, 2021	Scoping letter sent via email. Mr. Jairo Avila, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer for the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians sent an email response noting the Project is of interest to the Tribe and the Tribe is interested in consulting with the Lead Agency (City). The Tribe also requested a copy of the cultural report for review during the consultation process.
Ann Brierty Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Morongo Band of Mission Indians	October 28, 2021 November 12, 2021	Scoping letter sent via email. E-mailed follow-up effort for correspondence. No response received to date.
Jill McCormick Historic Preservation Officer Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	October 28, 2021 November 1, 2021	Scoping Letter sent via email Ms. Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer for the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation, sent an email response stating that they have no comments and defer to the other local Tribes and support their decisions regarding the Project.
Donna Yocum Chairperson San Fernando Band of Mission Indians	October 28, 2021 November 12, 2021	Scoping letter sent via email E-mailed follow-up effort for correspondence. No response received to date.
Ryan Nordness Cultural Resources Analyst San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	October 28, 2021 November 12, 2021 November 12, 2021	Scoping letter sent via email. E-mailed follow-up effort for correspondence. Mr. Ryan Nordness, Cultural Resource analyst for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians sent an email response noting that the proposed Project is not located near any known Serrano villages, sites, or features.
Mark Cochran Co-Chairperson Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	October 28, 2021 November 12, 2021	Scoping letter sent via email. E-mailed follow-up effort for correspondence. No response received to date.
Wayne Walker Co-Chairperson Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	October 28, 2021 November 12, 2021	Scoping letter sent via email. E-mailed follow-up effort for correspondence. No response received to date.

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100

West Sacramento, CA 95691

916-373-3710

916-657-5390 – Fax

nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search

Date: 8/13/2021

Project: Pacific Topaz Tentative Tract Map 53642 AE#4333

County: Los Angeles

USGS Quadrangle Name: Del Sur and Lancaster West

Township: 7N

Range: 13W

Section(s): 22-27 and 34-36

Company/Firm/Agency: Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

Contact Person: Andrew DeLeon

Street Address: 3550 East Florida Avenue, Suite H

City: Hemet

Zip: 92544

Phone: (951) 766-2000 (Ext. 520)

Fax: (951) 766-0020

Email: adeleon@appliedearthworks.com

Project Description: The proposed Project will develop 37 acres of vacant land (APNs 3204-009-026, -079, and -081) in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California, for Tentative Tract Map 53642. Ground disturbance is expected as a result of construction activities associated with Project development.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

September 15, 2021

Andrew DeLeon
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

Via Email to: adeleon@appliedearthworks.com**Re: Pacific Topaz Tentative Tract Map 53642 AE#4333 Project, Los Angeles County**

Dear Mr. DeLeon:

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
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Merri Lopez-Keifer
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
Karuk

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
Apache

COMMISSIONER
Julie Tumamait-Stenslie
Chumash

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

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

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
9/15/2021**

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Jairo Avila, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer
1019 Second Street, Suite 1 Tataviam
San Fernando, CA, 91340
Phone: (818) 837 - 0794
Fax: (818) 837-0796
jairo.avila@tataviam-nsn.us

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

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 Serrano
Phone: (951) 755 - 5110
Fax: (951) 755-5177
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Jessica Mauck, Director of Cultural Resources
26569 Community Center Drive Serrano
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 864 - 8933
Jessica.Mauck@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Ann Brierty, THPO
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 Serrano
Phone: (951) 755 - 5259
Fax: (951) 572-6004
abrierty@morongo-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

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 1899 Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (760) 572 - 2423
historicpreservation@quechantribe.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

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman
Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1899 Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (928) 750 - 2516
scottmanfred@yahoo.com

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

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Pacific Topaz Tentative Tract Map 53642 AE#4333 Project, Los Angeles County.

October 28, 2021

Jairo Avila
Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer
Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
1019 Second Street, Suite 1
San Fernando, CA 91340

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Dear Mr. Avila:

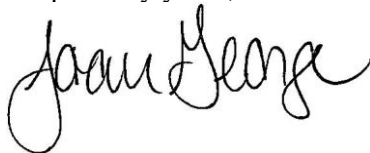
On behalf of Pacific Communities Builder, Inc., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project (Project). The Project proposes to construct a 216-unit 55+ senior community on 37 acres of vacant land. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the City of Lancaster is the lead CEQA agency. As indicated on the attached map, the Project is located on the Lancaster (1958), CA 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map in Section 26, Township 7 North, Range 13 West. The Project area is located on the southeast corner of 60th Street West and Avenue K-4.

The archaeological literature and records search conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center housed at the California State University, Fullerton, indicates that 12 cultural resources have been recorded within a one-mile radius of the Project area. None of these resources are documented within the Project area. Æ was contracted to perform an archaeological survey of the Project area which was completed on October 26, 2021. No cultural resources were identified during the survey.

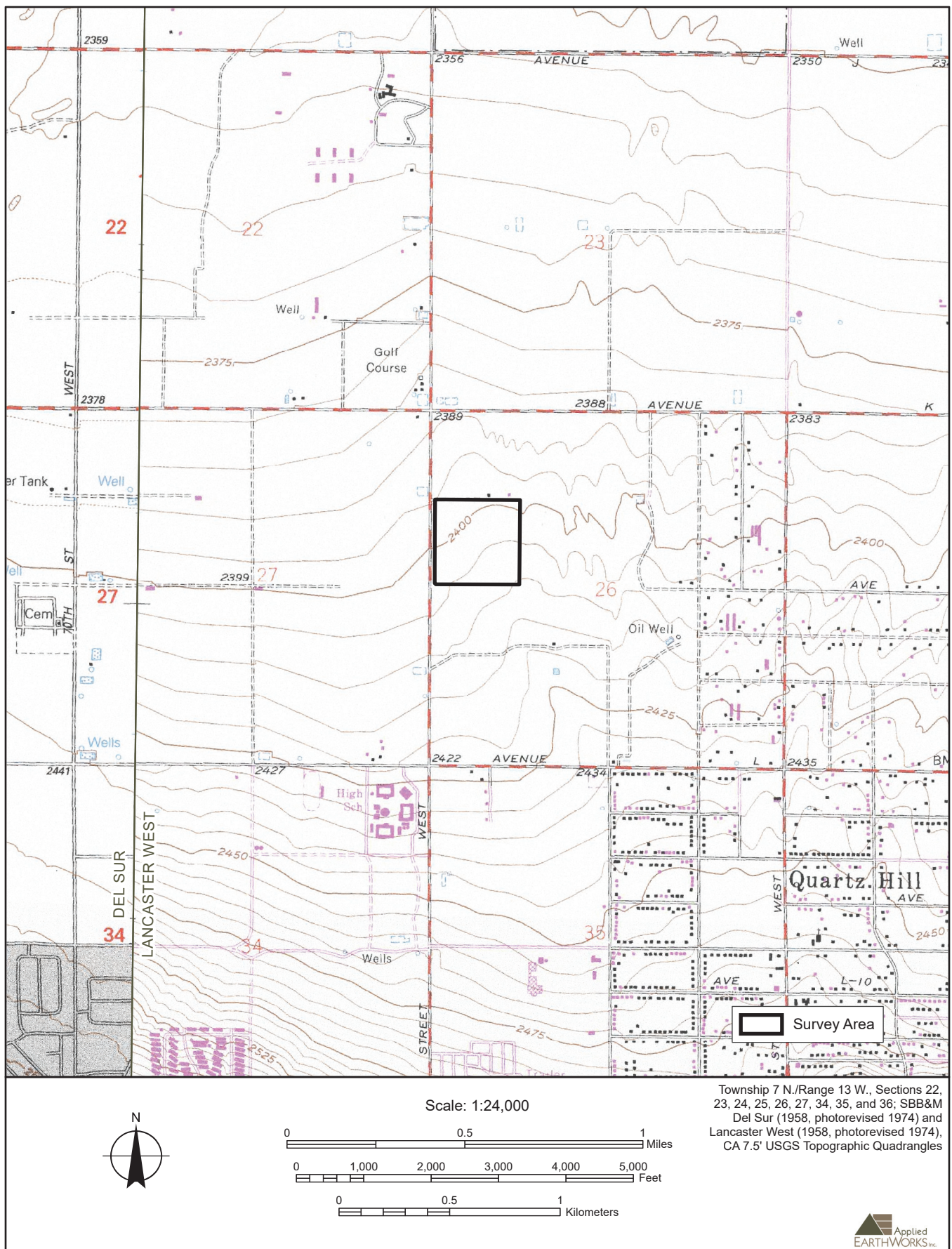
As part of the cultural resource assessment of the Project area, Æ requested a search of the *Sacred Lands File* by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on August 13, 2021. The NAHC responded on September 15, 2021 noting that *Sacred Lands File* search was completed with negative results. Should your records show that cultural properties exist within or near the Project area shown on the enclosed map, or if you have any concerns regarding Native American issues related to the overall Project, please contact me at (951) 766-2000 (extension 523) or via letter expressing your concerns. You may also e-mail me at jgeorge@appliedearthworks.com. If I do not hear from you within the next two weeks, I will contact you with a follow-up phone call or email.

Please be aware that your comments and concerns are very important to us, as well as to the successful completion of this Project. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to review this request.

Respectfully yours,



Joan George, B.S., RA (28093)
Senior Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



Location map for the *Pacific Topaz Project - AE#4333*.

October 28, 2021

Ann Brierty
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Road,
Banning, CA, 92220

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Dear Ms. Brierty:

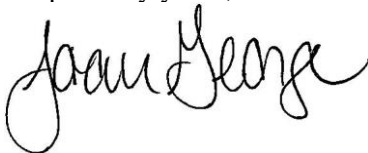
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Respectfully yours,



Joan George, B.S., RA (28093)
Senior Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

October 28, 2021

Jill McCormick
Historic Preservation Officer
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Dear Ms. McCormick:

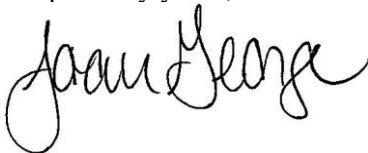
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Respectfully yours,



Joan George, B.S., RA (28093)
Senior Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

October 28, 2021

Donna Yocum
Chairperson
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA 91322

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Dear Ms. Yocum:

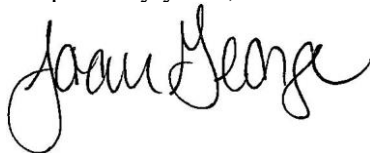
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Please be aware that your comments and concerns are very important to us, as well as to the successful completion of this Project. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to review this request.

Respectfully yours,



Joan George, B.S., RA (28093)
Senior Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

October 28, 2021

Ryan Nordness
Cultural Resources Analyst
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Dear Mr. Nordness:

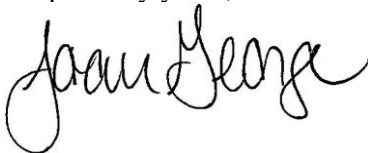
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Respectfully yours,



Joan George, B.S., RA (28093)
Senior Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

October 28, 2021

Mark Cochrane & Wayne Walker
Co-Chairperson
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 343
Patton, CA 92369

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Dear Sirs:

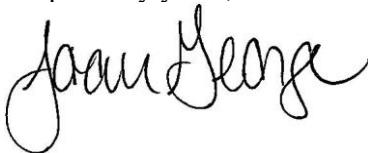
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As part of the cultural resource assessment of the Project area, Æ requested a search of the *Sacred Lands File* by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on August 13, 2021. The NAHC responded on September 15, 2021 noting that *Sacred Lands File* search was completed with negative results. Should your records show that cultural properties exist within or near the Project area shown on the enclosed map, or if you have any concerns regarding Native American issues related to the overall Project, please contact me at (951) 766-2000 (extension 523) or via letter expressing your concerns. You may also e-mail me at jgeorge@appliedearthworks.com. If I do not hear from you within the next two weeks, I will contact you with a follow-up phone call or email.

Please be aware that your comments and concerns are very important to us, as well as to the successful completion of this Project. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to review this request.

Respectfully yours,



Joan George, B.S., RA (28093)
Senior Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

From: [Jairo Avila](#)
To: [Joan George](#)
Subject: Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz Project in Lancaster
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:08:01 PM

Hello Joan,

On behalf of the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Division of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI), thank you for the formal notification and opportunity to provide comments for the Pacific Topaz Project in Lancaster. This project is of interest to the FTBMI and the tribe is interested in consulting with the Lead Agency. Our office looks forward to reviewing the AE Cultural Report during the consultation process.

Respectfully,

Jairo F. Avila, M.A., RPA.

Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer

Cultural Resources Management Division

Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Department

Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

1019 Second Street, Suite 1

San Fernando, California 91340

Office: (818) 837-0794

Website: <http://www.tataviam-nsn.us>

From: Joan George <jgeorge@appliedearthworks.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:30 AM

To: Jairo Avila <jairo.avila@tataviam-nsn.us>

Subject: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz Project in Lancaster

[CAUTION] EXTERNAL Email. Exercise caution.

Good morning,

Attached please find a scoping letter for a cultural resource assessment of the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Thank you,

Joan

Joan George, B.S., RA (28093) | Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
Senior Archaeologist



3550 E. Florida Ave., Suite H
Hemet, CA. 92544-4937
951.766.2000 x-523 office

From: [Quechan Historic Preservation Officer](#)
To: ["Joan George"](#)
Subject: RE: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz Project in Lancaster
Date: Monday, November 01, 2021 8:33:32 AM

This email is to inform you that we have no comments on this project. We defer to the more local Tribes and support their decisions on the projects.

From: Quechan Historic Preservation [mailto:historicpreservation@quechantribe.com]
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2021 7:53 AM
To: historicpreservation@quechantribe.com
Subject: FW: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz Project in Lancaster

From: Joan George [mailto:jgeorge@appliedearthworks.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Jill McCormick
Subject: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz Project in Lancaster

Good morning Jill,

Attached please find a scoping letter for a cultural resource assessment of the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Thank you,
Joan

Joan George, B.S., RA (28093) | Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
Senior Archaeologist



3550 E. Florida Ave., Suite H
Hemet, CA. 92544-4937
951.766.2000 x-523 office

www.appliedearthworks.com



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Ryan Nordness](#)
To: [Joan George](#)
Subject: RE: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz Project in Lancaster
Date: Friday, November 12, 2021 11:06:41 AM

Thank you for reaching out to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians concerning the proposed project area. SMBMI appreciates the opportunity to review the project documentation received by the Cultural Resources Management Department on November 12, 2021. The proposed project is not located near any known Serrano villages, sites, or features. Thank you again for your correspondence, if you have any additional questions or comments please reach out to me at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,
Ryan Nordness

From: Joan George <jgeorge@appliedearthworks.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Ryan Nordness <Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov>
Subject: RE: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz Project in Lancaster

Good morning,

I'm following-up on the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. The Project proposes to construct a 216-unit 55+ senior community on 37 acres of vacant land. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act and the City of Lancaster is the lead CEQA agency. Applied EarthWorks, Inc. was retained to conduct a cultural resource study of the Project area.

The archaeological literature and records search indicates that 12 cultural resources have been identified previously within a one-mile radius of the APE. None of these resources are documented within the Project area. The Sacred Lands File search conducted by the NAHC was completed with negative results.

An archaeological pedestrian survey of the Project was completed on October 26, 2021. No cultural resources were identified during the survey. Should you have any comments or concerns regarding this Project, please call or email me.

Thank you,
Joan

Joan George, B.S., RA (28093) | Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
Senior Archaeologist
951.766.2000 x-523 office

From: Joan George <jgeorge@appliedearthworks.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:34 AM

To: Ryan Nordness <ryan.nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov>

Subject: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Pacific Topaz Project in Lancaster

Good morning,

Attached please find a scoping letter for a cultural resource assessment of the Pacific Topaz TTM 53642 Project in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Thank you,
Joan

Joan George, B.S., RA (28093) | Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
Senior Archaeologist



3550 E. Florida Ave., Suite H
Hemet, CA. 92544-4937
951.766.2000 x-523 office

www.appliedearthworks.com

This is an external email. Use caution before clicking attachments or links.

For suspicious emails please contact the IT Service Desk at extension 4500 or (909) 863-5700. If you are on your Outlook client, report the suspicious email by clicking on Report Phish icon in your Outlook toolbar.

If you are on a mobile device, forward the suspicious email to spam@sanmanuel.com.

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