## **Appendix**

# Appendix B Cultural Resources Assessment

# Appendix

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## CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

# Oak Creek Community Park Expansion and Improvement Project Irvine, Orange County, California

#### Prepared for:

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# Project No. PWK2103 National Archaeological Data Base Information:

Type of Study: Reconnaissance Survey
Resources Recorded: None
Keywords: Dana Point
USGS Quadrangles: 7.5-minute Tustin, California (1965)



May 27, 2022

#### MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Placeworks to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Oak Creek Community Park Expansion and Improvement Project (the project) located in the City of Irvine (City), Orange County, California. Tasks completed for the scope of work include a cultural resources records search, an intensive-level pedestrian cultural resources survey, Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission, and paleontological overview. These tasks were performed in partial fulfillment of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The archaeological records search was conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton. This research has revealed that 44 resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of three cultural resources (two prehistoric and one historic-period) within one half-mile of the project site. None of the previous studies have assessed the project site and no cultural resources were identified within the project boundaries.

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists did not identify any cultural resources within the project boundaries. Due to a lack of cultural resources located within the project site, BCR Consulting recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring is necessary for any proposed project activities. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

Findings were positive during the Sacred Lands File search with the NAHC. The City will initiate Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Native American Consultation for the project. Since the city will initiate and carry out the required Native American Consultation, the results of the consultation are not provided in this report. However, this report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff is available to answer questions and address concerns as necessary.

According to CEQA Guidelines, projects subject to CEQA must determine whether the project would "directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource". The appended Paleontological Overview provided in Appendix B has recommended that:

The geologic units underlying the project area are mapped entirely as young alluvial fan deposits dating from the late Pleistocene to Holocene epoch (Morton & Miller, 2006). Pleistocene alluvial units are considered to be of high paleontological sensitivity, and while the Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or a one-mile radius, we do have multiple localities in similarly mapped units throughout the region. Pleistocene alluvial units are known to produce fossil specimens including those associated with mastodon (Mammut pacificus), mammoth (Mammuthus columbi), ancient horse (Equus sp.), camel (Camelops hesternus), sabertooth cats (Smilodon fatalis) and many more.

Any fossil specimens recovered from the Oak Creek Community Park Project would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area would impact the paleontologically sensitive Pleistocene units, and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation program be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils from the study area.

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 Placeworks to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Oak Creek Community Park Expansion and Improvement Project (the project) located in the City of Irvine (City), Orange County, California. An intensive-level pedestrian cultural resources survey of the project site was completed in partial fulfillment of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The project site is located in non-sectioned Township 6 South, Range 9 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, as depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Tustin, California* (1965) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

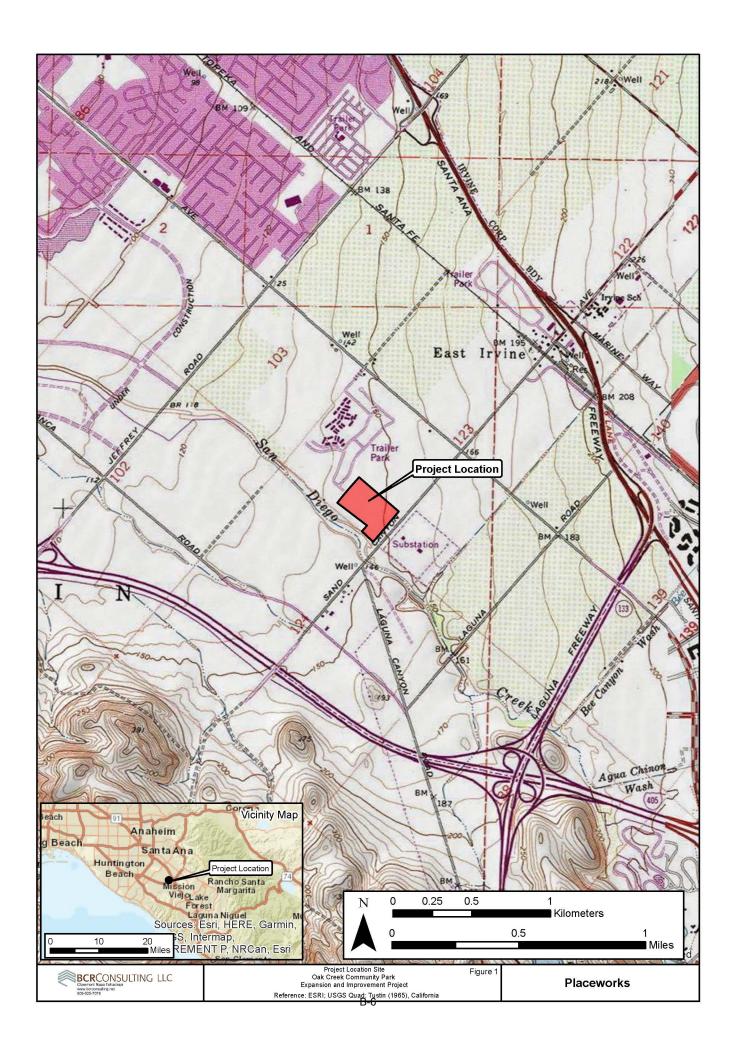
#### **Regulatory Setting**

The California Environmental Quality Act. CEQA applies to all discretionary projects undertaken or subject to approval by the state's public agencies (California Code of Regulations 14(3), § 15002(i)). Under CEQA, "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 effect on the environment" (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(b)). State CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(a) defines a "historical resource" as a resource that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register)
- Listed in a local register of historical resources (as defined at Cal. Public Res. Code § 5020.1(k))
- Identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of § 5024.1(g) of the Cal. Public Res. Code
- Determined to be a historical resource by a project's lead agency (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(a))

A historical resource consists of "Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California...Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be 'historically significant' if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources" (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(a)(3)). The significance of a historical resource is impaired when a project demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for the California Register. If an impact on a historical or archaeological resource is significant, CEQA requires feasible measures to minimize the impact (State CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4 (a)(1)). Mitigation of significant impacts must lessen or eliminate the physical impact that the project will have on the resource.

Section 5024.1 of the Cal. Public Res. Code established the California Register. Generally, a resource is considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(a)(3)). The eligibility criteria for the California Register are similar to those of the National



National Register of Historic Places (National Register), and a resource that meets one of more of the eligibility criteria of the National Register will be eligible for the California Register. The California Register program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural significance, identifies historical resources for planning purposes, determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding and affords certain protections under CEQA. Criteria for Designation:

- 1. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
- 2. Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history.
- 3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values.
- 4. Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the California Register requires that sufficient time has passed since a resource's period of significance to "obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resources." (CCR 4852 [d][2]). Fifty years is normally considered sufficient time for a potential historical resource, and in order that the evaluation remain valid for a minimum of five years after the date of this report, all resources older than 45 years (i.e. resources from the "historic-period") will be evaluated for California Register listing eligibility, or CEQA significance. The California Register also requires that a resource possess integrity. This is defined as the ability for the resource to convey its significance through seven aspects: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Assembly Bill 52. California Assembly Bill 52 was approved on September 25, 2014. As stated in Section 11 of AB 52, the act applies only to projects that have a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration filed on or after July 1, 2015. AB 52 establishes "tribal cultural resources" (TCRs) as a new category of resources under CEQA. As defined under Public Resources Code Section 21074, TCRs are "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe" that are either: (1) included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR: included in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k); or (2) determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to the criteria for inclusion in the CRHR set forth in Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c), if supported by substantial evidence and taking into account the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. A "historical resource" as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21084.1, a "unique archaeological resource" as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g), or a "nonunique archaeological resource" as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(h) may also be TCRs. AB 52 further establishes a new consultation process with California Native American tribes for proposed projects in geographic areas that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with that tribe. Per Public Resources Code Section 21073, "California Native American tribe" includes federally and nonfederally recognized tribes on the NAHC contact list. Subject to certain prerequisites, AB 52

requires, among other things, that a lead agency consult with the geographically affiliated tribe before the release of an environmental review document for a proposed project regarding project alternatives, recommended mitigation measures, or potential significant effects, if the tribe so requests in writing. If the tribe and the lead agency agree upon mitigation measures during their consultation, these mitigation measures must be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document (Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21084.2, and 21084.3). Since the City will initiate and carry out the required AB52 Native American Consultation, the results of the consultation are not provided in this report. However, this report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff are available to answer questions and address comments as necessary.

Paleontological Resources. CEQA provides guidance relative to significant impacts on paleontological resources, indicating that a project would have a significant impact on paleontological resources if it disturbs or destroys a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Section 5097.5 of the California Public Resources Code specifies that any unauthorized removal of paleontological remains is a misdemeanor. Further, California Penal Code Section 622.5 sets the penalties for damage or removal of paleontological resources. CEQA documentation prepared for projects would be required to analyze paleontological resources as a condition of the CEQA process to disclose potential impacts. Please note that as of January 2018 paleontological resources are considered in the geological rather than cultural category. Therefore, paleontological resources are not summarized in the body of this report. A paleontological overview completed by professional paleontologists from the Western Science Center is provided as Appendix D.

#### NATURAL SETTING

The area is derived from several geological units including younger alluvial flood plain deposits, Holocene landslide deposits, and Pliocene Capistrano Formation (Tan 1999). The project site is located in Laguna Canyon adjacent to the small peninsular range known as the Santa Ana Mountains, on the southern extent of the physiographic area known as the Los Angeles Basin. It is characterized as a transverse-oriented lowland basin and coastal plain. The basin originated as a deep marine trough during the Pliocene (7-2 million years ago) that eventually filled with shallow water fossil bearing sediments. By the beginning of the Pleistocene (after 2 million years ago) uplifting created the series of plains and mesas along the coast that now characterize the area (Lambert 1994, Mendenhall 1905, Woodford et al. 1954). The project site has been highly disturbed by existing road and residential developments in addition to utility installation and landscaping associated with a local school. Soils reports were not available to indicate the exact depth of previous disturbance, but typical depths of disturbance for such developments are between two and five feet beneath the surface. Local rainfall ranges from 5 to 15 inches annually (Jaeger and Smith 1971: 36-37). Historically, regional flora was dominated by chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and riparian vegetation communities, although local urban and agricultural developments have severely reduced their modern proliferation. Key native plants included black sage, California brittlebush, California buckwheat, California sagebrush, deerweed, golden yarrow, laurel sumac, lemonadeberry, poison oak, purple sage, sticky monkeyflower, sugar bush, toyon, white sage, coastal century plant, coastal cholla, prickly-pear cactus, arroyo willow, and bulrush. These plants were utilized by local animal species, which included kangaroo rats, California horned lizard, orange-throated whiptail, San Diego horned lizard, brown-headed

cowbird, California gnatcatcher, California quail, cactus wren, darkling beetle, harvester ant, and Palos Verdes blue butterfly (Williams et al. 2008:117,122). Peripheral species included deer, and various rodents, rabbits, and birds -many of which were utilized by prehistoric and historic inhabitants (Lightfoot and Parrish 2009).

#### **CULTURAL SETTING**

#### **Prehistory**

Various regional syntheses have been commonly utilized in the archaeological literature for southern California. The most widely cited include Wallace (1955) and Warren (1968 and 1986). Wallace defines four cultural horizons, each with characteristic local variations:

- Early Period (before 6000 B.C.)
- Milling Stone (6000 to 3000 B.C.)
- Intermediate (3000 B.C. to A.D. 500)
- Late Prehistoric (A.D. 500 to A.D. 1769).

Employing a more ecological model Warren (1968) defined three traditions, including:

- San Dieguito (pre 5500 B.C.)
- Encinitas (5500 B.C. to A.D. 600)
- Shoshonean (A.D. 600 to A.D. 1769).

Relying on data from more desert-based groups Warren defined five periods in his 1986 study:

- Lake Mojave (8000 to 5000 B.C.)
- Pinto (5000 to 2000 B.C.
- Gypsum (2000 B.C. to A.D. 500)
- Saratoga Springs (A.D. 500 to 1200)
- Protohistoric (A.D. 1200 to 1769).

Although these references have provided useful overviews for southern California, updated studies more specific to the prehistory of coastal southern California (see Arnold 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995; Arnold et al. 1997; Raab and Larson 1997) are relevant to the current project area. The current study is synthesized from Mason et al. (1997), and Koerper et al. (2002). This regional focus is considered vital to Orange County prehistory because of the wealth of reliably dated prehistoric sites recorded in area, ranging from 7550 B.C. to the late Late Prehistoric (Mason et al. 1997:35; Koerper et al. 2002:68). A temporal scheme has been formulated from data utilized by both studies, and is provided below in Table A. Mason et al. (1997) combine data from six sites excavated during the Newport Coast Archaeological Project (NCAP) with climatic and biogeographical information collected within the greater Orange County area to address the importance of:

- terrestrial/marine vertebrates versus shell-fish/plant utilization by Millingstone populations
- significant population fluctuations during the Early to Middle Holocene

- settlement transition and other adaptive strategies at the end of the Middle Holocene
- issues of prehistoric lithic trade.

They conclude that Middle Holocene site expansion along the Orange County coast is the result of new habitats containing important food sources that flourished due to stabilizing sea levels between five and six thousand years ago (Mason et al. 1997:58). These habitats particularly included kelp beds containing sheephead fish, and sandy and muddy substrates that encouraged proliferation of cockles, scallops, oysters, bat rays, and guitar fish -each of which has been found in significant numbers during this era at sites within NCAP (Mason et al. 1997:40-41). During the late Holocene population increase resulting from access to these food sources and terrestrial resources allowed expansion into Orange County's interior.

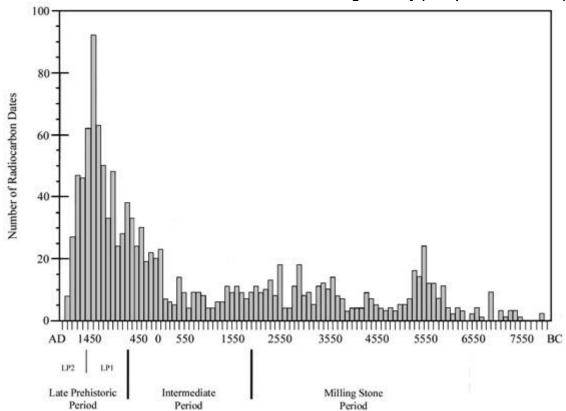


Table A. Radiocarbon Dates/Periods from Sites in Orange County (Koerper et al. 2002:68)

As prehistoric populations spread throughout the Orange County area, their tool types and site remains indicate two settlement strategies. The first, known as the forager model, enabled whole groups to mobilize between residential bases as part of a seasonal round. This was commonly practiced during the Millingstone and early Intermediate Period. During the late Intermediate Period and the early Late Prehistoric Period, a functional hierarchy of site types appear, containing multi-season residential bases, minor residential bases, and single gender specialized activity locations. This indicates the second model, known as the collector (or village) model, in which residential bases remain the same or seasonal, while specialized procurement parties are deployed to collect resources and bring them back to base (Mason

et al. 1997:52, 56; see also Binford 1980, and Thomas 1983). In addition to site data, Koerper et al. (2002) utilize information from wetland salinity, climatic and hydrologic conditions, and artificial and natural resource depletion studies which link "demographic dynamics to subsistence intensification, territoriality, violent behavior, trade, and the further elaboration of status hierarchies during the late Holocene in Orange County" (Koerper et al. 2002:63). This approach has underscored the importance of punctuated environmental events, such as the capricious coursing of local drainage systems often catalyzed by the commencement and/or termination of droughts (i.e. the Medieval Climatic Anomaly and the Little Ice Age). Having occurred within relatively short time frames, these events are posited to give rise to a model of dramatic cultural shift rather than one of gradualism, and have been confirmed by correlating radiocarbon dates utilized in the local prehistoric chronology (Table A). Dramatic shift is particularly evident between ca. 2000 and 1000 B.C. when a decline in carbon-fourteen dates from the area indicated the disappearance of a population practicing a residential mobility pattern of foraging, the predominant adaptive strategy practiced during the mid-Holocene. The disappearance of this group is highly correlated with very dry conditions, as indicated by pollen studies (Koerper et al. 2002:79), and people do not reappear in this area in significant numbers until circa 1000 B.C., at which point fewer, more highly concentrated settlements appear. Some resource intensification is apparent during the ensuing generations, and by the beginning of the Late Prehistoric is confirmed by the expanding use of shellfish recovered in context as far as six kilometers from its origin at Newport Bay. Resource intensification is often a sign of a shortage of preferred or customary resources brought about by a rise in population and/or other factors. Such a rise in population certainly occurred by A.D. 600, peaking circa A.D. 1300 (see Table A), and is correlated with the local advent of the bow and arrow, which may have been brought by Takic speakers from the Southwest (Koerper et al. 2002:80).

Native Orange County populations began to decline during the late Late Prehistoric prior to any likely effects of European disease. Koerper et al. suggests that rather than exceeding the land's carrying capacity, this decline in the Orange County area was due to a failure of "food yields...to increase in proportion to the additional investments of energy expended in subsistence labor" (Koerper et al. 2002:80; see also Halstead and O'Shea 1989; Hayden 1990). This has been further supported by oral tradition, which suggests that people were driven to leave food procurement areas due to incongruities between population and resources (ibid), which gave rise to the patterns whose rudiments remained at the time of European contact.

#### **Ethnography**

**Gabrielino.** The Gabrielino probably first encountered Europeans when Spanish explorers reached California's southern coast during the 15th and 16th centuries (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1925). The first documented encounter, however, occurred in 1769 when Gaspar de Portola's expedition crossed Gabrielino territory (Bean and Smith 1978). Other brief encounters took place over the years, and are documented in McCawley 1996 (citing numerous sources). The Gabrielino name has been attributed by association with the Spanish mission of San Gabriel, and refers to a subset of people sharing speech and customs with other Cupan speakers (such as the Juaneño/Luiseño/Ajachemem) from the greater Takic branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family (Bean and Smith 1978). Gabrielino villages occupied the watersheds of various rivers (locally including the Santa Ana) and intermittent

streams. Chiefs were usually descended through the male line and often administered several villages. Gabrielino society was somewhat stratified and is thought to have contained three hierarchically ordered social classes which dictated ownership rights and social status and obligations (Bean and Smith 1978:540-546). Plants utilized for food were heavily relied upon and included acorn-producing oaks, as well as seed-producing grasses and sage. Animal protein was commonly derived from rabbits and deer in inland regions, while coastal populations supplemented their diets with fish, shellfish, and marine mammals (Boscana 1933, Heizer 1968, Johnston 1962, McCawley 1996). Dog, coyote, bear, tree squirrel, pigeon, dove, mud hen, eagle, buzzard, raven, lizards, frogs, and turtles were specifically not utilized as a food source (Kroeber 1925:652).

#### **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).

**Spanish Period.** The first European to pass through the area is thought to be a Spaniard called Father Francisco Garces. Having become familiar with the area, Garces acted as a guide to Juan Bautista de Anza, who had been commissioned to lead a group across the desert from a Spanish outpost in Arizona to set up quarters at the Mission San Gabriel in 1771 near what today is Pasadena (Beck and Haase 1974). Garces was followed by Alta California Governor Pedro Fages, who briefly explored the region in 1772 (Beck and Haase 1974).

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

American Period. The American Period, 1848—Present, began with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In 1850, California was accepted into the Union of the United States primarily due to the population increase created by the Gold Rush of 1849. The cattle industry reached its greatest prosperity during the first years of the American Period. Mexican Period land grants had created large pastoral estates in California, and demand for beef during the Gold Rush led to a cattle boom that lasted from 1849–1855. However, beginning about 1855, the demand for beef began to decline due to imports of sheep from New Mexico and cattle from the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys. When the beef market collapsed, many California ranchers lost their ranchos through foreclosure.

A series of disastrous floods in 1861–1862, followed by a significant drought further diminished the economic impact of local ranching. This decline combined with ubiquitous agricultural and real estate developments of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, set the stage for diversified economic pursuits that have continued to proliferate to this day (Beattie and Beattie 1974; Cleland 1941).

#### **PERSONNEL**

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA acted as the Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the current study. Mr. Brunzell also compiled the technical report and conducted the cultural resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) located at California State University, Fullerton. BCR Consulting Archaeological Field Director Joseph Orozco, M.A., RPA and BCR Staff Historian and Archaeological Field Technician George Brentner, B.A., and Archaeological Field Technician Fabian Reyes-Martinez, B.A. conducted the pedestrian field survey.

#### **METHODS**

#### **Records Search**

Prior to fieldwork, an archaeological records search was conducted at the SCCIC by BCR Consulting Principal Investigator David Brunzell, M.A., RPA on February 2, 2022. This included a review of all recorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, as well as a review of known cultural resources, and survey and excavation reports generated from projects completed within one half-mile of the project site.

#### Field Survey

An archaeological pedestrian field survey of the project site was conducted on March 7, 2022. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 10 meters apart across 100 percent of the unpaved portions of the project site. Soil exposures, including natural and artificial clearings were carefully inspected for evidence of cultural resources.

#### **RESULTS**

#### **Records Search**

Data from the SCCIC revealed that 44 cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of three cultural resources within a one half-mile radius of the project location. None of the previous studies have assessed the project location and no cultural resources have been previously recorded within its boundaries. The records search is summarized in Table B, and the complete records search bibliography is provided in Appendix A.

Table B. Cultural Resources and Reports Located Within One Mile of the APE

USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quad	Cultural Resources Within One Half-Mile of APE	Studies Within One Half- Mile
Irvine, California (1965)	P-30-1304: prehistoric lithic scatter (1/4 mile S) P-30-1657: Engineering Structure (1/4 mile SE) P-30-100150: prehistoric lithic scatter (1/2 mile NE)	OR-008, 168, 233, 281, 581, 586, 596, 621, 655, 669, 671, 672, 743, 761, 784, 802, 808, 897, 906, 1098, 1099, 1164, 1402, 1413, 1419, 1439, 1466, 1577, 1624, 1692, 1786, 2064, 2267, 2336, 2337, 2484, 3285, 3373, 3675, 3700, 3874, 3961, 4362, 4373

#### **Field Survey**

During the field survey, Mr. Orozco, Mr. Brentner, and Mr. Reyes-Martinez carefully inspected the project site and identified no cultural resources within its boundaries. Surface visibility was low within most of the project site due to asphalt and concrete paving and landscaping for the exiting park located within the project location. Sediments included sandy silts, with small to medium sized rocks. Ground disturbances resulted from mainly artificial factors related to the development of the adjacent walkways and park. The high level disturbance indicates relatively low sensitivity for buried archaeological resources.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

BCR Consulting conducted a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Oak Creek Park Expansion and Improvement Project located in the City of Irvine, Orange County, California. The records search data combined with the field survey results have indicated that there are no cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic-period archaeological sites or historic buildings) within or adjacent to the project site, and conditions have failed to indicate sensitivity for buried cultural resources. Therefore BCR Consulting recommends that no additional cultural resource work or monitoring is necessary for any earthmoving proposed within the project site. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

Findings were positive during the Sacred Lands File search with the NAHC. Since the City will initiate and carry out the required AB52 Native American Consultation, the results are not provided in this report. However, this report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff is available to answer questions and address concerns.

According to CEQA Guidelines, projects subject to CEQA must determine whether the project would "directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource". The appended Paleontological Overview provided in Appendix D has recommended that:

The geologic units underlying the project area are mapped entirely as young alluvial fan deposits dating from the late Pleistocene to Holocene epoch (Morton & Miller, 2006). Pleistocene alluvial units are considered to be of high paleontological sensitivity, and while the Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or a one-mile radius, we do have multiple localities in similarly mapped units throughout the region. Pleistocene alluvial units are known to produce fossil specimens including those associated with mastodon (Mammut pacificus), mammoth (Mammuthus columbi), ancient horse (Equus sp.), camel (Camelops hesternus), sabertooth cats (Smilodon fatalis) and many more.

Any fossil specimens recovered from the Oak Creek Community Park Project would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area would impact the paleontologically sensitive Pleistocene units, and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation program be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils from the study area.

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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- 1986 The Prehistory of the Southwestern Great Basin. In *Handbook of the North American Indians, Vol. 11, Great Basin,* edited by W.L. d'Azevedo, pp.183-193. W.C. Sturtevant, General Editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

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#### United States Geological Survey

1965 Tustin, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map.

# APPENDIX A RECORDS SEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### PWK2103

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title Affiliation		Resources
OR-00008		1973	Gothold, Jane and Maguire, John	Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Survey Along the North Side of the San Diego Freeway	Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly	
OR-00168		1977	Desautels, Roger J.	Archaeological Survey Report on Parcels 1, 2, and 3 (4.8 Acres) of Lot 14 in Block 36 of the Yorba Linda Tract in the County of Orange	Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.	
OR-00233		1977	Cottrell, Marie G.	Archaeological Survey Report for Village 12 and Village 14 (ORA-508 and ORA-543)		30-000543
OR-00281		1978		Appendix B Archaeological Survey	Westec Services, Inc.	
OR-00581		1982	McCoy, Lesley C. and Kirkish, Alex N.	Cultural Resources Data Recovery Program for the 230kv Transmission Line Rights-of- way From San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station to Black Star Canyon and Santiago Substation and to Encina and Mission Valley Substations	Cultural Systems Research, Inc.	30-000438, 30-000447, 30-000495, 30-000496, 30-000498, 30-000499, 30-000725, 30-000824, 30-000825, 30-000830, 30-000831
OR-00586		1980	Douglas, Ronald D.	Assessment of Cultural/scientific Resources, Village 12, Sce Hvtl Relocation, Irvine, California		30-000341
OR-00596		1979	Mabry, Theo N.	Archaeological Records Search and Reconaissance Survey: Orangetree Park 20- arce Initial Study, Irvine, Ca	Archaeological Planning Collaborative	
OR-00621		1981	Weisbord, Jill	Cultural Resource Survey of the Irvine Center Da, Village 13	LSA Associates, Inc.	
OR-00655		1980	Cottrell, Marie G.	Appendix C	Archaeological Resource Management Corp.	
OR-00669	Paleo -	1983	Padon, Beth	Assessment of Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Irvine Medical Complex Irvine, Ca	LSA Associates, Inc.	30-000341
OR-00671	Paleo -	1983	Padon, Beth	Assessment of Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Irvine Medical Center Irvine, California	LSA Associates, Inc.	
OR-00672		1983	Padon, Beth	Assessment of Archaeological Resources, Rv Storage Project Irvine, California	Larry Seeman Associates, Inc.	
OR-00743		1984	Padon, Beth	Historic Property Survey Report for the Proposed Sand Canyon/I-405 Interchange City of Irvine, California (ORA-405-2.9)	LSA Associates, Inc.	
OR-00761		1981	Anonymous	Cultural Resource Assessment Village 12 Development Site Irvine, California	LSA Associates, Inc.	30-000543

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### PWK2103

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title Affiliation		Resources
OR-00784		1985	Cady, R.L.	Historic Property Survey-negative Findings	Caltrans	
OR-00802		1985	Padon, Beth	An Archaeological Assessment Village 12 City of Irvine	LSA Associates, Inc.	
OR-00808		1979	Unknown	Final Environmental Impact Report Regional Domestic Water Storage and Transmission Facilities From Diemer/sac and Wellfield Systems to Existing Distribution Network	Culp/Wesner,Culp	30-000344, 30-000349, 30-000382, 30-000383
OR-00897		1988	Padon, Beth	Letter Report on Archaeological Monitoring for Tract #13094	LSA Associates, Inc.	
OR-00906		1988	Padon, Beth and Pat Jertberg	Cultural Resources Report for the San Diego Creek Drainage Basin Project Level Facilities Orange County,	LSA Associates, Inc.	
OR-01098		1991	Padon, Beth	Cultural/scientific Resources Assessment for Planning Area 13	LSA Associates, Inc.	
OR-01099		1979	Cooley, Theodore G.	Archaeological Resources Assessment Conducted for Proposed Irvine Ranch Water District Pipeline Right of Ways	Archaeological Resource Management Corp.	30-000344, 30-000349, 30-000382, 30-000383, 30-000556, 30-000647, 30-000806, 30-000807, 30-000808, 30-000809, 30-000810, 30-000811
OR-01164		1991	Evans, Stuart A.	A Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of the San Diego Creek Improvement/barranca Parkway Connection, Approximately 70 Acres in Irvine, Orange County, California.	RMW Paleo Associates, Inc.	30-000543, 30-001304, 30-100021
OR-01402		1994	Brock, James P.	Cultural Resources Assessment for the Irvine Desalter Project, Irvine, California	Archaeological Advisory Group	
OR-01413		1993	Whitney-Desautels, Nancy A. and David A. Kice	Cultural Resources Assessment of the Irvine Ranch Water District Alternate Aqueous Waste Disposal Facility Sites, Orange County, California	Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.	
OR-01419		1994	Strudwick, Ivan H. and Bradley Sturm	Cultural Resource Assessment - Planning Area 12, City of Irvine, Orange County, California	LSA Associates, Inc.	30-000543, 30-001304
OR-01439		1980	McCoy, Lesley C. and Phillips Roxana	National Register Assessment Program of Cultural Resources of the 230 Kv Transmission Line Rights-of-way From San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station to Black Star Canyon and Santiago Substation and to Encina and Mission Valley Substation	Westec Services, Inc.	30-000419, 30-000438, 30-000447, 30-000495, 30-000496, 30-000498, 30-000499, 30-000640, 30-000700, 30-000725, 30-000782, 30-000784, 30-000785, 30-000786, 30-000787, 30-000823, 30-000824, 30-000825, 30-000826, 30-000827, 30-000828, 30-000829, 30-000831, 30-000832, 30-000905

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### PWK2103

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title Affiliation		Resources
OR-01466	Paleo -	1996	Rosenthal, Jane	Archaeological and Paleontological Monitoring of Preliminary Grading and Trenching for the Oak Creek Golf Course	iminary Grading and	
OR-01577	Paleo -	1997	Padon, Beth	Archaeological and Paleontological Monitoring of Preliminary Grading for Irvine Spectrum 6, Area B 1, 2, 3, Irvine, California	Petra Resources Inc.	30-100150
OR-01624	Paleo -	1997	Govena, Fran	Archaeological and Paleontological Monitoring Results for Pm97-114 Western Digital Site, Irvine, Orange County, California	Petra Resources Inc.	
OR-01692		1998	Jertberg, Patricia R.	Archaeological Monitoring of Preliminary Grading for Irvine Spectrum 6, Area a Phase I, Irvine, California	Petra Resources, Inc.	
OR-01786		1998	Brechbiel, Brant A.	Cultural Resources Records Search and Literature Review Report for a Pacific Bell Mobile Services Telecommunications Facility: Cm 052-12 in the City of Irvine, California		
OR-02064		2000	Lapin, Philippe	Cultural Resource Assessment for Modifications to Pacific Bell Mobile Services Facility Cm 052-12, County of Orange, California	LSA Associates, Inc.	
OR-02267	Paleo -	2000	Hunt, Kevin P.	Survey of the Irvine Spectrum Gpa Project       Associates       30-000432, 30-000551, 30-000769, 30-001034,		30-000161, 30-000341, 30-000391, 30-000432, 30-000495, 30-000499, 30-000551, 30-000602, 30-000768, 30-000769, 30-00904, 30-001011, 30-001034, 30-001069, 30-001110, 30-100297, 30-100298
OR-02336	Paleo -	2000	Demcak, Carol R.	Final Report on Archaeological and Paleontological Monitoring Program Conducted at Spectrum 5, Irvine, Orange County, California	logical Monitoring Program Management Corp. ed at Spectrum 5, Irvine, Orange	
OR-02337	Paleo -	2000	Demcak, Carol and Milos Velechovsky	Final Report on Archaeological and Paleontological Monitoring Program Conducted at Spectrum 6, City of Irvine, Orange County, California	Archaeological Resource Management Corp.	
OR-02484	Paleo -	2001	Velechovsky, Milos and Carol R. Demcak	Final Report on Archaeological and Paleontological Monitoring Program Conducted at Spectrum 6, Marshburn Wash, City of Irvine, Orange County, California	ARMC	
OR-03285		2006	Fulton, Terri and Deborah McLean	Archaeological Mitigation Monitoring Report for the Irvine Desalter Pipelines Project	LSA Associates, Inc.	

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### PWK2103

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title Affiliation		Resources	
OR-03373		2006	Arrington, Cindy and Nancy Sikes	Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the Qwest Network Construction Project State of California: Volumes I and Ii	SWCA Environmental Consultants, Inc.		
OR-03675		2007	Bonner, Wayne H.	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for Royal Street Communications, LLC Candidate LA2520A (SCE Tower-Aki Nursury), 6900 Alton Parkway, Irvine, Orange County, California	Michael Brandman Associates		
OR-03700		2007	Fulton, Phil	Archaeological Study Report Verizon Wireless Services Breakwater Facility City of Irvine Orange County, California	LSA Associates	30-000341, 30-000391	
OR-03874		2010	Wlodarski, Robert J.	AT&T Wireless Telecommunications Site LA3219 (Smoke Tree & Irvine Center) NE Quad of Barranca Parkway and Jeffrey Road, Irvine, Ca. 92612	Cellular Archaeological Resource Evaluations	30-000543, 30-100442	
OR-03961		2010	Wlodarski, Robert J.	Records Search and Field Reconnaissance for Proposed AT&T Wireless Telecommunications Site LA3174 (SCE Santiago Substation), Located Along Barranca Parkway, Irvine, California.	Cellular Archaeological Resource Evaluations	30-001657	
OR-04362		1990	Shinn, Juanita R.	Cultural Resources Literature Review of the Irvine Desalter Study Area	RMW Paleo Associates, Inc.	30-000341, 30-000373, 30-000391	
OR-04373	Paleo -	2011	Brunzell, David	Cultural Resources Assessment South Orange County Community College District Master Plan Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College Campuses Mission Viejo and Irvine, Orange County, California	BCR Consulting		

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## **Resource List**

#### PWK2103

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Туре	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-30-001304	CA-ORA-001304	Resource Name - S-1	Site		AP02	1991 (EVANS, RMW Paleo Associates, Inc.); 1994 (Strudwick, LSA Associates)	LA-10429, OR- 01164, OR-01419, OR-02261, OR- 03860
P-30-001657		Resource Name - LSA-CEJ0602- S-1	Site	Historic	HP11	2006 (M. Aron, D. Ewers, LSA)	OR-03961
P-30-100150		Resource Name - OR1577 isolate	Other	Prehistoric	AP02	1997 (P. Eisentraut, SCCIC)	OR-01577

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### **APPENDIX B**

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH



#### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

October 27, 2021

Nicholas Shepetuk BCR Consulting LLC

Via Email to: nickshepetuk@gmail.com

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 TumamaitStenslie
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 Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, Oak Creek Community Park Project, Orange County

Dear Mr. Shepetuk:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
- 2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:
  - Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

- 3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was <u>positive</u>. Please contact the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians and the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation Belardes on the attached list for more information.
- 4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and
- 5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

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 consultation list remains current.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew Green

Cultural Resources Analyst

andrew Green

**Attachment** 

#### **Native American Heritage Commission Tribal Consultation List Orange County** 10/27/2021

Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

Ralph Goff, Chairperson 36190 Church Road, Suite 1

Diegueno

Gabrieleno

Gabrieleno

Gabrielino

Campo, CA, 91906 Phone: (619) 478 - 9046 Fax: (619) 478-5818 rgoff@campo-nsn.gov

Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Robert Pinto, Chairperson

4054 Willows Road Diegueno

Alpine, CA, 91901

Phone: (619) 368 - 4382 Fax: (619) 445-9126 ceo@ebki-nsn.gov

Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Michael Garcia, Vice Chairperson

4054 Willows Road Diegueno

Alpine, CA, 91901 Phone: (619) 933 - 2200 Fax: (619) 445-9126

michaelg@leaningrock.net

Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation

Andrew Salas, Chairperson

P.O. Box 393

Covina, CA, 91723 Phone: (626) 926 - 4131

admin@gabrielenoindians.org

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Anthony Morales, Chairperson

P.O. Box 693

San Gabriel, CA, 91778

Phone: (626) 483 - 3564 Fax: (626) 286-1262 GTTribalcouncil@aol.com

Gabrielino /Tongva Nation

Sandonne Goad, Chairperson

106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St.,

#231

Los Angeles, CA, 90012 Phone: (951) 807 - 0479

sgoad@gabrielino-tongva.com

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council

Gabrielino

Gabrielino

Juaneno

Juaneno

Diegueno

Robert Dorame, Chairperson

P.O. Box 490

Bellflower, CA, 90707

Phone: (562) 761 - 6417 Fax: (562) 761-6417

gtongva@gmail.com

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council

Christina Conley, Tribal Consultant and Administrator

P.O. Box 941078

Simi Valley, CA, 93094 Phone: (626) 407 - 8761

christina.marsden@alumni.usc.ed

Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe

Charles Alvarez,

23454 Vanowen Street Gabrielino

West Hills, CA, 91307 Phone: (310) 403 - 6048 roadkingcharles@aol.com

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians

Sonia Johnston, Chairperson

P.O. Box 25628

Santa Ana, CA, 92799

sonia.johnston@sbcglobal.net

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation -**Belardes** 

Matias Belardes, Chairperson

32161 Avenida Los Amigos

San Juan Capisttrano, CA, 92675 Phone: (949) 293 - 8522

kaamalam@gmail.com

La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

Gwendolyn Parada, Chairperson

8 Crestwood Road

Boulevard, CA, 91905

Fax: (619) 478-2125 LP13boots@aol.com

Phone: (619) 478 - 2113

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 Resources Code and section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed Oak Creek Community Park Project, Orange County.

#### Native American Heritage Commission Tribal Consultation List Orange County 10/27/2021

Diegueno

Diegueno

Cupeno Luiseno

Cahuilla

La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

Javaughn Miller, Tribal Administrator 8 Crestwood Road

Boulevard, CA, 91905 Phone: (619) 478 - 2113

Fax: (619) 478-2125 jmiller@LPtribe.net

Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation

Angela Elliott Santos, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1302
Diegueno

Boulevard, CA, 91905 Phone: (619) 766 - 4930 Fax: (619) 766-4957

Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

Michael Linton, Chairperson P.O Box 270

Santa Ysabel, CA, 92070 Phone: (760) 782 - 3818 Fax: (760) 782-9092

mesagrandeband@msn.com

Pala Band of Mission Indians

Shasta Gaughen, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Rd.

Pala, CA, 92059

Phone: (760) 891 - 3515 Fax: (760) 742-3189 sgaughen@palatribe.com

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians

Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair P.O. Box 391820

Anza, CA, 92539 Phone: (951) 659 - 2700 Fax: (951) 659-2228 Isaul@santarosa-nsn.gov Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians

Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural Resource Department P.O. BOX 487

San Jacinto, CA, 92581 Phone: (951) 663 - 5279 Fax: (951) 654-4198

jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians

Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson P. O. Box 487

San Jacinto, CA, 92581

Phone: (951) 654 - 5544 Fax: (951) 654-4198 ivivanco@soboba-nsn.gov Cahuilla Luiseno

Cahuilla Luiseno

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 Resources Code and section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed Oak Creek Community Park Project, Orange County.

# APPENDIX C PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Project overview (View SE)

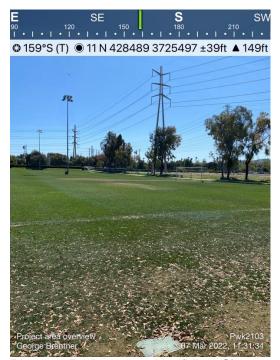


Photo 2. Project overview (View S)



Photo 3. Project overview (View S)



Photo 4. Project overview (View NW)

# APPENDIX D PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES OVERVIEW



BCR Consulting LLC Nicholas Shepetuk 505 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street Claremont, CA 91711 October 14, 2021

Dear Mr. Shepetuk,

This letter presents the results of a record search conducted for the Oak Creek Community Park Project in the city of Irvine, Orange County, California. The project site is located south of Valley Oak Drive, north of Sand Canyon Avenue, east of Barranca Parkway, and west of Irvine Center Drive in a non-sectioned portion of Township 6 South, and Range 9 West, on the *Tustin, CA* USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle.

The geologic units underlying the project area are mapped entirely as young alluvial fan deposits dating from the late Pleistocene to Holocene epoch (Morton & Miller, 2006). Pleistocene alluvial units are considered to be of high paleontological sensitivity, and while the Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or a one-mile radius, we do have multiple localities in similarly mapped units throughout the region. Pleistocene alluvial units are known to produce fossil specimens including those associated with mastodon (Mammut pacificus), mammoth (Mammuthus columbi), ancient horse (Equus sp.), camel (Camelops hesternus), sabertooth cats (Smilodon fatalis) and many more.

Any fossil specimens recovered from the Oak Creek Community Park Project would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area would impact the paleontologically sensitive Pleistocene units, and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation program be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils from the study area.

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

Sincerely,

Darla Radford Collections Manager

