City of Beaumont Pennsylvania Avenue Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Appendix C: Cultural Resources Report

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Beaumont Service Station Project City of Beaumont, Riverside County, California

Prepared for:

Jakki Tonkovich Vista Community Planners 1278 Glenneyre Street, Suite 110 Laguna Beach, California 92651

Prepared by:

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA BCR Consulting LLC Claremont, California 91711 Project No. VCP1901

Data Base Information:

Type of Study: Cultural Resources Assessment
Resources Recorded: None
Keywords: Beaumont
USGS Quadrangle: 7.5-minute Beaumont, California (1988)



MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Vista Community Planners to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Beaumont Service Station Project (approximately 1.33 acres; the project) in the City of Beaumont, Riverside County, California. The work is being performed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A cultural resources records search, pedestrian field survey, Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and paleontological overview were conducted for the project.

The records search revealed that 30 cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of 10 cultural resources within one mile of the project site. Of the 30 previous studies, none has assessed the project site and no cultural resources have been previously recorded within its boundaries. During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists did not discover any cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic-period archaeological sites or historic-period buildings) within the project site boundaries. Based on these results, BCR Consulting recommends a finding of no impacts to historical resources under CEQA. BCR Consulting also recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring is necessary during proposed activities associated with the development of the project site. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

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

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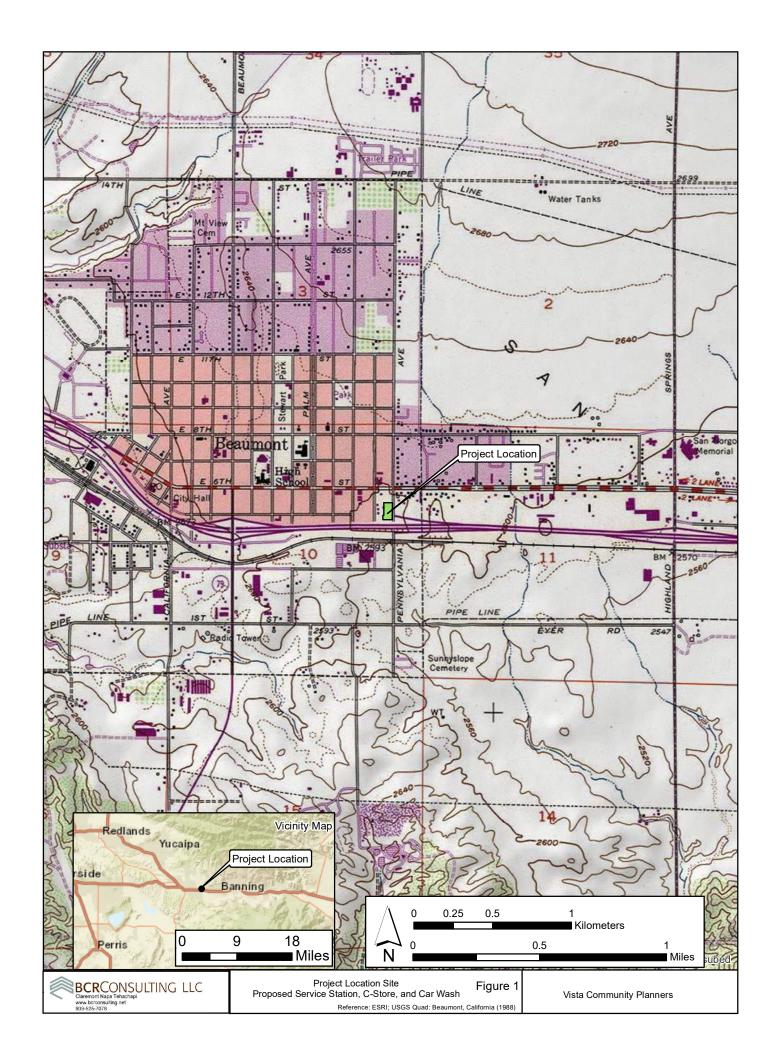
INTRODUCTION

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Vista Community Planners to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Beaumont Service Station Project (approximately 1.33 acres; the project) in the City of Beaumont (City), Riverside County, California. The work is being performed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A cultural resources records search, pedestrian field survey, Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and paleontological map review were conducted for the project. The project site is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Beaumont, California* (1988) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1). The project site is located in the northeast quarter of Section 10, Township 3 South, Range 1 West (San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian).

NATURAL SETTING

The elevation of the project site averages approximately 2605 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Local rainfall averages between 5 and 15 inches annually (Jaeger and Smith 1971:36-37), and snowfall occasionally occurs during the winter. The project is relatively flat. A storm overflow system with a modern artificial slatted well cap over a low corrugated steel stand-pipe is located on the central portion of the project's eastern boundary. Recent rains have caused it to seep and the overflow has been diverted into a trench conveying the water southwest towards a concrete channel along the base of Interstate 10, immediately to the south of the project site. The project site is located on the western approach to the San Gorgonio Pass between the San Bernardino Mountains of the Transverse Range geologic province to the north, and the San Jacinto Mountains of the Peninsular Range geologic province to the south (see Diblee 1982; Morton 1978a, 1978b, and others). Each of the adjacent mountain ranges are over 11,000 feet AMSL and are composed of Jurassic and Cretaceous granitic rocks, which have intruded and metamorphosed older rocks. Finer local sediments range in age from late Miocene, Pliocene, Pleistocene, and Holocene (Rewis et al. 2006).

Dense non-native grasses, trees, and bushes cover the project site, although coastal sage scrub is locally dominant. Signature plant species include black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California brittlebush (*Encelia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemesia californica*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diverilobum*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophyla*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovate*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), coastal century plant (*Agave shawii*), coastal cholla (*Opuntia prolifera*), Laguna Beach liveforever (*Dudleya stolonifera*), many-stemmed liveforever (*Dudleya multicaulis*), our Lord's candle (*Yucca whipplei*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia sp.*) (Williams et al. 2008:118-119). Signature animal species within Coastal Sage Scrub habitat include the kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys sp.*), California horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*), and orange throated whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperthrus*).



CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistory

Various regional syntheses have been utilized in the archaeological literature for southern California. The following framework derives information from local studies to provide a useful overview for the project site.

Paleoindian (12,000 to 10,000 BP) and Lake Mojave (10,000 to 7,000 BP) Periods. Climatic warming characterizes the transition from the Paleoindian Period to the Lake Mojave Period. This transition also marks the end of Pleistocene Epoch and ushers in the Holocene. The Paleoindian Period has been loosely defined by isolated fluted (such as Clovis) projectile points, dated by their association with similar artifacts discovered in-situ in the Great Plains (Sutton 1996:227-228). Some fluted bifaces have been associated with fossil remains of Rancholabrean mammals approximately dated to ca. 13,300-10,800 BP near China Lake in the Mojave Desert. The Lake Mojave Period has been associated with cultural adaptations to moist conditions, and resource allocation pointing to more lacustrine environments than previously (Bedwell 1973). Artifacts that characterize this period include stemmed points, flake and core scrapers, choppers, hammerstones, and crescentics (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184). Projectile points associated with the period include the Silver Lake and Lake Mojave styles. Lake Mojave sites commonly occur on shorelines of Pleistocene lakes and streams, where geological surfaces of that epoch have been identified (Basgall and Hall 1994:69).

Pinto Period (7,000 to 4,000 BP). The Pinto Period has been largely characterized by desiccation of southern California. As formerly rich lacustrine environments began to disappear, the artifact record reveals more sporadic occupation of the drier regions, indicating occupants' recession into the cooler fringes (Warren 1984). Pinto Period sites are rare, and are characterized by surface manifestations that usually lack significant in-situ remains. Artifacts from this era include Pinto projectile points and a flake industry similar to the Lake Mojave tool complex (Warren 1984), though use of Pinto projectile points as an index artifact for the era has been disputed (see Schroth 1994). Milling stones have also occasionally been associated with sites of this period (Warren 1984).

Gypsum Period. (4,000 to 1,500 BP). A temporary return to moister conditions during the Gypsum Period is postulated to have encouraged technological diversification afforded by the relative abundance of available resources (Warren 1984:419-420; Warren and Crabtree 1986:189). Lacustrine environments reappear and begin to be exploited during this era (Shutler 1961, 1968). Concurrently a more diverse artifact assemblage reflects intensified reliance on plant resources. The new artifacts include milling stones, mortars, pestles, and a proliferation of Humboldt Concave Base, Gypsum Cave, Elko Eared, and Elko Cornernotched dart points (Warren 1984; Warren and Crabtree 1986). Other artifacts include leaf-shaped projectile points, rectangular-based knives, drills, large scraper planes, choppers, hammer stones, shaft straighteners, incised stone pendants, and drilled slate tubes. The bow and arrow appears around 2,000 BP, evidenced by the presence of a smaller type of projectile point, the Rose Spring point (Rogers 1939; Schroeder 1953, 1961; Shutler 1961; Yohe 1992).

Saratoga Springs Period (1,500 to 800 BP). During the Saratoga Springs Period regional cultural diversifications of Gypsum Period developments are evident. Influences from Patayan/Yuman assemblages are apparent in the southern inland areas, and include buff and brown wares often associated with Cottonwood and Desert Side-notched projectile points (Warren 1984:423). Obsidian becomes more commonly used throughout southern California and characteristic artifacts of the period include milling stones, mortars, pestles, ceramics, and ornamental and ritual objects. Large villages evidence more structured settlement patterns, and three types of identifiable archaeological sites (major habitation, temporary camps, and processing stations) emerge (McGuire and Hall 1988). Diversity of resource exploitation continues to expand, indicating a much more generalized, somewhat less mobile subsistence strategy.

Shoshonean Period (800 BP to Contact). The Shoshonean period is the first to benefit from contact-era ethnography –and is subject to its inherent biases. Interviews of living informants allowed anthropologists to match artifact assemblages and particular traditions with linguistic groups, and plot them geographically (see Kroeber 1925; Gifford 1918). During the Shoshonean Period, continued diversification of site assemblages and reduced Anasazi and Yuman influence both coincide with the expansion of Numic (Uto-Aztecan language family) speakers across the Great Basin, Takic (also Uto-Aztecan) speakers into southern California, and the Hopi across the Southwest (Sutton 1996). Hunting and gathering continued to diversify, and the diagnostic arrow points include desert side-notch and cottonwood triangular, which have been locally recorded. Ceramics continue to proliferate, though are more common in the desert during this period (Warren and Crabtree 1986). Trade routes have become well established between coastal and inland groups during this period.

Ethnography

The project site is situated in an area occupied by the Cahuilla. The Cahuilla were seminomadic hunter-gatherers who spoke a Cupan variation of the Takic language subfamily. An ethnographic summary is provided below.

Cahuilla. Spanish missionaries first encountered the Cahuilla in the late 18th century. Early written accounts of the Cahuilla are attributed to mission fathers; later documentation was by Strong (1972), Bright (1998), and others. The territory of the Cahuilla ranges from the area near the Salton Sea up into the San Bernardino Mountains and San Gorgonio Pass (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1925). The Cahuilla are generally divided into three groups: Desert Cahuilla, Mountain Cahuilla, and Western (or Pass) Cahuilla (Kroeber 1925). The term Western Cahuilla is preferred over Pass Cahuilla because this group is not confined to the San Gorgonio Pass area (Bean and Smith 1978). The distinctions are believed to be primarily geographic, although linguistic and cultural differences may have existed to varying degrees (Strong 1972). Cahuilla territory lies within the geographic center of Southern California and the Cocopa-Maricopa Trail, a major prehistoric trade route, ran through it. The Cahuilla share a common tradition with Gabrielino, Serrano, and Luiseño, with whom they shared tribal boundaries to the west, north, and southwest respectively (Bean and Smith 1978:575). The Cahuilla situated their villages in close proximity to reliable water sources. Subsistence was based on a combination of hunting, gathering, and a sort of protoagriculture that produced corn, beans, squash, and melons. The diverse habitat of the Cahuilla allowed significant yields of their most important staples, which included acorns from six varieties of oak, piñon nuts, screw bean mesquite, and various cacti (Bean and Smith 1978:578; see also Lightfoot and Parrish 2009).

History

In southern California, the historic era is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish or Mission Period (1769 to 1821), the Mexican or Rancho Period (1821 to 1848), and the American Period (1848 to present). These periods are each represented in the history of the San Gorgonio pass, summarized below.

The San Gorgonio Pass. The project site is located in the San Gorgonio Pass. The San Gorgonio Pass has always been a vital connection between southern California's desert and the less arid interior and coast. Originally a Native American trade route, the pass was eventually occupied by Spanish ranchers living on the eastern frontier of lands administered by Mission San Gabriel. The region also served as a base from which Native Americans and Spaniards annually formed cooperative caravans from the mission via the pass to the "Salton Sea flat to gather enough of the almost pure salt to sustain the missions and pueblo of Los Angeles for another year" (Lech 2004:14). During the Mexican Period, Rancho San Jacinto y San Gorgonio dominated the local economy. It was granted to Santiago Johnson in 1843 and sold to Louis Rubidoux in 1844 (Gunther 1984:471). The American Period saw the breakup of most of the huge Mexican-era ranchos and San Jacinto y San Gorgonio was no exception. The San Gorgonio Pass remained an important travel corridor during the early American Period. Freight wagons and the Pony Express regularly crossed the pass before Wells Fargo surveyed and constructed an official stage line in 1862, and the Bradshaw Road was opened in 1863 (Robinson 2001:106-107). Eventually five separate wagon routes were in regular operation through the pass, although the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1877 signaled the end of the stagecoach era (Eyer 1974). While most of the large Mexican ranchos were gone by the mid to late 19th century, the ranching tradition persisted, and to some extent remains locally viable. Banning was founded in 1884. It was named for Phineas Banning who ran a regular stage line between Los Angeles and San Pedro with his brother alexander in the 1850s. Banning was a principal promoter of transportation infrastructure and is considered one of the "grand old men" of Los Angeles (Gudde 1962:24). Although the City of Beaumont retains a relatively rural character, low housing costs resulted in accelerated residential developments in the early 2000s and the communities of the San Gorgonio Pass have experienced the fastest population growth in Riverside County during this era (Woolsey 2007).

PERSONNEL

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA acted as the Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the current study, and compiled the technical report. BCR Consulting Historian Ynez Barber, B.A. performed the cultural resources records search at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) located at the University of California, Riverside. Mr. Brunzell completed the field survey.

METHODS

Research

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

Field Survey

An archaeological pedestrian field survey of the project site was conducted on May 20, 2019. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced 15 meters apart across 100 percent of the project site. Soil exposures, including natural and artificial clearings were carefully inspected for evidence of cultural resources. In areas of low visibility, transect width was narrowed to 10 meters and vegetation was removed at regular intervals to enable thorough inspection of surface sediments.

RESULTS

Research

Data from the EIC revealed that 30 cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of 10 cultural resources within one mile of the project site. Of the 30 previous studies, none has assessed the project site and no cultural resources have been previously recorded within its boundaries. The records search is summarized as follows:

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

USGS Quad	Cultural Resource	Cultural Reports
Beaumont (1988),	P-33-3445: Historic-Period Railroad Station (3/4 Mile SW)	RI-1830, 2203, 2210,
California	P-33-4715: Historic-Period Stagecoach Rd. (3/4 Mile SW)	2917, 3002, 3421,
	P-33-6170: Historic-Period Bogart House (3/4 Mile W)	3997, 4840, 4841,
	P-33-6191: Historic-Period (1/2 Mile W)	5136, 6256, 7052,
	P-33-6200: Historic-Period House (1/4 Mile W)	7055, 7288, 7364,
	P-33-6201: Historic-Period House (1/4 Mile WNW)	8669, 8886, 8977,
	P-33-9498: Historic-Period Railroad Alignment (1/8 Mile S)	9084, 9167, 9183,
	P-33-20721: Historic-Period Building (3/4 Mile SW)	9309, 9460, 9616,
	P-33-22386: Historic-Period Building (1/2 Mile SW)	9984, 10449, 10461,
	P-33-26649: Historic-per. Beaumont Plaza (1/2 Mile WSW)	10478, 10499, 10617

Field Survey

During the field survey, BCR Consulting personnel carefully inspected the project site. Surface visibility was approximately 60 percent. Vegetation included seasonal grasses, and non-native trees and bushes. Visible sediments included sandy silts with sparse gravels mixed in. No cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic-period archaeological sites or historic-period buildings) were identified during the field survey. A storm overflow system

with a modern artificial slatted steel well cap covering a low vertical corrugated steel stand pipe is located on the central portion of the project's eastern boundary. Recent rains have caused it to seep and the overflow has been diverted into a trench conveying the water southwest towards a concrete channel along the base of Interstate 10, immediately to the south of the project site. The project site has been subject to severe disturbances related to the storm overflow system, weed abatement, previous grading, and excavation for road paving and utility installation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The records search and field survey did not identify any cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or historic-period buildings) within the project site. Furthermore, research results combined with surface conditions have failed to indicate sensitivity for buried cultural resources. Therefore, no significant impacts related to archaeological or historical resources are anticipated and no further investigations are recommended for the project site unless:

- the proposed project is changed to include areas not subject to this study;
- the proposed project is changed to include the construction of additional facilities;
- cultural materials are encountered during project activities.

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

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

If human remains are encountered during the undertaking, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has

made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

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APPENDIX A PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Project Overview (NE)



Photo 2: Project Overview (E)



Photo 3: Project Overview (SW)



Photo 4: Storm Drain Overflow System (E)

APPENDIX B PALEONTOLOGICAL OVERVIEW



Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County 900 Exposition Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90007

tel 213.763.DINO www.nhm.org

Vertebrate Paleontology Section Telephone: (213) 763-3325

e-mail: smcleod@nhm.org

24 May 2019

BCR Consulting 505 West 8th Street Claremont, CA 91711

Attn: Nicholas Shepetuk, Staff Archaeologist

re: Paleontological resources for the Vertebrate Paleontology Records Search for the proposed Service Station, C-Store, and Car Wash Project, in the City of Beaumont, Riverside County. project area

Dear Nicholas:

I have conducted a thorough check of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for the proposed Service Station, C-Store, and Car Wash Project, in the City of Beaumont, Riverside County. project area as outlined on the portion of the Beaumont USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on 13 May 2019. We do not have any vertebrate fossil localities that lie directly within the proposed project area boundaries, but we do have a locality somewhat nearby that occurs in sedimentary deposits similar to those that may occur at depth in the proposed project area.

Surface deposits in the entire proposed project area consist of older Quaternary Alluvium, derived as alluvial fan deposits from the San Bernardino Mountains to the north. These deposits usually do not contain significant fossil vertebrates in the uppermost layers in this vicinity, but at relatively shallow depth there may be older Quaternary deposits with finer-grained pockets. Our closest vertebrate fossil locality from older Quaternary deposits is LACM 4540, situated west-southwest of the proposed project area along Jackrabbit Trail near the east side of the San Jacinto Valley, that produced a specimen of fossil horse, *Equus*.

Shallow excavations in the older Quaternary alluvial fan deposits exposed throughout the proposed project area are unlikely to uncover significant fossil vertebrate remains. Deeper excavations in those Quaternary deposits, however, may well encounter significant vertebrate fossils similar to those found at the Rancho La Brea asphalt deposits in Los Angeles. Any substantial excavations in the proposed project area, therefore, should be monitored closely to detect and professionally collect any fossils uncovered without impeding development. Also, sediment samples should be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential in the proposed project area. Any fossils discovered should be deposited in a permanent and accredited scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

This records search covers only the vertebrate paleontology records of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. It is not intended to be a thorough paleontological survey of the proposed project area covering other institutional records, a literature survey, or any potential on-site survey.

Sincerely,

Samuel A. McLeod, Ph.D. Vertebrate Paleontology

Summel A. M. Lood

enclosure: invoice

APPENDIX C NAHC SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Gavin Newsom, Governor

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

May 15, 2019

Joseph Orozco

BCR

VIA Email to: josephorozco513@gmail.com

RE: Service Station, C-Store, and Car Wash Project, Riverside County

Dear Mr. Orozco:

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

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

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: steven.quinn@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Steven Quinn

Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment



Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contact List Riverside County 5/15/2019

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Patricia Garcia-Plotkin, Director

5401 Dinah Shore Drive Cahuilla

Palm Springs, CA, 92264 Phone: (760) 699 - 6907 Fax: (760) 699-6924

ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

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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 Resource Code.

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Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contact List Riverside County 5/15/2019

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