



RT FACTFINDERS
Cultural Resources

REPORT

**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION
FOR APPROXIMATELY 32-ACRES
SOUTH OF FOX AIRFIELD
LANCASTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared For:

**Arrow Engineering (AESI)
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Prepared By:

**Richard H. Norwood
Archaeologist**

**RTFactfinders
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Job. No. 598

April 2017

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 3105-001-042

**Performed under: Private contract
USGS Quadrangle: Lancaster West, Calif. 7.5'
Area covered: 32 acres
Location: Township 8 North, Range 13 West, Section 36
Keywords: Antelope Valley, Lancaster**

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SUMMARY

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the requirements of the City of Lancaster, a phase I cultural resource investigation was completed for an approximately 32-acre property south of General William J. Fox Airfield and southwest of Apollo County Park. The property is recorded with the Los Angeles County Tax Assessor as APN 3105-001-042. It is situated in Township 8 North, Range 13 West, Section 36, SBBM.

The purpose of the study was to identify and record cultural resources within the subject property and recommend further measures, if warranted.

As a result of the investigation, no prehistoric sites or historic period sites or artifacts were identified on the property. Since no cultural resources are present, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated due to any future property development. No further cultural resource work is recommended.

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the requirements of the City of Lancaster, a phase I cultural resource investigation was completed for an approximately 32-acre property south of General William J. Fox Airfield and southwest of Apollo County Park. The property is recorded with the Los Angeles County Tax Assessor as APN 3105-001-042. It is situated in Township 8 North, Range 13 West, Section 36, SBBM (Figures 1, 2).

CEQA defines cultural resources as including archaeological sites, historic buildings, structures or objects, and properties of unique ethnic cultural value or religious/sacred uses (CEQA, Appendix I, Item XIV). The City of Lancaster required this study because development of the property would cause a "substantial adverse change" to any cultural resources that might be present.

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

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

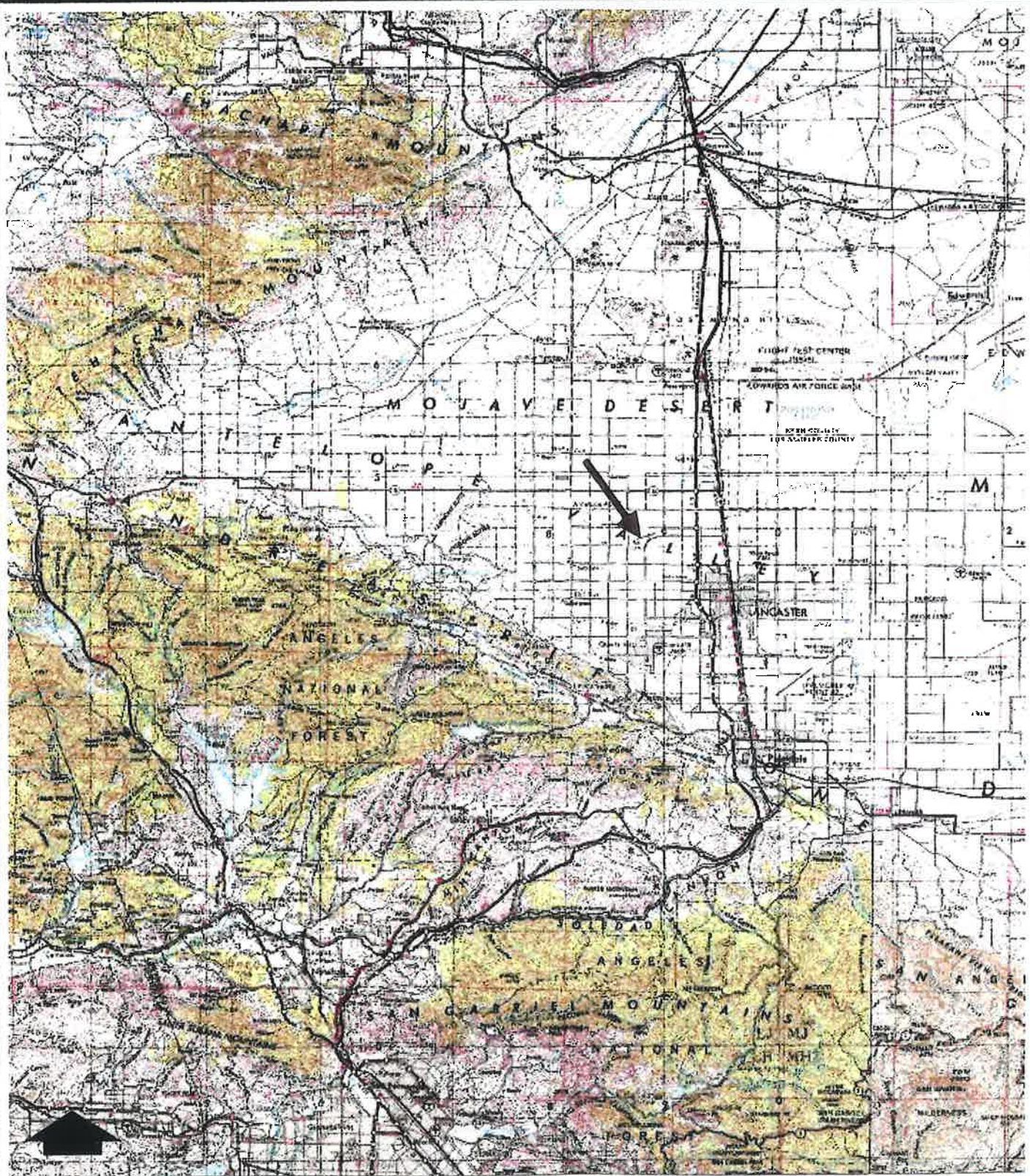
The property is level and previously undeveloped, with no substantial physical features. There is an adjacent National Guard storage facility. Undisturbed portions on the east of the property are characterized as hummocky, with small low hummocks and interspersed small barren clay pans. Western portions of the property have been heavily disturbed by deposition of fill dirt and grading. Vegetation is sparse and has filaree, fiddleneck and, but there are some invasive grasses. Goldfields were prevalent but beginning to wane at the time of survey.

The property consists of a portion the Antelope Valley floor. The Antelope Valley is a broad, flat V-shaped basin in the Western Mojave Desert. The Valley is bounded in the north by the Tehachapi Mountains and in the south by the San Gabriel Mountains and extends eastward to the Mojave River Valley. Low points in the Antelope Valley are Rogers and Rosamond Dry Lakes with elevations of approximately 2275' above mean sea level. The subject property lies west south west of Rosamond Dry Lake at an elevation of approximately 2338' above mean sea level.

Soil on the property is quaternary in age. It consists of mixed lake bed clay deposits partially overlain by coarse grained sand and gravelly, sandy silt. There are no notable physiographic features, rock outcrops, springs, or other permanent sources of water on or near the property.

III. CULTURAL SETTING

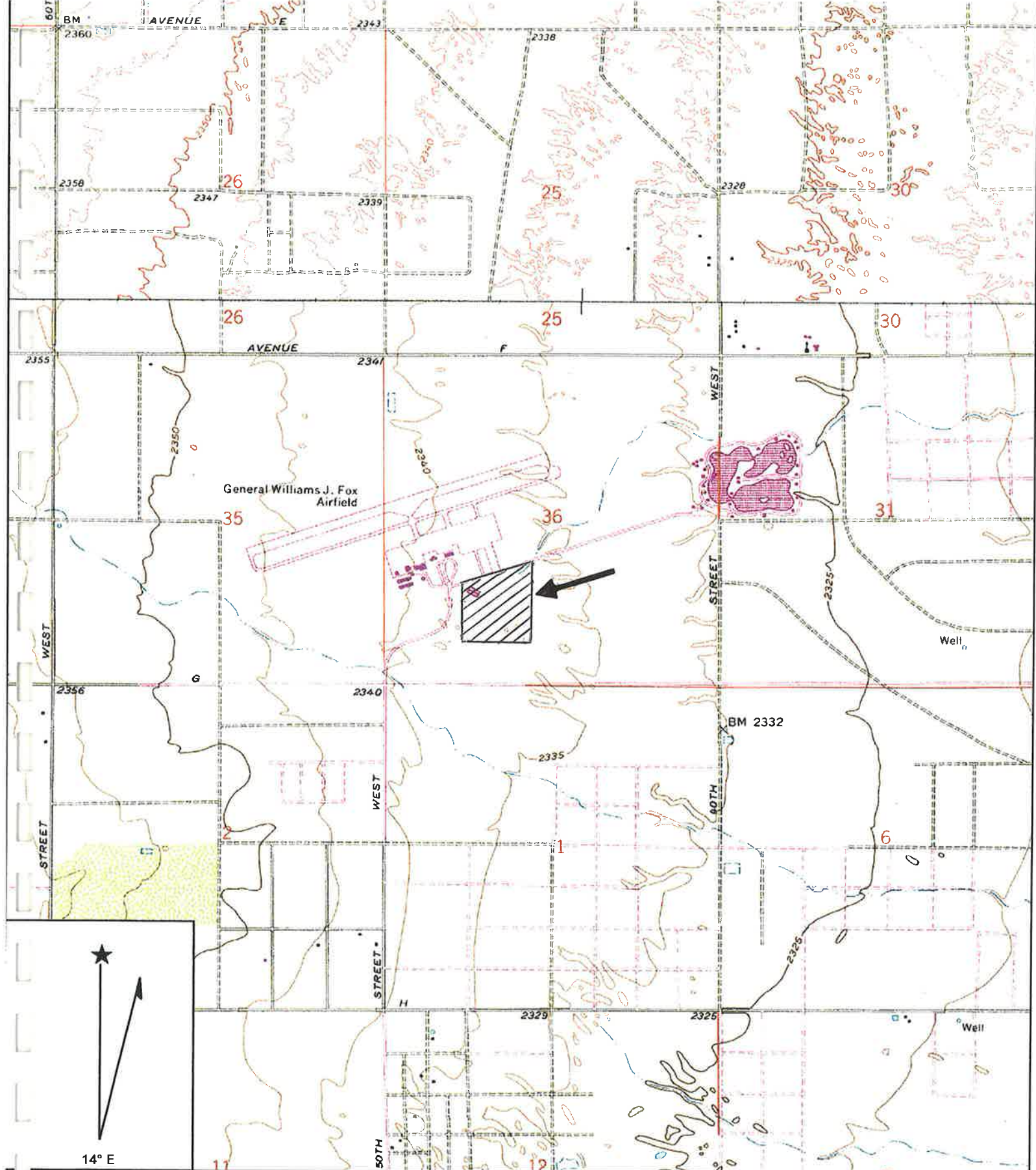
The Antelope Valley has a cultural history extending back over 10,000 years and this history is represented by thousands of archaeological and historic period sites. Most of the prehistoric



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

1" = about 7.5 miles



Name: LANCASTER WEST
Date: 4/3/2017
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 11 0389011 E 3844606 N
Caption: Figure 2: Project location depicted on the Lancaster West 7.5'
USGS map.

periods are known only in general outline. As would be expected the later periods are the best known. General temporal and cultural sequences have been developed by a number of researchers for other areas of the Mojave Desert including Wallace (1962), Bettinger and Taylor (1974), Stickle and Weinman-Roberts (1980), Warren and Crabtree (1986), and Earle, et. al., (1997).

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

The historical context of the region is discussed in several publications including those by Starr (1988), Morris (1977), Earle, et. al. (1997, 1998), and Earle (1998). A series of publications by the Kern-Antelope Historical Society and the West Antelope Valley Historical Society contain historical essays and interviews that are valuable for understanding the development of local historical context.

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

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

Worldwide during the same period many technological innovations were being introduced. In 1904, a gasoline engine was first used in the Valley to pump well water. By 1908-1914 there was an influx of people into the Valley due to the construction of the Los Angeles aqueduct. By 1904

improved conditions after the drought, improved irrigation techniques and increasing subsistence diversity enhanced the potential for economic success. Construction of an aqueduct for the Los Angeles basin between 1908-1914 brought people back into the Valley. The World War I period brought another influx of people as homesteading reached a peak of popularity and agricultural prices were relatively high.

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

IV. RECORD, MAP AND SACRED LANDS SEARCH RESULTS

Record Search: The property was surveyed previously in 2002 (Norwood 2002). At that time, the subject property was encompassed within a 120-acre survey area. As a result of the 2002 survey seven isolated prehistoric artifacts, mostly flakes, were found. Also, paleontological specimens consisting of four isolated fossil large mammal teeth fragments were found. These probably date to the Pleistocene era. None of these finds were made within the current survey area. No significant cultural resources were identified.

Three other surveys have been completed in the vicinity of the subject property. Survey #LA2917 consisted of a 120-acre runway extension project (Whitney-Desautels, 1993). No cultural resources were discovered as a result of that project. Two surveys were completed for a 34-acre area encompassing the United States Forest Service air tanker facility northeast of the subject property (McIntyre 1993, Milburn, 1993). No cultural resources were recorded as a result of those efforts.

Previous work has resulted in finding very little evidence of prehistoric period use or occupation. A few historic period resources have been recorded in the general region of the subject property (Norwood, 2000). None are close to the subject property.

Map research: Local historic period maps were reviewed to identify any potential historic sites or features on the property. Findings are discussed below:

The Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records (GLO) were reviewed for historic period transactions within Section 36. The section was transferred to the State of California on February 19, 1856.

1911: The earliest regional map of Lancaster is Johnson's (1911) Water Supply map showing structure and well locations throughout the Antelope Valley. Data for this map is based on a

1909 field survey. Johnson's map shows no structures or wells anywhere within Section 36 or immediately nearby in adjoining sections.

1915: The 1915 Lake Elizabeth 15' USGS quad map shows no development within Section 36.

1922: By 1920-1925 Lancaster had matured into a typical American small rural town characteristic of the period. Carpenter and Cosby's Soil Survey map (1926), based on a 1922 field survey, reflects a lack of any development in Section 36.

1938: Walsh's 1938 real property map does not show the location or number of structures present, but it does show ownership. No ownership is shown for any of the parcels in Section 36.

1958: The 1958 USGS 7.5' quadrangle shows no structures, wells, roads or other features. Fox Field and nearby Apollo Park had not yet been built at this time.

Substantial prehistoric resources have not been discovered during previous work in the immediate vicinity of the subject property. The area is close to where the high-water shoreline would have been for ancient Pleistocene Lake Thompson. If early lake shore occupation occurred, the presence of artifacts would be expected. Historic period development of the section was inhibited due to early period ownership by the state. The clayey soil would not have been conducive to agriculture. Development did not occur until very late times, therefore, no extensive historic period resources were anticipated on the subject property.

Sacred Lands Search: A sacred lands search was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission. The search was conducted with negative results (Attachment 1).

V. SURVEY METHODS AND CONDITIONS

The field resurvey was completed on April 1, 2017 by Melinda Walton representing RTFactfinders. Fieldwork required 2.5 person hours. The property was examined by walking a series of linear transects which were oriented north to south beginning at the northwest property corner. Spacing between transects did not exceed 15 meter intervals.

Soil surface visibility was excellent due to minimal vegetation cover. Light conditions were also excellent, with bright sun and clear skies. There were no inhibiting conditions that would have impaired the ability to identify cultural resources on the surface had they been present. In accordance with State Historic Preservation Office Guidelines, any sites or artifacts greater than 50 years of age were to be recorded and considered as potential cultural resources.

VI. SURVEY FINDINGS

As a result of the survey, no prehistoric or historic period sites or artifacts were found. Very little cultural material of any kind was noted. Finds include only a few scattered late-period items

including clear, brown and green bottle fragments, chunks of concrete and one unidentifiable brick.

VII. MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

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

Since no cultural resources were identified on the property, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated when development occurs. No further cultural resource measures are recommended.

While very unlikely, potentially significant buried material could exist on the property. Under CEQA "inadvertent finds" (unexpected buried sites found after completion of a phase I or II study as a result of construction exposure) are subject to evaluation and, if significant, appropriate impact mitigation. In the event unanticipated cultural materials (arrowheads, grinding stones, etc.) or features (old foundations, cellars, privy pits, etc.) are encountered, work must stop at the discovery site. A professional cultural resource consultant will need to evaluate the find.

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

VIII. REFERENCES CITED

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ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95601
(916) 373-3710
(916) 373-5471 FAX



April 6, 2017

Richard Norwood
RTFactfinders

Sent by E-mail: artefact@gmail.com

RE: Proposed Fox Field Development Project, near the City of Lancaster; Lancaster West USGS Quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Norwood:

Attached is a consultation list of tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the above referenced counties. Please note that the intent of the reference codes below is to avoid or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, as defined, for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) projects under AB-52.

As of July 1, 2015, Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 and 21080.3.2 **require public agencies** to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources:

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. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1(d))

The law does not preclude agencies from initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated with their jurisdictions. The NAHC believes that in fact that this is the best practice to ensure that tribes are consulted commensurate with the intent of the law.

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1(d), formal notification must include 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. The NAHC believes that agencies should also include with their notification letters information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the 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 have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE;
 - 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;
 - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the potential 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 results of any Sacred Lands File (SFL) check conducted through Native American Heritage Commission. A search of the SFL was completed for the project with negative results.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the potential APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the potential APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS is not exhaustive, and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a cultural place. 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 case 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 me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our consultation list contains current information.

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

Sincerely,



Gayle Totton, M.A., PhD.
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
4/6/2017**

Colorado River Indian Tribe

Dennis Patch, Chairman
26600 Mojave Road
Parker, AZ, 85344
Phone: (928)669-9211
Fax: (928)669-1925
crit.museum@yahoo.com

Chemehuevi
Mojave

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Goldie Walker, Chairperson
P.O. Box 343
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (909)528-9027

Serrano

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Denisa Torres, Cultural Resources
Manager
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951) 849 - 8807
Fax: (951) 922-8146
dtorres@morongo-nsn.gov

Cahuilla
Serrano

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951)849-8807
Fax: (951)922-8146

Cahuilla
Serrano

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

John Valenzuela, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA, 91322
Phone: (760) 885 - 0955
tsen2u@hotmail.com

Kitanemuk
Serrano
Tataviam

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Lee Clauss, Director of Cultural
Resources
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 864 - 8933
Fax: (909) 864-3370
lclauss@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Serrano

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 7060.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Fox Field Development Project, Los Angeles County.

ATTACHMENT 2



PHOTO 1: View to the southeast from the northwest property corner.



PHOTO 2: View to the northeast from the southeast property corner.

