

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION IN SUPPORT OF ALABBASI COMMERCIAL PERRIS PROJECT, CITY OF PERRIS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



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Prepared by:

Joy Vyhmeister, M.A., RPA

Prepared for:

Ryan Birdseye Birdseye Planning Group P.O. Box 1956 Vista, California 92085

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PaleoWest, LLC

301 9th Street, Suite 114 Redlands, California 92374 (909) 936-1347

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PaleoWest, LLC (PaleoWest) was contracted by Birdseye Planning Group (BPG) to conduct a Phase I cultural resource assessment for the proposed Alabbasi Commercial Perris Project (Project). The Project will develop a 300,000-square-foot (sf) industrial building, a 45,000-sf hotel with 75–90 rooms, and two sit-down restaurants—one 4,000 sf and the other 6,000 sf—on a 17.64-acre site. The Project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); the City of Perris is the Lead Agency for the purposes of CEQA.

This report summarizes the methods and results of the cultural resource investigation of the Project area. The investigation included background research, communication with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and interested Native American tribal groups, and a pedestrian survey of the Project area. The purpose of the investigation was to determine the potential for the Project to impact archaeological and historical resources under CEQA.

A cultural resource records search and literature review was conducted at the Eastern Information Center of the California Historical Resource Information System on December 20, 2022. The records search indicated that no fewer than 19 previous studies have been conducted within one mile of the Project area. In addition, 5 cultural resources have been recorded within one mile of the Project area. These resources include one prehistoric archaeological site, three historic period sites, and one historic period built-environment resource. None of these previously documented resources are in the Project area.

As part of the cultural resource assessment of the Project area, PaleoWest requested a search of the Sacred Lands File from the NAHC on October 18, 2022. Results indicate that there are known Native American cultural resources within the immediate vicinity of the Project area. The NAHC suggested contacting 21 individuals representing 14 Native American tribal groups to find out if they have additional information about the Project area. The 14 recommended tribal groups were contacted. To date, seven responses have been received. Responses from the Pechanga Band of Indians indicate that the Project area is located very near to the site of the Perris Indian School, which was attended by members of Pechanga, and is of high sensitivity for buried cultural resources. The Pechanga Band of Indians has requested both archaeological and Native American monitoring for ground disturbing activities in the Project area.

PaleoWest conducted a pedestrian survey of the proposed Project area on January 5, 2023. No archaeological or built-environment resources were identified during the survey in the Project area. Although a review of historic topographic maps indicates no development in the immediate vicinity of the Project area, the geographic proximity of the Project area to the Perris Indian School suggests that the area is sensitive for historic-period archaeological deposits. The Perris Indian School was the first off-reservation Indian Boarding School in the state of California and operated from 1892–1904. While historic in age, remains associated with the school are Native American and potentially have significant heritage value. PaleoWest recommends that an archaeological monitor be retained to observe ground disturbing activities during the initial phases of construction. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the construction activities have little or no potential to impact cultural resources (e.g., excavations are within previously disturbed, non-native soils, or within soil formation not expected to yield cultural resources deposits), then monitoring may be reduced or eliminated.

In the event that potentially significant cultural resources are encountered during construction activities associated with the Project, the qualified archaeologist should assess the significance of the find in accordance with the criteria set forth in the CRHR. In addition, Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA 15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 mandate the process to be followed in the unlikely event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

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1 INTRODUCTION

PaleoWest, LLC (PaleoWest) was contracted by Birdseye Planning Group (BPG) to conduct a Phase I cultural resource assessment for the proposed Alabbasi Commercial Perris Project (Project). The proposed Project involves the development of a 300,000-square-foot (sf) industrial building, a 45,000-sf hotel with 75–90 rooms, and two sit-down restaurants—one 4,000 sf and the other 6,000 sf—on a 17.64-acre site in Perris, California. The Project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); the City of Perris (City) is the Lead Agency for the purposes of the CEQA.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project area is located on an undeveloped parcel between the Ramona Expressway on the north and E. Dawes Street on the south in Perris, California (Figure 1-1). It encompasses Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 303-100-012 and 303-100-014 and totals 17.64 acres. As shown in Figure 1-2, the Project area is within Township 4 South, Range 3 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (SBBM), as depicted on the Perris, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle. The elevation is approximately 1452 feet (ft) above mean sea level (amsl).

The proposed Project consists of the development of a 300,000-square-foot (sf) industrial building, a 45,000-sf hotel with 75–90 rooms, and two sit-down restaurants—one 4,000 sf and the other 6,000 sf.

1.2 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This report documents the results of a cultural resource investigation conducted for the proposed Project. Section 1 introduced the Project location and description. Section 2 states the regulatory context that should be considered for the Project. Section 3 synthesizes the natural and cultural setting of the Project area and surrounding region. The results of the existing cultural resource data literature and resource record review and the Sacred Lands File (SLF) search, and a summary of the Native American communications, is presented in Section 4. The field methods and results are outlined in Section 5, with management recommendation provided in Section 6. This is followed by bibliographic references and an appendix detailing Native American outreach efforts.

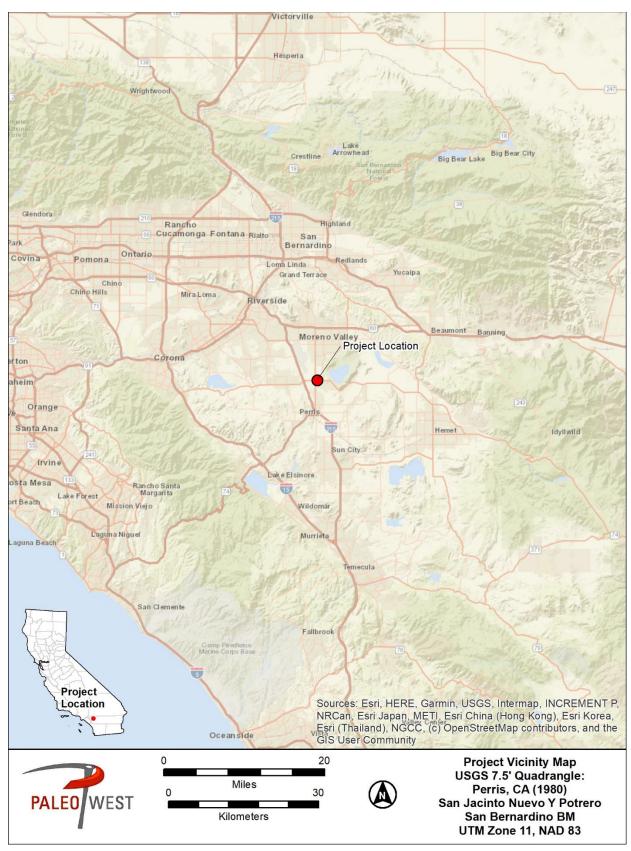


Figure 1-1. Project vicinity map.

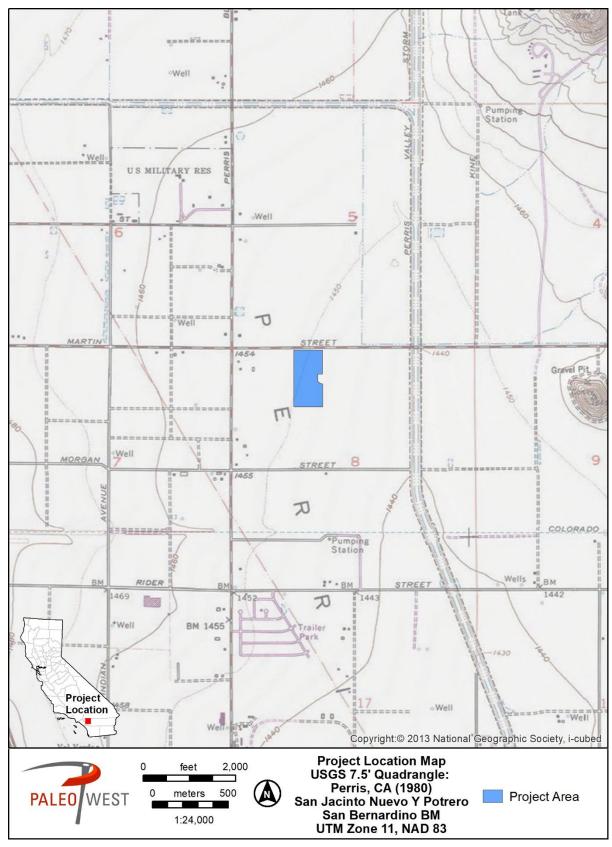


Figure 1-2. Project location map.

2 REGULATORY CONTEXT

2.1 STATE

2.1.1 California Environmental Quality Act

The proposed Project is subject to compliance with CEQA, as amended. Compliance with CEQA statutes and guidelines requires public and private projects with financing or approval from a public agency to assess the project's impact on cultural resources (Public Resources Code Section 21082, 21083.2, and 21084 and California Code of Regulations 10564.5). The first step in the process is to identify cultural resources that may be impacted by the project and then determine whether the resources are "historically significant" resources.

CEQA defines historically significant resources as "resources listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)" (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1). A cultural resource may be considered historically significant if the resource is 45 years old or older, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets any of the following criteria for listing on the CRHR:

- 1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- 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 (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1).

Cultural resources are buildings, sites, humanly modified landscapes, traditional cultural properties, structures, or objects that may have historical, architectural, cultural, or scientific importance. CEQA states that if a project will have a significant impact on important cultural resources deemed "historically significant," then project alternatives and mitigation measures must be considered.

2.1.2 California Assembly Bill 52

Signed into law in September 2014, California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) created a new class of resources—tribal cultural resources (TCRs)—for consideration under CEQA. TCRs may include sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, or objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are listed or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, included in a local register of historical resources, or a resource determined by the lead CEQA agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant and eligible for listing on the CRHR. AB 52 requires that the lead CEQA agency consult with California Native American tribes that have requested consultation for projects that may affect tribal cultural resources. The lead CEQA agency shall begin consultation with participating Native American tribes prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report. Under AB 52, a project that has potential to cause

a substantial adverse change to a tribal cultural resource constitutes a significant effect on the environment unless mitigation reduces such effects to a less than significant level.

2.2 LOCAL

2.2.1 City of Perris General Plan

The City of Perris General Plan defines archaeological and cultural resources, identifies areas of cultural sensitivity within the City and the sphere of influence, and discusses previously documented resources within the City. The General Plan includes a goal (Goal IV–Cultural Resources Protection of historical, archaeological and paleontological sites) to ensure that cultural, historic, and paleontological resources within the City and the sphere of influence are preserved and protected (City of Perris 2005). This goal and policies for cultural, historic, and paleontological resources preservation are included in the Conservation Element Goals and Policies section. The following six policies relate to cultural and historic resources.

<u>Policy IV.A.1:</u> For all private and public projects involving new construction, substantial grading, or demolition, including infrastructure and other public service facilities, staff shall require appropriate surveys and necessary site investigations in conjunction with the earliest environmental document prepared for a project.

<u>Policy IV.A.2:</u> For all projects subject to CEQA, applicants will be required to submit results of an archaeological records search request through the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside.

<u>Policy IV.A.3:</u> Require Phase I Surveys for all projects located in areas that have not previously been surveyed for archaeological or historic resources, or which lie near areas where archaeological and/or historic sites have been recorded.

<u>Policy IV.A.5:</u> Identify and collect previous surveys of cultural resources. Evaluate such resources and consider the preparation of a comprehensive citywide inventory of cultural resources, including both prehistoric sites and man-made resources.

<u>Policy IV.A.6:</u> Create an archive for the City wherein all surveys, collections, records, and reports can be centrally located.

<u>Policy IV.A.7:</u> Strengthen efforts and coordinate the management of cultural resources with other agencies and private organizations.

2.2.2 Perris Valley Commerce Center Specific Plan

The Project area is located within the Perris Valley Commerce Center Specific Plan (PVCCSP) planning area of the City of Perris. The PVCCSP area covers approximately 5.23 square miles in the northern part of the City and provides for light and general industrial uses, commercial, business parks, professional offices, residential, public facilities, and open space. The PVCCSP was adopted by the City of Perris on January 12, 2012 (Ordinance No. 1284). Environmental impacts resulting from implementation of allowed development under the PVCCSP have been evaluated in the Perris Valley Commerce Center Specific Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (PVCCSP EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 2009081086), which was certified by the City of

Perris in January 2012. The PVCCSP EIR was prepared as a Program EIR pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168.

Development within the PVCCSP planning area is subject to the mitigation measures identified in the PVCCSP EIR, whether or not the project-specific impacts of the individual project are significant. This Phase I cultural resource assessment has been prepared to comply with PVCCSP EIR mitigation measure MM Cultural 1, which is as follows:

MM Cultural 1: Prior to the consideration by the City of Perris of implementing development or infrastructure projects for properties that are vacant, undeveloped, or considered to be sensitive for cultural resources by the City of Perris Planning Division, a Phase I Cultural Resources Study of the subject property prepared in accordance with the protocol of the City of Perris by a professional archeologist1 shall be submitted to the City of Perris Planning Division for review and approval. The Phase I Cultural Resources Study shall determine whether the subject implementing development would potentially cause a substantial adverse change to any significant paleontological, archaeological, or historic resources. The Phase I Cultural Resources Study shall be prepared to meet the standards established by Riverside County and shall, at a minimum, include the results of the following:

- 1) Records searches at the Eastern Information Center (EIC), the National or State Registry of Historic Places and any appropriate public, private, and tribal archives.
- 2) Sacred Lands File record search with the NAHC followed by project scoping with tribes recommended by the NAHC.
- 3) Field survey of the implementing development or infrastructure project site.

The proponents of the subject implementing development projects and the professional archaeologists are also encouraged to contact the local Native American tribes (as identified by the California Native Heritage Commission and the City of Perris) to obtain input regarding the potential for native American resources to occur at the project site. Measures shall be identified to mitigate the known and potential significant effects of the implementing development or infrastructure project, if any. Mitigation for historic resources shall be considered in the following order of preference:

- 1) Avoidance.
- 2) Changes to the structure provided pursuant to the Secretary of Interior's Standards.
- 3) Relocation of the structure.
- 4) Recordation of the structure to Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)/Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) standard if demolition is allowed.

Avoidance is the preferred treatment for known significant prehistoric and historical archaeological sites, and sites containing Native American human remains. Where feasible, plans for implementing projects shall be developed to avoid known significant archaeological resources and sites containing human remains. Where avoidance of construction impacts is possible, the implementing projects shall be designed and landscaped in a manner, which will ensure that indirect impacts from increased public availability to these sites are avoided. Where avoidance is selected, archaeological resource sites and sites containing Native American human remains shall be placed within permanent conservation easements or dedicated open space areas.

The Phase I Cultural Resources Study submitted for each implementing development or infrastructure project shall have been completed no more than three (3) years prior to the submittal of the application for the subject implementing development project or the start of construction of an implementing infrastructure project.

The other PVCCSP EIR mitigation measures for cultural resources have been revised and the City requires project developers to retain a professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards for Archaeology to monitor the initial ground-disturbing activities at both the subject property and any off-site project-related improvement areas for the identification of any previously unknown archaeological and/or cultural resources.

3 SETTING

This section of the report summarizes information regarding the physical and cultural setting of the Project area, including the Prehistoric, Ethnographic, and Historic Period contexts of the general area. Several factors, including topography, available water sources, and biological resources, affect the nature and distribution of Prehistoric, Ethnographic, and Historic Period human activities in an area. This background provides a context for understanding the nature of the cultural resources that may be identified within the region.

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project area is in western Riverside County, within Perris Valley and the greater San Jacinto Valley between the Temescal Mountains to the west and Lakeview Mountains and Bernasconi Hills to the east. Perris Valley is a semi-arid, inland, alluvial valley that generally extends in a northwest-southeast direction. Several isolated granitic mountains, such as the Lakeview Mountains and the Bernasconi Hills, separate Perris Valley from the nearby Moreno, San Jacinto, and Menifee Valleys. Perris Valley is a sub-basin of the San Jacinto watershed and is bounded by the San Jacinto Mountains to the northeast and the Santa Ana Mountains to the southwest. The San Jacinto River crosses Perris Valley flowing southwest into Railroad Canyon, cutting through the Temescal Mountains. The river heads in the San Jacinto Mountains and drains into the Lake Elsinore, which formed on a sink along the Elsinore Fault, and much of the valley fill is derived from the river. The Perris Valley is the westernmost part of the greater San Jacinto Valley and is an alluviated structural valley with a relatively flat depositional surface surrounded by granitic hills. The climate and environment of the region are typical of southern California's inland valleys, with temperatures in the region reaching over 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and dipping to near freezing in the winter. The average annual precipitation is approximately 12 inches.

The dominant plant community in the vicinity of the Project area is California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). California sagebrush is characterized by low-growing, drought-deciduous shrubs that have adapted to the semi-arid Mediterranean climate of Southern California. Additional flora includes white sage (*Salvia apiana*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*).

3.2 PREHISTORIC SETTING

The earliest evidence of human occupation in western Riverside County was discovered below the surface of an alluvial fan in the northern portion of the Lakeview Mountains, overlooking the San Jacinto Valley, with radiocarbon dates clustering around 9500 Before Present (B.P.) (Horne and McDougall 2008). Another site found near the shoreline of Lake Elsinore, close to the confluence of Temescal Wash and the San Jacinto River, yielded radiocarbon dates between 8000 and 9000 B.P. (Grenda 1997).

The cultural prehistory of southern California has been summarized into numerous chronologies, including those developed by Chartkoff and Chartkoff (1984), Heizer (1978), Horne and McDougall (2008), Moratto (1998), Schaefer (1994), and Warren (1984). The general framework of the prehistory of western Riverside County can be broken into three primary periods: Paleoindian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric. These periods are discussed below.

3.2.1 Paleoindian Period

During the Paleoindian Period, Native groups are believed to have been highly mobile nomadic hunters and gatherers organized into small bands. Sites from this period are thought to have been very sparse across the landscape, may yield only meager evidence of human activity, or may be rich with flaked and ground stone tool kits, ecofacts, and possibly even structures; and most are deeply buried, based on evidence of sites found outside of California dating to this time period (Bruhns 1994; Dillehay 1989, 1997; Lynch 1980; Meltzer et al. 1997; Moratto 1984; Roosevelt et al. 1996). These sites may be found in large, protected caves situated above floodplains but near economically important resources in coastal, lake marsh, and valley/riparian environments. These sites may also be found at quarry sites, as well as stable landforms above high stands of pluvial lakes, along ridge systems and in mountain passes, and stable, not encroached upon, old surfaces along the coast. It is believed that Native peoples of this period created fluted spearhead bases designed to be hafted to wooden shafts. The distinctive method of thinning bifaces and spearhead preforms by removing long, linear flakes serves as diagnostic Paleoindian markers at tool-making sites. Other artifacts associated with the Paleoindian toolkit include choppers, cutting tools, retouched flakes, and perforators.

3.2.2 Archaic Period

The Archaic Period is the earliest defined period in the region. The early portion of this period is also expressed as the "Lake Mojave Period" or the "Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition" and is presumed to have begun somewhat earlier than 9500 B.P. and lasting to perhaps 7000 B.P. specifically in the southwestern Great Basin (Basgall and Hall 1993: Warren 1980, 1984). Wallace (1978:27) noted that the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition likely represents a portion of regional variants of an early hunting tradition that likely spread over a wide geographical area, including the coast. During this time, a long period of human adaptation to environmental changes brought on by the transition from the late Pleistocene to the early Holocene geologic periods occurred. As conditions became more arid and warmer, megafauna died off, and human populations responded to these environmental changes by focusing more on their subsistence efforts to procure a wider variety of food sources.

The early portion of the Archaic period was characterized by the continued organization of Native groups as nomadic hunters and gatherers; however, there is some evidence of semi-

sedentary residential occupation. Early occupants of the region were thought to have been nomadic large-game hunters but, due to changing environmental factors over time, were forced to become more variable with their food sources. The presence of milling tools indicates the incorporation of vegetal food sources and seed preparation. An apparent decrease in population density during the second half of this period resulted in increased reliance on foraging for Native groups. Technological advances during this period resulted in increased use of milling tools for seed grinding. Archaic sites in the Project region are characterized by abundant lithic scatters of considerable size with many biface thinning flakes, manos and milling stones, bifacial preforms broken during manufacture, and well-made ground stone bowls and basin metates. As a consequence of making dart points, many biface thinning waste flakes were generated at individual production stations, which is an indicative feature of Archaic sites. Of course, archaeological assemblages of this period can vary depending on the differences between subsistence processes in the inland versus coastal sites. Sites more toward the coast of southern California and outside of the Project area typically present fewer projectile points as more focus was on fishing practices versus hunting game.

Additionally, sites in the region in the Archaic period that present stratified cultural deposits indicate seasonal or longer-term occupation at some of these sites and further indicate the possible sedentary habitation or occupation patterns. It is thought that the general settlementsubsistence patterns in the region of the Project during the Middle Holocene were characterized by a greater emphasis on seed gathering, and shallow midden concentrations at sites suggest seasonal camping. Based on archaeological assemblages, distribution of sites, and midden depths (or lack thereof in some cases), it is believed that Native Americans in the area followed a central-based wandering pattern that shifted based on the need to exploit seasonal floral resources (cf. Binford 1980; Warren 1968). Specifically, this semisedentary pattern involved a base camp that was occupied during a portion of the year, while other more satellite camps were occupied by smaller groups of people to exploit seasonal resources such as grass seeds, berries, tubers, and nuts. The exploitation of terrestrial faunal resources was also important, but the population and degree of sedentism at these camps were, of course, based on the availability and reliability of water resources. For this reason, it is thought that coastal groups during this period seem to display a higher degree of sedentism compared to the inhabitants of the desert/inland regions in southern California due to a more reliable and abundant resource base near the ocean.

3.2.3 Late Prehistoric Period

The Late Prehistoric period is characterized by cooler temperatures and greater precipitation resulting in more easily accessible food and water sources. A more favorable climate during the period resulted in more reliable food sources and the formation of sedentary villages. The subsistence base during this time broadened. Native American groups in the region began manufacturing ceramics, such as vessels, using the paddle-and-anvil technique. The technological advancement of the mortar and pestle may also indicate the utilization of acorns as a resource and the practice of storing food resources.

Trade and travel are also seen in the distribution of localized resources such as obsidian from Obsidian Butte; wonderstone from the south end of the Santa Rosa Mountains and Cerro Colorado in northern Baja California; soapstone presumed to have come from Santa Catalina Island to the west; marine shell from both the Gulf of California and the Pacific coast; and ceramic types that were not locally manufactured. Sites from this period typically contain small

lithic scatters from the manufacture of small projectile points, expedient ground stone tools such as tabular metates and unshaped manos, wooden mortars with stone pestles, acorn or mesquite bean granaries, ceramic vessels, shell beads suggestive of extensive trading networks, and steatite implements such as pipes and shaft straighteners. Other characteristics of this period include the appearance of bone and antler elements within the artifact assemblage and the use of asphaltum. This period also is marked by the appearance of the bow and arrow points and arrow shaft straighteners and a shift from inhumation to cremation burials

The cultural patterns of the Late Prehistoric period were similar to the previous period; however, the material culture at many coastal sites appears to have become more complex and elaborate. This may be indicative of an increase in sociopolitical complexity and/or increased efficiency in subsistence strategies (e.g., the utilization of the bow and arrow) or progressive economic changes that included an increase in trade activities with other regions. Indicative of increased trade practices during this period between coastal and inland Native groups is the presence of both *Haliotis* and *Olivella* shells and beads and ornaments, and non-local ceramics at sites in the Project region.

The increased carrying capacity and intensification of resources suggest higher populations in the desert with a greater ability to adapt to the changing environmental conditions (Warren 1984:420).

The presence of sites post-dating 500 B.P., along with the high frequency of processing sites and the abundance of a variety of biotic, faunal, and artifacts, suggests that occupation in the area intensified during the Late Prehistoric period. It has been suggested that this increase in use resulted from the influx of Native American peoples from the surrounding desert region rather than indicative of an increase in a resident population (O'Connell et al. 1974). This shift in population is also believed to coincide with the evaporation of freshwater Lake Cahuilla in the Salton Basin, which could have prompted people to move to a more hospitable environment. Terminal dates for occupation at these sites in the latter half of the Late Prehistoric period are thought to be approximately 200 years ago (Wilke 1974:24.

3.3 ETHNOHISTORIC SETTING

3.3.1 Luiseño

Luiseño territory generally extended from present-day Riverside County south to Escondido, and to Oceanside in the west. Leading anthropological literature regarding the Luiseño culture and history include Kroeber (1925), Strong (1929), and Bean and Shipek (1978).

Prior to the institution of the Mission System, the Luiseño were likely divided between coastal and inland groups. When Spanish settlers instituted the mission system in the 1770s, traditional social and political organization was disrupted. Luiseño villages were organized as autonomous neighboring groups loosely connected through a system of lineages and clans (Bean and Shipek 1978). The Luiseño were primarily hunters, gatherers, and harvesters. The landscape within the Luiseño traditional use area varied, and methods of subsistence largely depended on the region of settlement. Hunting and gathering places were owned by individuals, families, the chief, or by the collective community (Bean and Shipek 1978). Game animals included deer, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, woodrat, mice, ground squirrels, antelope,

quail, doves, ducks, and other birds. Acorns, roots, leaves, seeds, and fruit of many other plants were also common sources of food.

The material culture of the Luiseño included a wide variety of utilitarian items, including projectile points, woven and skin mats, baskets, pottery ollas, shell and bone fishhooks, cooking slabs, digging stick weights, manos, metates, and mortars (Bean and Shipek 1978). Most Luiseño houses were made of locally available material, were conical and partially subterranean, and often featured an adjacent brush-covered ramada for domestic chores. Other buildings found in most villages included Earth-covered sweat houses, ceremonial houses with fenced areas, and granaries for food storage (Bean and Shipek 1978).

It is estimated that when the Spanish colonization of Alta California began in 1769, the Luiseño had approximately 50 active villages with an average population of 200 each. However, other estimates place the total Luiseño population at 4000–5000 (Bean and Shipek 1978). Ultimately, the Luiseño population declined rapidly after European contact because of diseases such as smallpox and harsh living conditions at the missions and ranchos, where the Native people often worked as seasonal ranch hands.

After the American annexation of California, the influx of American settlers further eroded the foundation of the traditional Luiseño society. During the latter half of the nineteenth century, almost all the remaining Luiseño villages were displaced, and their occupants eventually removed to the various reservations. Today, the nearest Native American groups of Luiseño heritage are associated with the Soboba, Pechanga, and Pala Reservations.

3.3.2 Cahuilla

The Cahuilla have been studied extensively by Dr. Lowell Bean, and much of the following discussion is derived from Bean's description of the Cahuilla in Volume 8 of the *Handbook of North American Indians* (Bean 1978:575–587).

The Cahuilla belong to nonpolitical, nonterritorial patrimoieties that governed marriage patterns, patrilineal clans, and lineages. Each clan, "political-ritual-corporate units" composed of 3–10 lineages, owned a large territory where each lineage owned a village site with specific resource areas. Clan lineages cooperated in defense, in large communal subsistence activities, and in performing rituals. Clans were apt to own land in the valley, foothill, and mountain areas, providing them with the resources of many different ecological niches.

In prehistoric times Cahuilla shelters are believed to have been dome shaped and, after contact, tended to be rectangular. Cahuilla shelters were often made of brush, palm fronds, or arrowweed. Most of the Cahuilla domestic activities were performed outside the shelters within the shade of large, expansive *ramadas*.

The Cahuilla were, for the most part, hunting, collecting, harvesting, and protoagricultural peoples. As in most of California, acorns were a major staple, but the roots, leaves, seeds, and fruit of many other plants were also used. Fish, birds, insects, and large and small mammals were also available.

To gather and prepare these food resources, the Cahuilla had an extensive inventory of equipment, including bows and arrows, traps, nets, disguises, blinds, spears, hooks and lines, poles for shaking down pine nuts and acorns, cactus pickers, seed beaters, digging sticks and weights, and pry bars. In addition, the Cahuilla also had an extensive inventory of food

processing equipment, including hammers and anvils, mortars and pestles, manos and metates, winnowing shells and baskets, strainers, leaching baskets and bowls, knives (made of stone, bone, wood, and carrizo cane), bone saws, and drying racks made of wooden poles to dry fish.

Mountain tops, unusual rock formations, springs, and streams are sacred to the Cahuilla, as are rock art sites and burial and cremation sites. In addition, various birds are revered as sacred beings of great power and sometimes were killed ritually and mourned in mortuary ceremonies similar to those for important individuals. As such, bird cremation sites are considered sacred by the Cahuilla.

3.4 HISTORICAL SETTING

Spanish settlement of Alta California began in 1769, with the establishment of a presidio and mission near San Diego. In 1770, a second presidio and mission were in Monterey. These two settlements were used as bases to colonize the rest of California. The Spanish also laid out pueblos or towns along the coast. Providing supplies, animals, and colonists to the Spanish missions and presidios by way of ship was difficult, time-consuming, expensive, and dangerous. Thus, an overland route was necessary to initiate a strong colonizing effort in Alta California. In 1774, Captain Juan Bautista de Anza crossed the San Jacinto plains with a small party of soldiers to establish an overland route through Alta California.

Within the mission system, the Riverside County area was considered part of the lands administered by the San Diego presidio and Mission San Luis Rey. Mission San Luis Rey was founded in 1798. Mission San Luis Rey established Rancho San Jacinto Viejo in 1820 and used the area primarily for ranching. Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821 and, with the Secularization Act of 1833, dissolved the mission system and redistributed former mission lands (Gunther 1984).

In 1842, Don Jose Antonio Estudillo was granted the Rancho San Jacinto Viejo Potrero, a 35,000-acre parcel, by Mexican Governor Juan B. Alvarado. The rancho—which included an area encompassing the present-day cities/communities of Hemet, San Jacinto, Valle Vista, and Winchester—was used for grazing cattle. After a son of Don Estudillo inherited the rancho, the division and sale of the rancho to immigrant American pioneers began. The western half of Perris was within the Rancho El Sobrante de San Jacinto, which was granted to Maria del Rosario and Estudillo de Aguirre by Governor Pio Pico on May 9, 1846. This rancho amounted to 48,847 acres and included western Perris Valley, the Canyon Lake area, and the Lake Mathews region (City of Perris 2005). Cattle and agriculture were the economic engines that drove the ranchos' way of life, which continued until the second half of the nineteenth century with the arrival of American and European settlers into California.

The Mexican American War ended in 1848 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. California became a United States territory and, in 1850, was granted statehood. American settlement in the region was slow and sporadic, but settlement in the valley received a major boost when the California Southern Railway was constructed through the Perris Valley in 1882–1883. The route, which was eventually connected to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway, resulted in the establishment of several towns within the Perris Valley along the railroad corridor. The town of Perris was founded in 1886 and was named in honor of Frederick Thomas Perris, the California Southern Railway's chief engineer and superintendent of construction (Gunther 1984). Riverside County was incorporated in 1893, and Perris was

designated one of the official judiciary townships. Perris was incorporated as a city on May 16, 1911.

Agriculture was the primary economic force within the Perris Valley through the end of the nineteenth century and much of the twentieth century. Like much of California, the Perris Valley enjoyed a boom after World War II due to commercial, industrial, and residential development. The expansion of the highway system and the development of the freeway system during the mid-twentieth century further connected Perris to nearby metropolitan areas resulting in increased commercial and residential development. During the second half of the twentieth century, urban/suburban development became the driving force behind growth in the Perris area, with much of the former farmlands turned into residential tracts and commercial development. This trend continued into the twenty-first century with the development of large housing tracts that transformed the region into a bedroom community for Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties.

4 CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

On December 20, 2022, a literature review and records search were conducted at the Eastern Information Center (EIC), housed at the University of California, Riverside. This inventory effort included the Project area and a one-mile radius around the Project area, collectively termed the Project study area. The objective of this records search was to identify prehistoric or historical cultural resources that have been previously recorded within the study area during prior cultural resource investigations.

As part of the cultural resources inventory, PaleoWest staff also examined historical maps and aerial images to characterize the developmental history of the Project area and surrounding area. A summary of the results of the record search and background research are provided below.

4.1 PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS

The records search results indicate that no fewer than 19 previous investigations have been conducted and documented within the Project study area since 1988 (Table 4-1). One study (RI-07538) includes a portion of the Project area, but no survey was conducted within the Project footprint. As such, it appears that none of the Project area has been previously inventoried for cultural resources.

Table 4-1. Previous Cultural Investigations within the Project Study Area

Report No.	Year	Author(s)	Title
RI-02323	1988	Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.	Archaeological Assessment Form: May Project.
RI-04211	1999	Bruce Love and Bai "Tom" Tang	Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties Perris Valley Industrial Corridor Infrastructure Project near the City of Perris, Riverside County, California.
RI-05444	2005	Jeanette McKenna	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of the Ridge Property in the City of Perris, Riverside County, California.

Report No.	Year	Author(s)	Title
RI-06072	2004	Cary Cotterman, Evelyn Chandler, and Rodger Mason	Cultural Resources Survey of an 83.5 Acre in Perris, Riverside County, California.
RI-06073	2004	Cary Cotterman, Evelyn Chandler, and Rodger Mason	Archaeological Test Excavation of the Perris Indian School Site, Perris, Riverside County, California.
RI-06074	2004	Cary Cotterman, Evelyn Chandler, and Rodger Mason	Executive Summary Report for the Archaeological Investigations Conducted along Perris Boulevard, Perris, Riverside County, California.
RI-06836	2006	Jeanette A. McKenna	A phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of the Overton Moore Industrial Project Property, in the City of Perris, Riverside County, California.
RI-06914	2003	Jim Harrison	Letter Report: Biological and Cultural Resources Due Diligence Regarding the 500-Acre Watson Land Company-Perris Property in Riverside County, California.
*RI-07538	2007	Bai "Tom" Tang, Michael Hogan, Clarence Bodmer, Josh Smallwood, and Melissa Hernandez	Cultural Resources Technical Report, North Perris Industrial Specific Plan, City of Perris, Riverside County, California.
RI-07931	2008	Tiffany A. Schmid	Lake Perris Dam Remediation Project Archaeological Survey Report, Riverside County, California.
RI-08792	2012	Rebecca S. Orfila	Letter Report: Cultural Resource Records Search Results for the SCE Co. Perris Rule 20-B Underground Project.
RI-09014	2012	Riordan Goodwin and Ivan Strudwick,	Cultural Resources Assessment and Archaeological Testing, Stratford Ranch Industrial Warehouse Project, City of Perris, Riverside County, California.
RI-09270	2015	Daniel Ballester	Archaeological/Paleontological Monitoring Program Stratford Ranch Industrial Park Project in the City of Perris, Riverside County, California.
RI-09660	2012	Brad Brewster	Perris Dam Seismic Improvements Project Historic Resources Evaluation Report.
RI-10199	2014	Phil Fulton	Discovery and Monitoring Plan for the Mid County Parkway.
RI-10251	2017	Brian F. Smith	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the First Perry Logistics Center Project and Off-Site Improvements, Perris, California.
RI-10397	2018	Brian F. Smith	A Class III Archaeological study for the First Perry Logistics Center Project for Section 106 Compliance.
RI-10415	2017	Justin Castells and Joan George	Cultural Resource Assessment for the Markham/Perris Project, City of Perris, Riverside County, California.
RI-10759	2019	Andrew D. Miller	Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for the Duke Perry & Barret Project, City of Perris, Riverside County, California.

4.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORTED WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE PROJECT AREA

The records search indicated that no fewer than five cultural resources have been previously documented within the Project study area. These resources include one prehistoric archaeological site, three historic period sites, and one historic period built-environment resource (Table 4-2). None of these resources are within the Project area.

Table 4-2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within the Project Study Area

Primary No.	Trinomial	Age	Туре	Description
P-33-008699	_	Historic	Site	Earthen reservoir with adjacent standpipe
P-33-014109	CA-RIV-007744	Historic	Building, Site	Perris Indian School and Smith-Lowery Farm
P-33-014136	CA-RIV-007758	Prehistoric	Site	Lithic scatter with bedrock milling features
P-33-019865	CA-RIV-010111	Historic	Structure, Site	Remains of a homestead with well
P-33-029118	CA-RIV-013010	Historic	Object	Perris Valley Storm Drain

4.3 ADDITIONAL HISTORIC RESEARCH ON THE PROJECT SITE

Additional sources consulted during the cultural resource literature and data review include the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, and the Office of Historic Preservation Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD). There are no listed cultural resources recorded within the Project area or within one mile of the Project area.

Archival research conducted on the Project site includes a review of Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) records, a Riverside County assessor's parcel search, and review of historical topographic maps and aerial images. The GLO records indicate that the Project area was part of the 1883 San Jacinto Nuevo Y Potrero land grant, which included more than 48,000 acres of land given to members of the Pedrorena family (BLM 2023). The Riverside County assessor's parcel search indicated that the parcel is vacant commercial land and did not indicate any persons of note as past owners (Riverside County Assessor 2023).

Historical maps were consulted, including Elsinore (1901), Southern California (1901), and Santa Ana, CA (1947, 1959, and 1960) 60-minute; Perris, CA (1942) 30-minute; and Perris (1953, 1967, 1973) 7.5-minute USGS quadrangles. No roads or structures are depicted in the Project area on any of the maps, though the development of properties to the east and west are shown on the 2012 and 2015 Perris maps, indicating that development of the area did not occur until very recently. A review of historical aerial photographs from NETROnline dated 1966, 1967, 1978, 1985, 1997, 2005, 2010, and 2020 indicates that the property was likely used for agriculture before development of the area began in the late 1970s. No structures appear to have been built on the parcel at any time. However, an aerial from 1978 does show large areas on the eastern side of the Project area that appear to have been denuded of vegetation, possibly used as lay-down areas, during construction of the adjacent mobile home park; the impacts are no longer visible in the next available (1985) image (NETROnline).

While the review of historic topographic maps indicates no development within the Project area, the geographic proximity of the Project area to the Perris Indian School suggests that the area is sensitive for historic-period Native American archaeological deposits associated with the school. The Perris Indian School was the first off-reservation Indian Boarding School in the state of California and operated from 1892–1904 before being replaced by the Sherman Indian School in Riverside. The purpose of the school was to assimilate Native American students into mainstream American culture by teaching them English and preparing them for work in domestic and agricultural roles away from their reservations. Students from a number of different bands and tribes lived at the school year-round, and at least one student was recorded as dying and being buried somewhere on or near the school property, though no location has ever been documented for the burial. This was a common practice at Indian Boarding schools and has been the subject of several recent discoveries and investigations across the United States and Canada (Associated Press 2022, Austen 2021, Valmis and Keith 2022, and many others), including an initiative by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, to identify unmarked burials at former federal boarding schools (Department of the Interior 2021). Not all such remains and artifacts are limited to the official boundaries of the institutions, and the Project area is close enough to the location of the Perris Indian School to warrant consideration. Any cultural resources found to be associated with the school have potentially significant heritage value to Native American tribes whose members attended the school.

4.4 NATIVE AMERICAN COORDINATION

PaleoWest contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on October 18, 2022, for a review of the SLF. The objective of the SLF search was to determine if the NAHC had any knowledge of Native American cultural resources (e.g., traditional use or gathering area, place of religious or sacred activity, etc.) within the immediate vicinity of the Project area. The NAHC responded on November 23, 2022, stating that the SLF was completed with positive results and that the Pechanga Band of Indians should be contacted for additional information. In addition, the NAHC suggested that 21 individuals representing 14 Native American tribal groups be contacted to elicit information regarding cultural resource issues related to the proposed Project (Appendix A). PaleoWest sent outreach letters to tribal contacts on October 25, 2022. Individuals contacted were selected based on previous NAHC contact lists, with 40 outreach letters sent. These letters were followed up by phone calls to individuals who had not responded on December 19 and 20, 2022.

To date, seven responses have been received as a result of the Native American outreach efforts conducted for the Project (Appendix A).

- The Quechan Historic Preservation Department sent an email indicating the Tribe does not wish to comment on the Project, stating they defer to more local tribes.
- The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians sent a letter via email stating that the Tribe has reviewed the project and found it not to have cultural ties to the Viejas and recommends contacting Tribes closer to the Project location.
- Three separate responses were received by phone and email from representatives of the Pechanga Band of Indians. They indicate that the Project is not within Reservation lands but is in Pechanga ancestral territory near three Sacred Lands Filings, an ancestral trail, and 16 prehistoric and historic sites. Of particular concern is the historic Perris Indian Boarding School 324 yards away from the Project area. Members of the Pechanga Band were among those sent to the school, and Tribal Elders report that at least one student was buried on the property. The Project area

is also located near multiple reburial sites. The Tribe believes the Project area has an extremely high sensitivity for buried cultural resources and has made the following requests:

- Notification once the Project begins the entitlement process;
- Copies of all applicable archaeological reports, site records, proposed grading plans, and environmental documents;
- o Government-to-government consultation with the Lead Agency;
- The Tribe believes that monitoring by a Riverside County Qualified archaeologist and a professional Pechanga Tribal Monitor may be required during earthmoving activities. Therefore, the Tribe reserves its right to make additional comments and recommendations once the environmental documents have been received and fully reviewed; and
- o In the event that subsurface cultural resources are identified, the Tribe requests consultation with the Project proponent and Lead Agency regarding the treatment and disposition of all artifacts.
- The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians responded that the Rincon Band has no specific information to share about Tribal Cultural Resources or Tribal Cultural Properties within the Project area
- The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians responded, stating that while the Project is not located within the ACBCI's reservation boundaries, the Project is located within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. As such, the Tribe made the following requests:
 - o a cultural resources inventory of the Project area by a qualified archaeologist prior to any development activities in this area;
 - o copies of any cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with this project;
 - a copy of the records search with associated survey reports and site records from the information center; and
 - The presence of an approved Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

5 FIELD INVESTIGATION

5.1 FIELD METHODS

A cultural resource survey of the Project area was completed by PaleoWest Archaeologist Heather Landazuri on January 5, 2023. The fieldwork effort included an intensive pedestrian survey of the entire Project area, totaling 17.64 acres. The intensive pedestrian survey was conducted by walking a series of parallel transects spaced at 10–15-meter (m) (33–49-ft) intervals. The archaeologist

carefully inspected all areas within the Project area likely to contain or exhibit sensitive cultural resources to ensure discovery and documentation of any visible, potentially significant cultural resources within the Project area.

Prehistoric site indicators may include areas of darker soil with concentrations of ash, charcoal, bits of animal bone (burned or unburned), shell, flaked stone, ground stone, or even human bone. Historical site indicators may include fence lines, ditches, standing buildings, objects or structures such as sheds, or concentrations of materials at least 45 years in age, such as domestic refuse (e.g., glass bottles, ceramics, toys, buttons, or leather shoes), refuse from other pursuits such as agriculture (e.g., metal tanks, farm machinery parts, horseshoes) or structural materials (e.g., nails, glass window panes, corrugated metal, wood posts or planks, metal pipes and fittings, railroad spurs, etc.).

5.2 FIELD RESULTS

The Project area is a vacant parcel of land surrounded by residential, commercial, and recreational development (Figure 5-1). The parcel is bounded on the west by a small strip mall and a housing development, on the east by a large RV park, on the north by the Ramona Expressway, and on the south by Dawes Road. Vegetation is primarily annual weeds and short grasses. Ground visibility was excellent (90–100%). Modern refuse is scattered throughout the parcel, and a number of mechanical and vehicle impacts are present (Figure 5-2).

The exposed surface soils consisted of fine, brown to light brown sandy silt with minimal gravels. Rodent activity was noted across the site. Mechanical impacts to the site include several small dirt mounds and sections of graveled track without apparent destination. No archaeological or built-environment resources were identified in the Project area during the survey.



Figure 5-1. Overview of the Project area from northeast corner, facing west.



Figure 5-2. Overview of refuse and modern impacts to the Project area, facing south.

6 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the cultural resource records search and survey, no archaeological or historic period built-environment resources were identified in the Project area. However, the undeveloped nature of the parcel and the geographic proximity of the Project area to the Perris Indian School suggests that the area is sensitive for Native American historic-period archaeological deposits. Native American children from multiple California bands and tribes were resident at the school between 1892 and 1904. Any cultural remains found associated with the school would be of potentially significant heritage value. The Pechanga Band of Indians, some of whose members attended the school, have expressed particular concern that a child was buried at or near the school and that the burial site has never been identified. Given the history of unmarked and undisclosed burials discovered at or near Indian Boarding Schools across the United States and Canada, it is possible that cultural resources associated with the Perris Boarding School could be found within the Project area. As such, the Project area appears to be moderately sensitive for buried cultural resources.

PaleoWest recommends that an archaeological monitor and Native American monitor be retained to observe ground-disturbing activities during the initial phases of construction. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the construction activities have little or no potential to impact cultural resources (e.g., excavations are within previously disturbed, non-native soils, or within soil formation not expected to yield cultural resources deposits), then monitoring may be reduced or eliminated.

In the event that potentially significant cultural materials are encountered during Project-related ground disturbing activities, all work should be halted in the vicinity of the discovery until the qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the resource. In addition, Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA 15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 mandate the process to be followed in the unlikely event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery. Finally, should additional actions be proposed outside the currently defined Project area with the potential for additional subsurface disturbance, further cultural resource management may be required.

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Appendix A. Native American Coordination

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