

A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

OF

PLOT PLAN NO. 190038

and

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 200009

APN 461-140-050

±32.68 ACRES OF LAND IN MENIFEE

RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

USGS ROMOLAND, CALIFORNIA QUADRANGLE, 7.5' SERIES

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CONTENTS	
	Page
LIST OF FIGURES	iii
LIST OF TABLES	iii
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	3
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	
Topography and Geology	8
Biology	10
Climate	12
Discussion	12
CULTURAL SETTING	
Prehistory	14
Ethnography	15
History	20
METHODS AND PROCEDURES	
Research	30
Fieldwork	31
RESULTS	
Research	32
Fieldwork	39
RECOMMENDATIONS	40
CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION	41
REFERENCES	42
APPENDIX I	
Sacred Lands File Search Results	
Records Search Results	

LIST OF FIGURES	Page
1. Plot Plan No. 190038.	4
2. Conditional Use Permit No. 200009.	5
3. Location of Plot Plan No. 190038 and Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 in Winchester, western Riverside County.	6
4. Location of the study area relative to western Riverside County.	9
5. Aerial view of the subject property (2018).	10
6. Views of the subject property.	11
7. Ethnographic location of the study area.	16
8. Location of the subject property following the 1852 – 1880 GLO surveys.	24
9. State Volume Patent issued to Wade H. Clark for 157.41 acres on April 10, 1885.	34
10. Cartographic history of the subject property, 1901 – 1979.	38

LIST OF TABLES

1. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources in the Scope of the Records Search and Distance from Plot Plan No. 200009 and Conditional Use Permit No. 190038	33
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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of Plot Plan No. 190038 and Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 was requested by the project sponsor, Mr. Rich Soltysiak of RDS and Associates. The subject property encompasses ± 32.68 acres of land located east of Briggs Road, south of Grand Avenue, west of Leon Road and north of Simpson Road, in the community of Winchester, western Riverside County. The entirety of the ± 32.68 -acre parcel (APN 461-140-050) was included in this Phase I study, although only ± 23.88 acres are currently proposed for development: Plot Plan No. 190038 encompasses ± 12.39 acres and Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 encompasses ± 11.49 acres; the remaining ± 8.80 acres is not proposed for development at this time. Plot Plan No. 190038 is comprised of Menifee RV Storage on ± 2.3 acres and Rocket Shell on ± 10.09 acres. Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 is the existing So Cal Mulch, a landscape mulch materials storage yard facility. There are no proposed changes to zoning (Light Industrial) or General Plan designation.

The purpose of the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment was two-fold: 1) information was to be obtained pertaining to previous land uses of the subject property through research and a comprehensive field survey, and 2) a determination was to be made if, and to what extent, existing cultural resources would be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

Cultural resources of either prehistoric or historical origin were not observed within the boundaries of the subject property. No information has been obtained through Native American consultation that the subject property is culturally or spiritually significant and no Traditional Cultural Properties that currently serve religious or other community practices are known to exist within the project boundaries. During the current cultural resources evaluation, no artifacts or remains were identified or recovered that could be reasonably associated with such practices.

A records search completed by staff at the Eastern Information Center, University of California, Riverside indicated that one previous cultural resource study had involved the subject property. The 1990 cultural resources study, which included 2900 acres of the Winchester Hills project, recorded no cultural resources within the boundaries of the subject property, despite the presence of a ca. 1938 house and a ca. 1976 associated structure that existed at that time. Both structures were demolished approximately four years ago.

The subject property is located in a well-studied area with 37 previous cultural resource studies having been conducted within a one-mile radius, many of which included large acreages. During the course of these studies, 24 cultural resources properties have been recorded, none of which involved the project area. Of the recorded cultural resource properties, 14 were of prehistoric (Native American) origin and were comprised almost exclusively of bedrock milling features. Eight

sites were of historical origin and two sites had both prehistoric and historical components. Perhaps of greater significance is that all prehistoric sites were recorded three-quarters to one mile from the subject property, with most at the one-mile radius limit. The two sites containing both prehistoric and historical resources were located one-half to three-quarters of a mile from the subject property. Within a one-quarter to one-half mile radius were one historical era site and a prehistoric isolated artifact fragment. Only two sites, both historical farmsteads, are located within one-quarter mile of the proposed developments. The Native American Heritage Commission determined that the Sacred Lands File search results were negative. Finally, no responses to project scoping letters sent to 14 tribal representatives have been received.

In consideration of the above, it is clear that Plot Plan No. 190038 and Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 are located in an area that is moderately sensitive for historical resources, but not sensitive for prehistoric (Native American) archaeological resources. The historical sensitivity is further enhanced by the fact that up until relatively recently, one structure that was at least 83 years old and one structure that was 45 years old existed on the property. Typically, this would minimally warrant a recommendation for archaeological grading monitoring in the area where the structures previously existed. However, in this case, such a recommendation would essentially be irrelevant. The historical structures were in the area where the So Cal Mulch mobile home office, parking, and fuel stations are now located, and the proposed Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 project is limited to spreading decomposed granite at grade to provide a pervious parking surface area. There is no proposed grading, additional structures, or utilities included in the CUP. As far as grading monitoring for Plot Plan 190038, no tribal responses to project scoping letters apprising them of the proposed developments have been received, no cultural resources were observed on the property, and the lack of recorded cultural resources in the near vicinity indicate a very low probability of an existing subsurface cultural deposit. Therefore, neither further research nor mitigation is recommended for the subject property, which at this time includes Conditional Use Permit No. 200009, Plot Plan No. 190038, and the remaining acreage of APN 461-140-050. However, should any cultural resources be discovered during the course of earthmoving activities anywhere on the subject property, said activities should be halted or diverted until the qualified archaeologist can evaluate the resources, make a determination of their significance, and recommend appropriate treatment measures to mitigate impacts to the resources from the project, if found to be significant. If human remains are encountered unexpectedly during implementation of the project, compliance with State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 is required, with no further disturbances to the land until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98.

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and County of Riverside Planning Department requirements, the project sponsor contracted with Jean A. Keller, Ph.D., Cultural Resources Consultant, to conduct a Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of the subject property on September 9, 2020. The purpose of the assessment was to identify, evaluate, and recommend mitigation measures for existing cultural resources that may be adversely impacted by the proposed development.

The Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment commenced with a request submitted on September 12, 2020, to staff at the Eastern Information Center, University of California, Riverside to conduct a records search of available maps, site records, and reports. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the EIC has been closed since March 16, 2020, with only the administrator conducting records search from home. As such, the results of the records search were not received until March 16, 2021. A request for a Sacred Lands File search was submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission on September 12, 2020 and received on September 15, 2020. Subsequently, on September 18, 2020, project scoping letters were sent to 15 tribal representatives listed as being interested in project development in the Winchester area. A literature search of available publications and archival documents pertaining to the subject property followed the records and Sacred Lands File searches. Finally, a comprehensive pedestrian field survey of the subject property was conducted for the purpose of locating, documenting, and evaluating all existing cultural resources within its boundaries.

The subject property (APN 461-140-050) encompasses ± 32.68 acres, and the entirety was included in this Phase I study. Only ± 23.88 acres are currently proposed for development: Plot Plan No. 190038 encompasses ± 12.39 acres and Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 encompasses ± 11.49 acres; the remaining ± 8.80 acres are not proposed for development at this time. Plot Plan No. 190038 (hereafter, PP 190038) is comprised of Meniffee RV Storage on ± 2.3 acres and Rocket Shell, a pod storage facility, on ± 10.09 acres (Fig. 1). Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 (hereafter, CUP 200009) is the existing So Cal Mulch, a landscape mulch materials storage yard facility (Fig. 2). As shown on the USGS Romoland, California Topographic Map, 7.5' series, the subject property is located in Section 30, Township 5 south, Range 2 west, SBM (Fig. 3). The eastern and part of the central portions of the property are currently occupied by large piles of landscape mulch materials associated with the existing So Cal Mulch operation. Also included are a mobile home office, parking area, two fueling stations, three sea crate storage vault units. The western third of the property is covered by broken concrete, gravel, rocks, and a variety of other discarded materials. Adjacent land uses are rural residential to the east, agriculture to the north and south, and a single-family residential tract development to the west. Disturbances to

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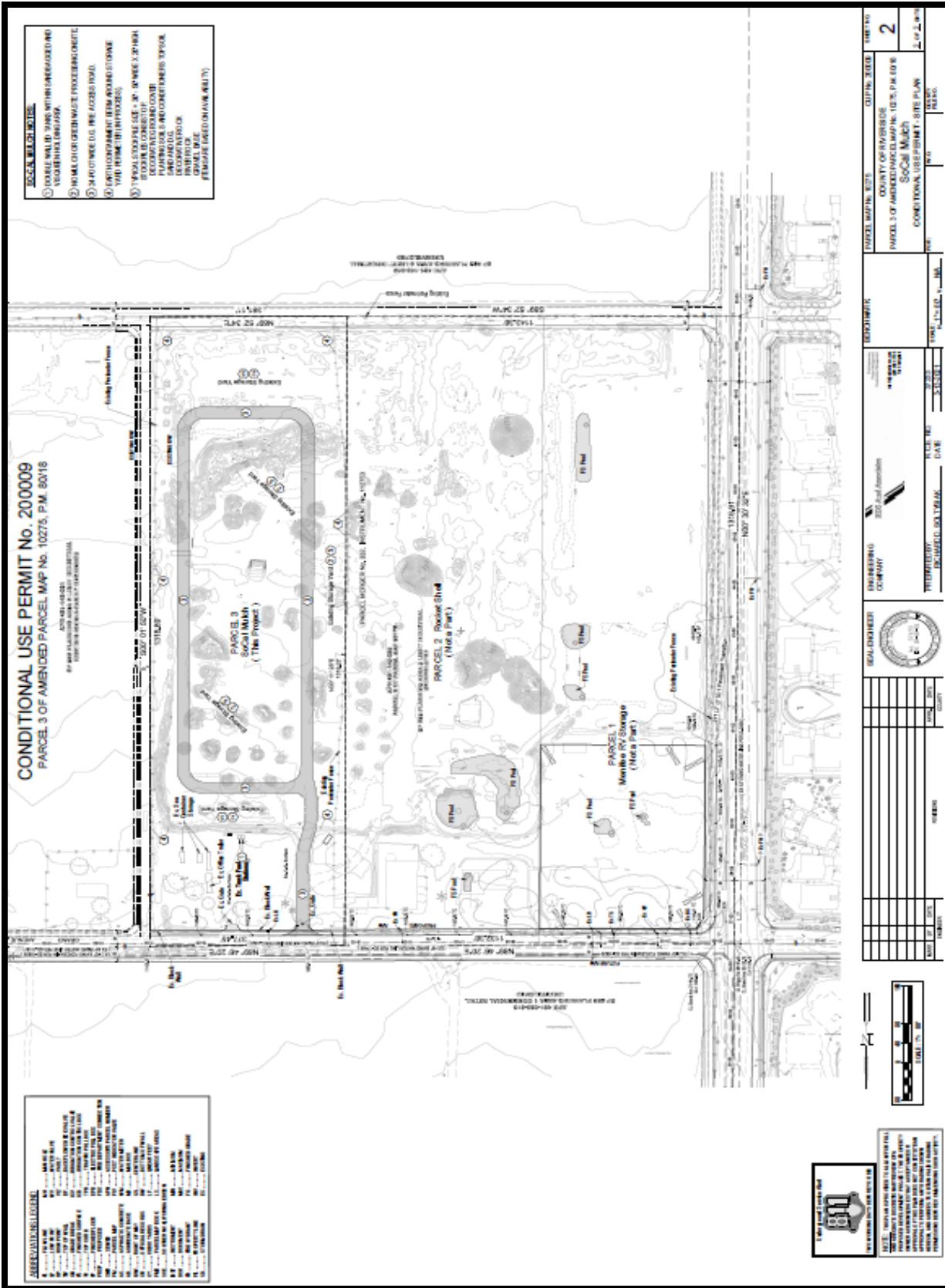


Figure 2: Conditional Use Permit No. 200009.

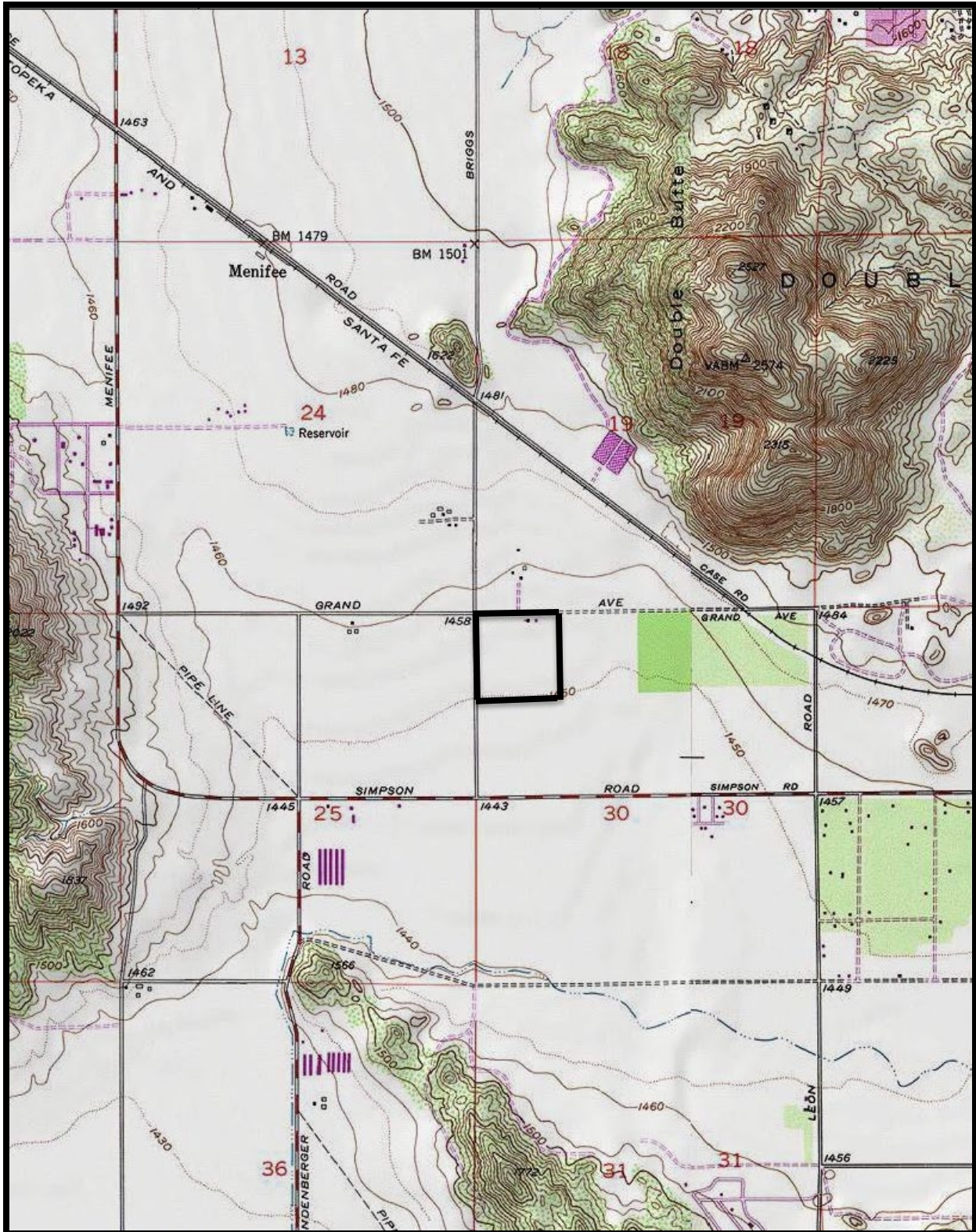


Figure 3: Location of the subject property (APN 461-140-050), including Plot Plan No. 190038 and Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 in Winchester, western Riverside County. Adapted from USGS Romoland, Calif. 7.5' Topographic Map (photorevised 1979).

the subject property are substantial and represent cumulative impacts resulting from construction, residential occupation, past agricultural endeavors, periodic vegetation clearance, debris deposits, and operation of So Cal Mulch. It is unlikely that any portion of the property has not been adversely impacted by one or more factors.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Topography and Geology

The subject property is located in the community of Winchester, western Riverside County. It is situated within a topographically diverse region that is defined by Double Butte to the northeast, Domenigoni Valley to the southeast, Lake Elsinore to the southwest, and Steele Peak to the northwest (Fig. 4). Virtually all drainage in the vicinity of the subject property has been channelized, but historically the drainage pattern has been in a southerly direction toward Warm Springs Creek, then to Murrieta Creek, and ultimately, the Santa Margarita River south of Temecula. For the most part, drainage is intermittent, occurring only as the result of seasonal precipitation.

Topographically, the subject property is comprised of a relatively flat alluvial plain (Fig. 5 and 6). Elevations are essentially 1456 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) across the entire property. A permanent source of water was not observed within the property boundaries, although interestingly, a USGS-designated blueline stream is shown cartographically in 1939, essentially bisecting the property, entering the northeastern property boundary and exiting the southeastern property boundary. By 1951, this watercourse no longer appears cartographically. The original topography appears to have been somewhat modified to facilitate construction of two previous structures, as well as a number of enterprises, including So Cal Mulch, over a period of many decades.

The proposed project is situated in the Perris Peneplain, a portion of the Northern Peninsular Range Province of Southern California. The Perris Peneplain is a broad valley bounded on three sides by mountain ranges: the San Jacinto Mountains on the east, the San Bernardino Mountains on the north, and the Santa Ana Mountains on the southwest. The northwestern extent of the Perris Peneplain is the Santa Ana River. The Peneplain is a large depositional basin composed primarily of materials eroded from the granitic bedrock surfaces of the Southern California Batholith. The geological composition of the subject property is representative of the region as a whole, with alluvial fans and terraces formed by local granitic bedrock decomposition. Bedrock outcrops suitable for use in food processing and rock art by indigenous peoples of the region are not present within the boundaries of the property. Loose lithic material ranges from very sparse to nonexistent where ground surface visibility was clear. Literally tons of rock, as well as broken concrete, gravel, and a variety of other materials have been dumped in the western third of the property, so it was not possible to discern whether any native material was present. None of the limited loose lithic materials observed would have been suitable for tool production by Native Americans who occupied this area.

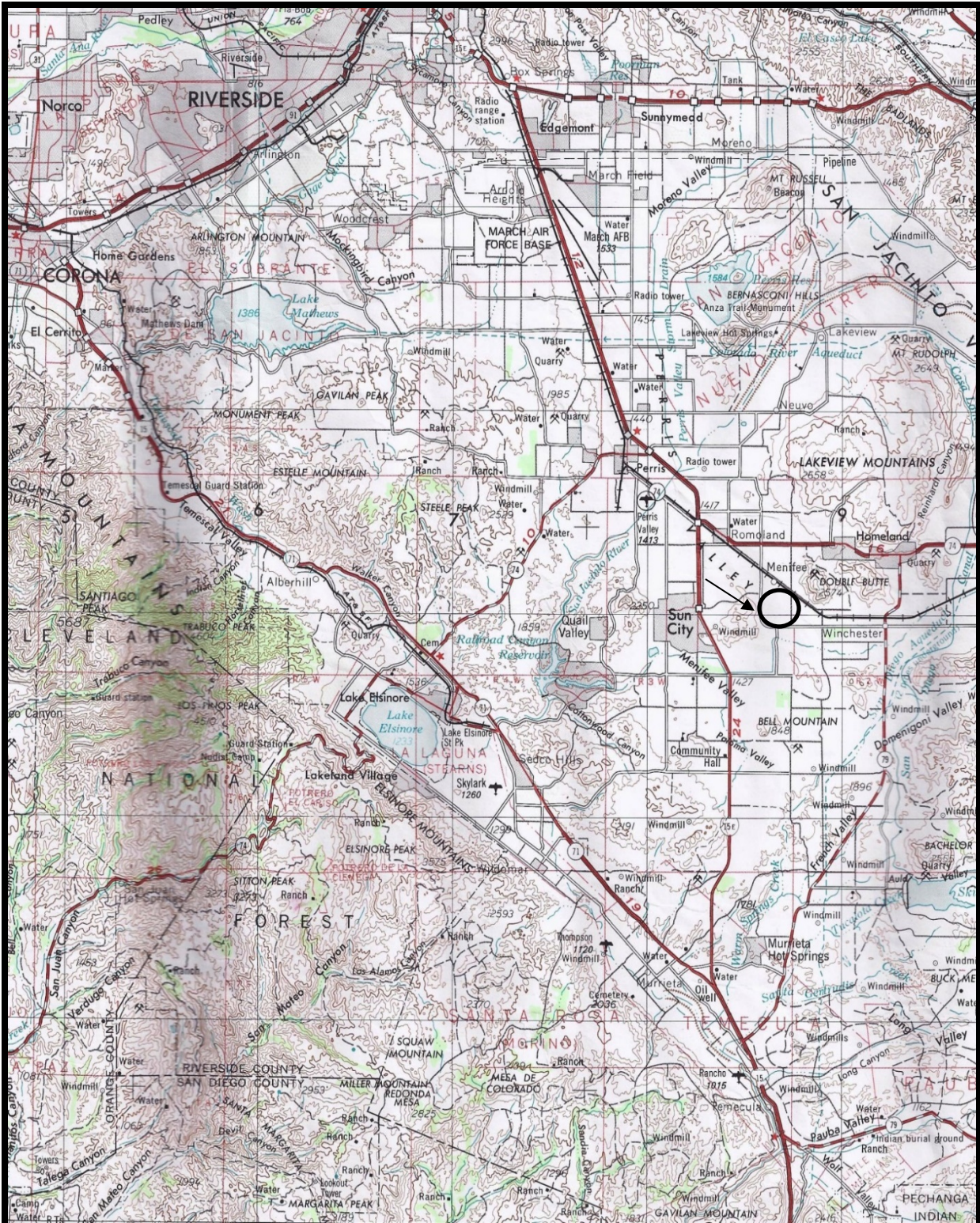


Figure 4: Location of the study area relative to western Riverside County. Adapted from USGS Santa Ana, California Topographic Map (1959, photorevised 1979). Scale 1:250,000.



Figure 5: Aerial view of the subject property (2018).

Biology

No native vegetation was observed within the boundaries of the subject property. A variety of non-native invasive species were scattered primarily in the undeveloped western portion of the property. Identified species included stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*), tumbleweed (*Amaranthus albus*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*), and tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*). Several large trees were planted around the area



View from southeastern property corner looking northwest.



View from the southwestern property corner looking northeast.

Figure 6: Views of the subject property.

where two previous structures were situated, as well as along the western and northern property boundaries.

Prior to residential occupation, agricultural endeavors, debris deposits, and a multitude of uses since at least 1938, the land included with the subject property undoubtedly hosted diverse plant species representative of the native Riversidian Sage Scrub Plant Community, which predominates in this region. Characteristic plant species include, but are not limited to, white sage (*Salvia apiana*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), buffalo gourd (*Cucurbita foetidissima*), wild cucumber (*Marach macrocarpus*) and laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*). Indigenous peoples of the region commonly used plants of this community for food, construction, medicine, and implement production.

During both the prehistoric and historical periods an abundance of faunal species inhabited the study area. However, due to regional urbanization, the current faunal community is generally restricted to those species that can exist in proximity to humans, such as valley pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), Audobon's cottontail (*Sylvilagus audobonii*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), and occasionally, mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*).

Climate

The climate of the study area is that typical of cismontane Southern California, which on the whole is warm, and rather dry. This climate is classified as Mediterranean or "summer-dry subtropical." Temperatures seldom fall below freezing or rise above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The rather limited precipitation received occurs primarily during the summer months.

Discussion

The entirety of the subject property has been altered by grading, construction, agricultural endeavors, residential occupation, periodic vegetation clearance, debris deposits, and numerous light industrial endeavors, such as So Cal Mulch. As a result, it is difficult to determine the degree to which resources would have been available to support indigenous populations of the region. Based on the type and quantity of cultural resources recorded on adjacent properties, it is probable that locally available floral and faunal resources offered opportunities to Native Americans for procuring food, as well as components for medicines, tools, and construction materials. Bedrock outcrops do not exist within the project boundaries, thus precluding opportunities for food processing, rock art, or shelter. Loose lithic material is very sparsely scattered throughout portions of the property, but none of what was observed would have been suitable for the indigenous production of ground or flaked stone tools. A permanent source of

water does not exist within the property, though one may have existed during the early 20th century and even earlier but was no longer present by 1951. Finally, the subject property does not possess the types of defensive locations preferred by Native peoples of the region for long-term habitation. It is probable that the subject property was utilized for seasonal resource exploitation by indigenous peoples of the region and not for long-term occupation.

Criteria for occupation during the historical era were generally somewhat different than for aboriginal occupation since later populations did not depend solely on natural resources for survival. During the historical era, the subject property would have been considered very desirable due to the flat topography, tillable soil, and its proximity to urban centers and major transportation corridors.

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistory

On the basis of currently available archaeological research, occupation of Southern California by human populations is believed to have begun at least 10,000 years ago. A number of theories propose much earlier occupation, specifically during the Pleistocene Age, but at this time archaeological evidence has not been fully substantiated. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, only human occupation within the past 10,000 years will be addressed. A time frame of occupation may be determined on the basis of characteristic cultural resources. These comprise what are known as cultural traditions or complexes. It is through the presence or absence of time-sensitive artifacts at a particular site that the apparent time of occupation may be suggested.

In general, the earliest established cultural tradition in Southern California is accepted to be the San Dieguito Tradition, first described by Malcolm Rogers in the 1920's. The San Dieguito people were nomadic large-game hunters whose tool assemblage included large domed scrapers, leaf-shaped knives and projectile points, stemmed projectile points, chipped stone crescentics, and hammerstones (Rogers 1939; Rogers 1966). The San Dieguito Tradition was further divided into three phases: San Dieguito I is found only in the desert regions, while San Dieguito II and III occur on both sides of the Peninsular Ranges. Rogers felt that these phases formed a sequence in which increasing specialization and refinement of tool types were the key elements. Although absolute dates for the various phase changes have not been hypothesized or fully substantiated by a stratigraphic sequence, the San Dieguito Tradition as a whole is believed to have existed from approximately 7000 to 10,000 years ago.

Throughout southwestern California the La Jolla Complex followed the San Dieguito Tradition. The La Jolla Complex, as first described by Rogers (1939, 1945), then redefined by Harding (1951), is recognized primarily by the presence of millingstone assemblages within shell middens. Characteristic cultural resources of the La Jolla Complex include basined millingstones, unshaped manos, flaked stone tools, shell middens, and a few Pinto-like projectile points. Flexed inhumations under stone cairns, with heads pointing north, are also present (Rogers 1939, 1945; Warren *et al* 1961).

The La Jolla Complex existed from 5500 to 1000 BCE. Although there are several hypotheses to account for the origins of this complex, it would appear that it was a cultural adaptation to climatic warming after c. 6000 BCE. This warming may have stimulated movements to the coast of desert peoples who then shared their millingstone technology with the older coastal groups (Moratto 1984). The La Jollan economy and tool assemblage seems to indicate such an infusion of coastal and desert traits instead of a total cultural displacement.

The Pauma Tradition, as first identified by D.L. True in 1958, may be an inland variant of the La Jolla Complex, exhibiting a shift to a hunting and gathering economy, rather than one based on shellfish gathering. Implications of this shift are an increase in number and variety of stone tools and a decrease in the amount of shell (Meighan 1954; True 1958; Warren 1968; True 1977). At this time, it is not known whether the Pauma Complex represents the seasonal occupation of inland sites by La Jollan groups or whether it represents a shift from a coastal to a non-coastal cultural adaptation by the same people.

The late period is represented by the San Luis Rey Complex, first identified by Meighan (1954) and later redefined by True *et al* (1974). Meighan divided this complex into two periods: San Luis Rey I (1400-1750 CE) and the San Luis Rey II (1750-1850 CE). The San Luis Rey I type component includes cremations, bedrock mortars, millingsstones, small triangular projectile points with concave bases, bone awls, stone pendants, *Olivella* shell beads, and quartz crystals. The San Luis Rey II assemblage is the same as San Luis Rey I, but with the addition of pottery vessels, cremation urns, tubular pipes, stone knives, steatite arrow straighteners, red and black pictographs, and such non-aboriginal items as metal knives and glass beads (Meighan 1954). Inferred San Luis Rey subsistence activities include hunting and gathering with an emphasis on acorn harvesting.

Ethnography

Available ethnographic research indicates that the study area was included in the known territory of the Luiseño Indians during both prehistoric and historic times. The name Luiseño is Spanish in origin and was used in reference to those aboriginal inhabitants of Southern California associated with the Mission San Luis Rey. As far as can be determined, the Luiseño, whose language is of the Takic family (part of the Californian Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock), had no equivalent word for their nationality because they did not consider themselves to “belong to” the Spanish occupiers. The Luiseño called themselves *Atáaxum*, which means “people,” and traditional songs refer to the people as *Payómkawichum*, “people of the west.” The people were also associated with their villages. For example, today the Pechanga people refer to themselves as the *Pechangayam*, “people of Pechanga.”

According to ethnographers and Luiseño oral tradition, the territory of the Luiseño was extensive, encompassing much of coastal and inland Southern California. Known territorial boundaries extended on the west to the Southern Channel Islands, to the Santa Ana River and Box Springs Mountain on the north, as far northeast as Mt. San Jacinto, to Lake Henshaw on the southeast, and to Agua Hedionda Creek on the southwest. Their habitat included every ecological zone from sea level to 6000 mean feet above sea level.

Territorial boundaries of the Luiseño were shared with the Gabrieliño and Serrano to the north, the Cahuilla to the east, the Cupeño and Ipai to the south (Fig. 7). With the exception of the Ipai,

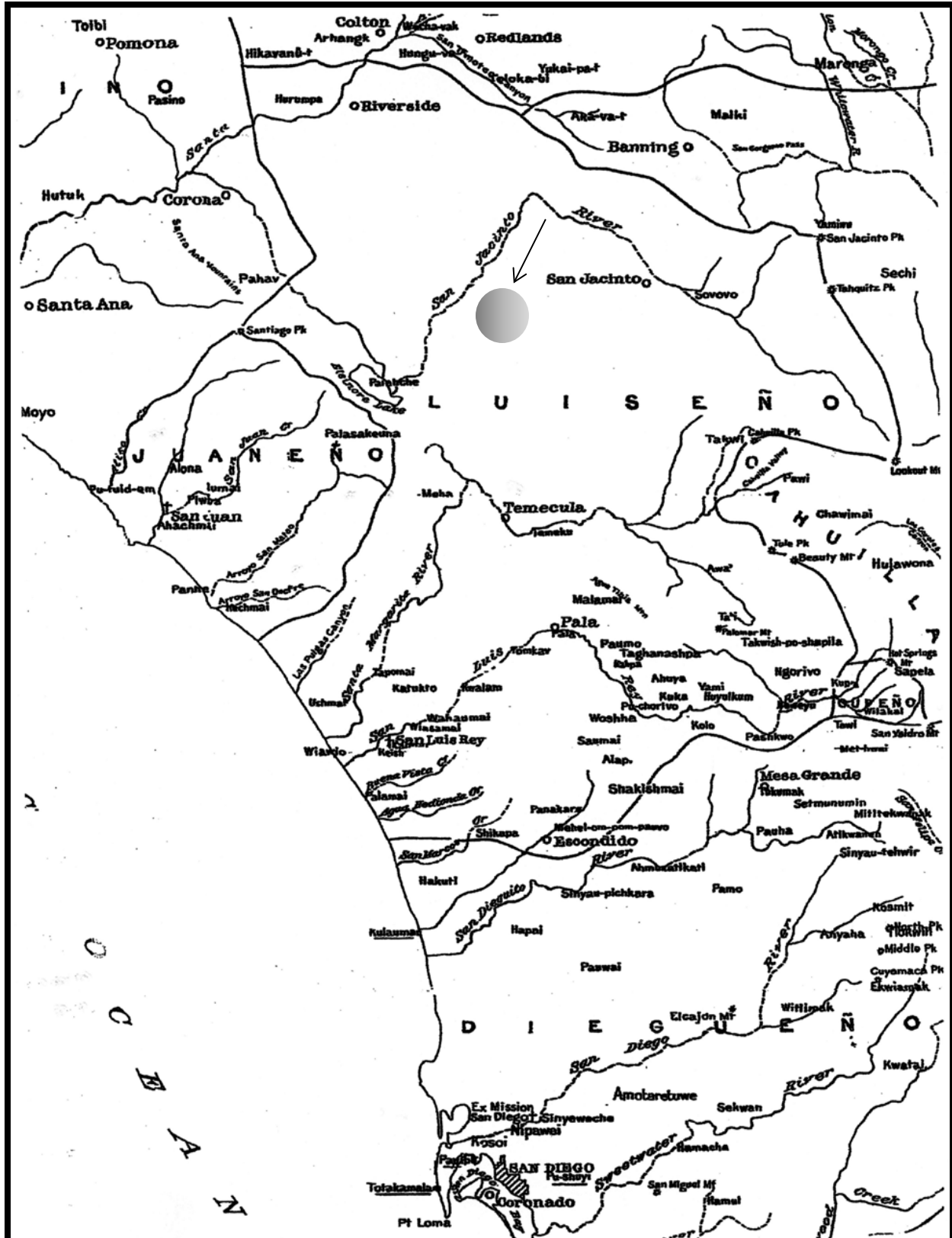


Figure 7: Ethnographic location of the study area. Adapted from Kroeber (1925).

these tribes shared similar cultural and language traditions. Although the social structure and philosophy of the Luiseño were similar to that of neighboring tribes, they had a greater population density and correspondingly, a more rigid social structure.

The settlement pattern of the Luiseño was based on the establishment and occupation of sedentary autonomous village groups. Villages were usually situated near adequate sources of food and water, in defensive locations primarily found in sheltered coves and canyons. Typically, a village was comprised of permanent houses, a sweathouse, and a religious edifice. The permanent houses of the Luiseño were earth-covered and built over a two-foot excavation (Kroeber 1925:654). According to informants' accounts, the dwellings were conical roofs resting on a few logs leaning together, with a smoke hole in the middle of the roof and entrance through a door. Cooking was done outside, when possible, on a central interior hearth when necessary. The sweathouse was similar to the houses except that it was smaller, elliptical, and had a door in one of the long sides. Heat was produced directly by a wood fire. Finally, the religious edifice was usually just a round fence of brush with a main entrance for viewing by the spectators and several narrow openings for entry by the ceremonial dancers (Kroeber 1925:655).

Luiseño subsistence was based on seasonal floral and faunal resource procurement. Each village had specific resource procurement territories, most of which were within one day's travel of the village. During the autumn of each year, however, most of the village population would migrate to the mountain oak groves and camp for several weeks to harvest the acorn crop, hunt, and collect local resources not available near the village. Hunters typically employed traps, nets, throwing sticks, snares, or clubs for procuring small animals, while larger animals were usually ambushed, then shot with bow and arrow. The Luiseño normally hunted antelope and jackrabbits in the autumn by means of communal drives, although individual hunters also used bow and arrow to hunt jackrabbits throughout the year. Many other animals were available to the Luiseño during various times of the year but were generally not eaten. These included dog, coyote, bear, tree squirrel, dove, pigeon, mud hen, eagle, buzzard, raven, lizards, frogs, and turtles (Kroeber 1925:62).

Small game was prepared by broiling it on coals. Venison and rabbit were either broiled on coals or cooked in an earthen oven. Whatever meat was not immediately consumed was crushed on a mortar, then dried and stored for future use (Sparkman 1908:208). Of all the food sources utilized by the Luiseño, acorns were by far the most important. Six species were collected in great quantities during the autumn of every year, although some were favored more than others. In live oak (*Q. chrysolepsis*), Engelmann Oak (*Q. engelmannii*), interior live oak (*Q. wislizenii*), and order of preference, they were black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), coast live oak (*Q. agrifolia*), canyon scrub oak (*Q. berberidifolia*). The latter three were used only when others were not available.

Acorns were prepared for consumption by crushing them in a stone mortar and leaching off the tannic acid, then made into either a mush or dried to a flour-like material for future use.

Herb and grass seeds were used almost as extensively as acorns. Many plants produce edible seeds which were collected between April and November. Important seeds included, but were not limited to, the following: California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), wild tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*), white tidy tips (*Layia glandulosa*), sunflower (*Helianthus annus*), calabazilla (*Cucurbita foetidissima*), sage (*Salvia carduacea* and *S. colombariae*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), peppergrass (*Lepidium nitidum*), and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). Seeds were parched, ground, cooked as mush, or used as flavoring in other foods.

Fruit, berries, corms, tubers, and fresh herbage were collected and often immediately consumed during the spring and summer months. Among those plants commonly used were basketweed (*Rhus trilobata*), Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos Adans.*), miner's lettuce (*Montia Claytonia*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinuss*). When an occasional large yield occurred, some berries, particularly juniper and manzanita, were dried and made into a mush at a later time.

Tools for food acquisition, preparation, and storage were made from widely available materials. Hunting was done with a bow and fire-hardened or stone-tipped arrows. Coiled and twined baskets were used in food gathering, preparation, serving, and storage. Seeds were ground with handstones on shallow granitic mutates, while stone mortars and pestles were used to pound acorns, nuts, and berries. Food was cooked in clay vessels over fireplaces or earthen ovens. The Luiseño employed a wide variety of other utensils produced from locally available geological, floral, and faunal resources in all phases of food acquisition and preparation.

The Luiseño subsistence system described above constitutes seasonal resource exploitation within their prescribed village-centered procurement territory. In essence, this cycle of seasonal exploitation was at the core of all Luiseño lifeways. During the spring collection of roots, tubers, and greens was emphasized, while seed collecting and processing during the summer months shifted this emphasis. The collection areas and personnel (primarily small groups of women) involved in these activities remained virtually unchanged. However, as the autumn acorn harvest approached, the settlement pattern of the Luiseño altered completely. Small groups joined to form the larger groups necessary for the harvest and village members left the villages for the mountain oak groves for several weeks. Upon completion of the annual harvest, village activities centered on the preparation of collected foods for use during the winter. Since few plant food resources were available for collection during the winter, this time was generally spent repairing and manufacturing tools and necessary implements in preparation for the coming resource procurement seasons.

Each Luiseño village was a clan tribelet – a group of people patrilineally related who owned an area in common and who were both politically and economically autonomous from neighboring villages (Bean & Shipek, 555). The chief of each village inherited his position and was responsible, with the help of an assistant, for the administration of religious, economic, and warfare powers. A council comprised of ritual specialists and shamans, also hereditary positions, advised the chief on matters concerning the environment, rituals, and supernatural powers.

According to early ethnographers, the social structure of the villages is obscure, since the Luiseño apparently did not practice the organizational system of exogamous moieties used by many of the surrounding Native American groups. At birth, a baby was confirmed into the house-holding group and patrilineage. Girls and boys went through numerous puberty initiation rituals during which they learned about the supernatural beings governing them and punishing any infractions of the rules of behavior and ritual (Sparkman, 221-225). The boys' ceremonies including the drinking of toloache (*Datura*), visions, dancing, ordeals, and the teaching of songs and rituals. Girls' ceremonies included advice and instruction in the necessary knowledge for married life, "roasting" in warm sands, and rock painting. Shortly after the completion of the puberty initiation rituals, girls were married, typically to someone arranged for by the girl's parents. Although the Luiseño were concerned that marriages not occur between individuals too closely related, it has been suggested that cross-cousin marriages were the norm prior to Spanish Catholic influences beginning in 1769 (White, 169-170). Luiseño marriages created important economic and social alliances between lineages and were celebrated accordingly with elaborate ceremonies and a bride price. Residence was typically patrilineal and polygyny, often sororal, was practiced especially by chiefs and shamans.

One of the most important elements in the Luiseño life cycle was death. At least a dozen successive mourning ceremonies were held following an individual's death, with feasting taking place and gifts being distributed to ceremony guests. Luiseño cosmology was based on a dying-god theme, the focus of which was *Wiyó-t'*, a creator-culture hero and teacher who was the son of earth-mother (Bean & Shipek, 557). The order of the world was established by this entity, and he was one of the first "people" or creations. Upon the death of *Wiyó-t'* the nature of the universe changed, and the existing world of plants, animals, and humans was created. The original creations took on the various life forms now existing and worked out solutions for living. These solutions included a spatial organization of species for living space and a chain-of-being concept that placed each species into a mutually beneficial relationship with all others.

Based on Luiseño settlement and subsistence patterns, the type of archaeological sites associated with this culture may be expected to represent the various activities involved in seasonal resource exploitation. Temporary campsites usually evidenced by lithic debris and/or milling features, may be expected to occur relatively frequently. Food processing stations, often

only single milling features, are perhaps the most abundant type of site found. Isolated artifacts occur with approximately the same frequency as food processing stations. The most infrequently occurring archaeological site is the village site. Sites of this type are usually large, in defensive locations amidst abundant natural resources, and usually surrounded by the types of sites previously discussed, which reflect the daily activity of the villagers. Little is known of ceremonial sites, although the ceremonies themselves are discussed frequently in the ethnographic literature. It may be assumed that such sites would be found in association with village sites, but with what frequency is not known.

History

Four principal periods of historical occupation existed in Southern California: the Protohistoric Period (1540-1768 CE), the Spanish Mission Period (1769-1830 CE), the Mexican Rancho Period (1830-1848 CE), and the American Developmental Period (1848-present CE).

In the general study area, the Spanish Mission Period (1769-1830 CE) first represents historical occupation. Although earlier European explorers had traveled throughout South California, it was not until the 1769 "Sacred Expedition" of Captain Gaspar de Portola and Franciscan Father Junipero Serra that there was actual contact with aboriginal inhabitants of the region. The intent of the expedition, which began in San Blas, Baja California, was to establish missions and presidios along the California coast, thereby serving the dual purpose of converting Indians to Christianity and expanding Spain's military presence in the "New World." In addition, each mission became a commercial enterprise utilizing Indian labor to produce commodities such as wheat, hides, and tallow that could be exported to Spain. Founded on July 16, 1769, the Mission San Diego de Alcalá was the first of the missions, while the Mission San Francisco Solana was the last mission, founded on July 4, 1823.

In 1798 the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia was founded and all aboriginals living within the mission's realm of influence became known as the "Luiseño." Within a 20-year period, under the guidance of Fr. Antonio Peyri, the mission prospered to a degree that it was often referred to as the "King of the Missions." At its peak, the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, which is located in what is now Oceanside, controlled six ranches and annually produced 27,000 cattle, 26,000 sheep, 1300 goats, 500 pigs, 1900 horses, and 67,000 bushels of grain. During this period, the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia claimed the entire region that is now western Riverside County and northern San Diego County as a cattle ranch, although records of the Mission San Juan Capistrano show this region as part of their holdings.

Toward the end of this period, a federal law was passed that would have a substantial future impact on the study area in that it encouraged both increased settlement and land speculation.

The Land Act of 1820, enacted April 24, 1820, ended the ability to purchase the United States' public domain lands on a credit or installment system over four years, as previously established. The new law became effective July 1, 1820 and required full payment at the time of purchase and registration. But to encourage more sales and make land more affordable, Congress also reduced both the minimum price from \$2.00 to \$1.25 per acre and the minimum size of a standard tract from 160 to 80 acres. The minimum full payment now amounted to \$100, rather than \$320. By lowering the price of land and the amount of land required for purchase, the law made it possible for settlers to move to the West, thus increasing the population and decreasing the need for illegal occupation. Although the Land Act of 1820 was good for the average American, it was also good for the wealthy land speculators who had sufficient money to buy the lower cost land, hoping to sell it later at a higher price. Although the Land Act helped create a new age of Western growth and influence, it also increased the confiscation of land from Native Americans.

During the Mexican Rancho Period (1830-1848 CE) the first of the Mexican ranchos were established following the enactment of the Secularization Act of 1833 by the Mexican government. Mexican governors were empowered to grant vacant land to “contractors (*empresarios*), families, or private citizens, whether Mexicans or foreigners, who may ask for them for the purpose of cultivating or inhabiting them” (Robinson 66). Mexican governors granted approximately 500 ranchos during this period. Although legally a land grant could not exceed 11 square leagues (about 50,000 acres or 76 square miles) and absentee ownership was officially forbidden, neither edict was rigorously enforced (*ibid*). Although the subject property was not located within any of the ranchos, it was approximately five miles southwest of the San Jacinto Viejo Rancho, so it is probable that activities occurring on the rancho had at least an indirect impact on the area in which the subject property was located.

The first use of the name San Jacinto Rancho was for a Mission San Luis Rey cattle ranch that had been named for the Silesian-born Dominican Saint Hyacinth (Jacinto is Spanish for Hyacinth), although there is no record of exactly when the mission established the ranch. The ranch was claimed by the Mission San Juan Capistrano as well but remained in the possession of the Mission San Luis Rey. On August 9, 1842, José Antonio Estudillo, who had been *mayordomo* of the Mission San Luis Rey from 1840 to 1843, filed an application for a grant of the four square leagues of the San Jacinto Rancho. Estudillo’s petition stated that the land was absolutely vacant and that the land contained only an “indifferent house covered with earth, ten varas in length and of a corresponding width, which however is in a ruinous condition, and also an old corral which is useless, all constructed by the Indians, who sometimes live there, at which times they also make some small gardens” (Gunther, 468). Mexican authorities investigated Estudillo’s claim and determined that the land was indeed vacant and had been so for a long time, with only “three Christianized Indians living on said place,” all of whom were reportedly desirous of Estudillo

taking over the land. Although two other Individuals had previously petitioned for the ranch, Governor pro-tem Manuel Jimeno, apparently in consideration of Estudillo's work for the Mexican government as mayordomo of San Luis Rey, granted eight square leagues of the San Jacinto Rancho to Estudillo on December 21, 1842, an amount of land twice the size of what Estudillo had requested.

Such a large grant may have overwhelmed Estudillo because in 1845 Estudillo's son-in-law, Miguel de Pedrorena, petitioned for the grant of surplus land from the San Jacinto Rancho. Pedrorena's petition showed the original eight-league grant cut in half with Estudillo's portion to the southeast labeled "San Jacinto Viejo" (Old San Jacinto) and Pedrorena's portion in the northwest named "San Jacinto Nuevo" (New San Jacinto). Pedrorena also requested a small area north of San Jacinto in the Badlands. When submitted to the governor, Pedrorena's entire petition was called the San Jacinto Nuevo y Potrero, which essentially means "surplus lands of the old San Jacinto Rancho.

It was also during this period of history that the California Gold Rush occurred. During the years of the gold rush most mining occurred in the northern and central portions of the state. As a result, these areas were far more populated than most of southern California. Nevertheless, there was an increasing demand for land throughout the state and the federal government was forced to address the issue of how much land in California would be declared public land for sale. The Congressional Act of 1851 created a land commission to receive petitions from private land claimants and to determine the validity of their claims. The United States Land Survey of California conducted by the General Land Office, also began that year. Since the subject property was considered public land, it was included in the GLO surveys beginning in 1852 and continuing until 1880 (Fig.8).

In the final period of historical occupation, the American Developmental Period (1848-present), the first major changes in the study area took place as a result of land issues addressed in the previous decade. Following completion of the General Land Office surveys, large tracts of federal land became available for sale and for preemption purposes, particularly after Congress passed the Homestead Act of 1862. California was eventually granted 500,000 acres of land by the federal government for distribution, as well as two sections of land in each township for school purposes. Much of this land was located in the southern portion of the state. Under the Homestead Act of 1862, 160-acre homesteads were available to citizens of the United States (or those who had filed an intention to become one) who were either the head-of-household or a single person over the age of 21 (including women). Once the homestead claim was filed the applicant had six months to move onto the land and was required to maintain residency for five years as well as to build a dwelling and raise crops. Upon completion of these requirements the homesteader had to publish intent to close on the property in order to allow others to dispute

the claim. If no one did so the homesteader was issued a patent to the property, thus conveying ownership. Individuals were attracted to the federal lands by their low prices and as a result, the population began to increase in regions where the lands available for homestead were located. It was at this time that the region of Southern California which became Riverside County saw an influx of settlers as well as those seeking other opportunities, including gold mining and land speculation, the latter being the result of application of the Land Act of 1820 to California. As Anglo-Americans came to this region in increasing numbers, the continued existence of Native Americans in the area was threatened as their traditional lands were taken from them.

On March 17, 1882, the California Southern Railroad commenced service, extending from National City near the Mexican border in San Diego County, northerly to Temecula and Murrieta, across the Perris Valley, down the Box Springs Grade, and on to the City of San Bernardino. Under the supervision of chief engineer Frederick Thomas Perris, the railway had been completed through the Perris Valley early in 1882 and settlers rushed to the region to homestead and buy railroad land. The original rail station in this area was the town of Pinacate, located approximately two miles south of the present city of Perris. Unfortunately, from the time the first train came through Temecula on its way from National City to San Bernardino, the California Southern Railroad had been plagued by flooding and washouts in Temecula Canyon. Railway service was disrupted for months at a time and a fortune was spent on rebuilding the washed-out tracks. Finally, in 1891 the Santa Fe Railroad constructed a new line from Los Angeles to San Diego down the coast and when later that year the California Southern Railway's route through Temecula Canyon once again washed out, that portion of the line was discontinued.

Around the time that the California Southern Railroad commenced service, Mr. L. Meniffee Wilson, a 20-year-old from Kentucky, moved to the area and located what appears to have been the first gold quartz mine in Southern California. The mine was located approximately four miles northwest of PP 190038/CUP 200009 and was named the Meniffee Quartz Lode. As news of his find spread, miners flocked to the region to try their luck. Hundreds of gold mining claims were subsequently filed in the region around Meniffee's mine and this area became known as Meniffee and the Meniffee Valley (Gunther, 319-320). In addition to the Meniffee Mine, four other gold mines were located in the vicinity of the subject property: the Lucky Boy (Walker) Mine was located four miles to the southwest, the Twin Buttes I Mine and the Twin Buttes II Mine were located one mile northeast, and the Leon Mine was located four miles to the south (Mines and Mineral Resources Map, 1968). Interestingly, the Leon Mine was apparently named after the Leon Post Office, established on May 4, 1888, on the southwest corner of what is now Scott Road and Briggs Road (Lech, 158-159). Not much is known about this post office except that its postmaster was Emil Leon Plath, and the post office was in his house. Plath homesteaded 160 acres southwest of the intersection of Scott and Briggs Road early enough to have received authorization for the post office yet did not receive a patent until July 20, 1892. He apparently

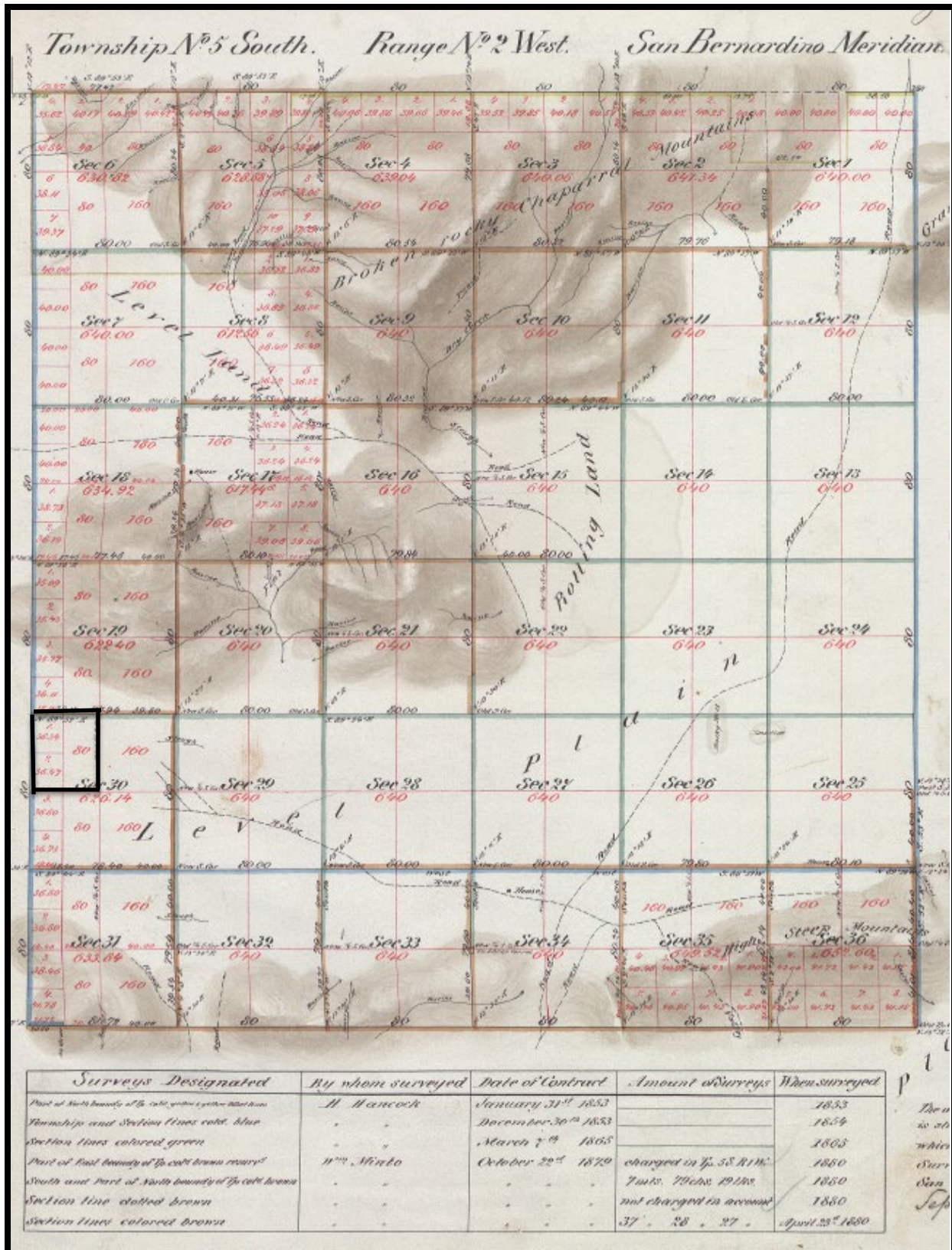


Figure 8: Location of the subject property following the 1852 to 1880 GLO surveys.
Adapted from the GLO Plat for Township No. 5 south, Range No. 2 west.

moved before the excitement of Leon Mine in 1894, so he obviously did not have any connection to the mine itself. After Plath left the area, the Leon Post Office moved several times, until it was finally discontinued on July 21, 1911 (Gunther, 289).

The locally famous Leon Mine was actually the second Leon Mine, the first having been discovered by John McCool and Arthur S. Auchincloss on January 27, 1892, about one mile southwest of the Leon post office. While the first was not destined to provide riches and ultimately faded into obscurity, the second Leon Mine was located within one-half mile of the post office and yielded an abundance of gold beginning with its discovery on February 26, 1894, by J. Watts Briggs. Briggs was soon joined by his brother, Charles H. Briggs, in developing the mine. Together they erected a roller mill, excavated a tunnel 300 feet into the hillside, with a perpendicular shaft down 130 feet, and constructed a boarding house and blacksmith shop (Gunther, 289-290). In September of 1895, the Leon Gold Mining Company became a corporation for the business of buying, selling, and developing mining properties. Leon Road was named for the post office and the mine, while Briggs Road was named for J. Watts Briggs.

Numerous gold quartz discoveries in the Menifee, Winchester, Perris, Murrieta, and Wildomar areas further fueled the belief that the entire region was one of unsurpassed mineral wealth, ripe for the taking. Wilson was one of the major proponents of this belief and in addition to his original mine, claimed several others in the general area. From the time of L. Menifee Wilson's first gold discovery in the early 1880's, gold production through hard rock mining in western Riverside County increased considerably, reaching its peak in 1895. At that time, the value of gold produced was reported in the *Mining and Scientific Press* (Vol. 85) as being \$285,106. Although the gold value was still relatively high in 1896 (\$262,800), from that point on production decreased substantially every year until in 1917 the value of gold was reported as being zero.

Based on numerous reports found in local newspapers such as the *Winchester Record*, *Perris New Era*, and *Riverside's Press and Horticulturist*, the gold boom in western Riverside County was rather short-lived, occurring primarily between late 1893 and mid-1895. During this period, there were almost daily articles enthusiastically touting the number of new mining claims being recorded, yields from the various operations, and the resultant population boom as news of the region's mineral wealth spread. By early 1896 the mining related articles were less frequent and often lamented the closing of mines, which was generally due to the lack of water necessary for processing gold-bearing ore. By this time, a far greater emphasis began to be placed on the agricultural potential of the area. Replacing daily reports on gold yields from the mines were crop yields and bushel reports from the growing number of farms in western Riverside County. Although settlers continued to move into this region and a number of small towns developed, the migration was less dynamic than it had been during the early years of the gold rush and the region retained a fairly rural flavor until the last decades of the 20th century.

Although the subject property is currently just across Briggs Road from the City of Menifee, it has always been considered Winchester, with the original town center being approximately 1.5 miles east. Although a great many settlers made their way to the Menifee Valley in the late 19th century, no true townsite settlement of Menifee was ever established in the region. In large part this was due to the fact that each settler controlled many hundreds of acres, so the families were widely scattered through the valley (Lech, 156-157). Around 1885 or 1886, a store opened south of the intersection of Newport Road and Bradley Road, with the Menifee Post Office being established in the store on May 18, 1887. This is approximately three miles southwest of the subject property. In 1890, the Menifee School District was formed, and the Menifee School was built on the southwest corner of Newport Road and Bradley Road. Since this was in the same neighborhood as the Menifee store and post office, this area served as the de facto “center” of Menifee, although it never expanded to become an actual townsite (*ibid.*).

The community of Winchester, which historically included the subject property, was founded in 1886. This area was originally known as Pleasant Valley, tracing its roots to the 1879 arrival of the first known non-Native settlers in the area, Robert Kirkpatrick and his four sons from Tennessee. Shortly thereafter, Swiss emigrants Angelo Domenigoni and Gaudenzio Garboni began ranching south of the community and Pleasant Valley began to expand as word spread of its attractive attributes. The community was also known as Rockhouse, named for Angelo Domenigoni’s rock house in which a post office had been established in 1880. The town itself was named for Mrs. Amy Winchester, about whom nothing is known except that she was the widow of Horace Winchester and that on various deeds between 1888 and 1891 her address was listed variously as Colton, Ontario, San Diego County, and San Bernardino County (Gunther, 575). On May 22, 1886, Mrs. Winchester and Dennis O’Leary purchased 320 acres of land located in the eastern half of Section 28, Township 5 south, Range 2 west that was eventually to become Winchester. One month later, the Rev. J.G. Miller, Dennis O’Leary, Amy Winchester, and Elizabeth Rice acquired Section 27 from the Southern Pacific Railroad (Lech, 467). Although the four contemplated platting a new townsite on the 960 acres they had acquired, nothing was done. Later that year, on October 7, 1886, William Josiah Waterhouse deeded the west half of Section 28 to Mr. G.M. Adams. Adams and his partner, T.J. Stuart, planned on developing a townsite immediately, filing a map entitled “Stuart and Adam Subdivision of the West ½ of Section 28, T5s, R2w” (Lech, 467) on November 8, 1886. This map subdivided the 320 acres into eight forty-acre parcels, dedicated a railroad right-of-way through its northern half, and had a main east-west street through its center that was named Winchester Avenue.

The actual town of Winchester appears to have had its beginning during the summer of 1887 when Miller, O’Leary, Rice, and Winchester hired surveyor T.M. Parsons to draw a map of a townsite to be called Winchester. The new town encompassed 280 acres, of which 160 acres were divided into forty-six blocks of town lots generally measuring either 25’ or 50’ wide by 142’

deep. The remaining acreage was divided into twenty-four “villa lots” of five acres, all of which were located southwest of town (Lech 2004:468). The east-west streets were named for early land purchasers/investors, while the north-south streets were named for presidents. The northernmost boundary of town, the section line between Sections 27 and 28, was designated for a railroad right-of-way, complete with depot grounds.

The sale of land in the new town of Winchester began when the map was filed on January 3, 1888. Beginning in September 1887, however, O’Leary had already sold the land designated for a railroad to the California Central Railroad and sold large groups of lots to Mrs. Rice and others. Winchester apparently was founded as a “temperance” town where no alcoholic beverages of any type were to be sold. All of the deeds, including the one to the California Central Railroad, included an anti-liquor clause which automatically deeded the parcel or parcels back to the grantor (usually Rev. Miller) if it was used for “vending of intoxicating liquors for drinking purposes” (Lech, 468-469). Further, the intent of Winchester founders Rev. Miller, Amy Winchester, Dennis O’Leary, and Elizabeth Rice was to provide a colony where like-minded Methodists could gather. The fact that the Winchester Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1886 at a cost of \$2000, well before the actual town was established, speaks to the influence the Methodist Church had in the development of the town.

Both the townsite plat and the Adams/Stuart subdivision allowed for land to be set aside for an expected railroad branch line from Perris to San Jacinto. As anticipated, construction began in 1887 on the branch rail line from Perris to San Jacinto under the charter of the Perris & San Jacinto Railway and the line commenced operation on May 20, 1888. In 1890, the railroad depot was finally built and Tilla Patterson, daughter of early settler John Patterson, was named the Winchester station master, a position she would hold until 1929-30 when the depot closed at the behest of the railroad. By 1890, the town of Winchester had a population of 200 that was served by the Methodist church, a brick business block, two warehouses, a hotel, store, blacksmith shop, tin shop, feed stable, wagon shop, and two physicians. Winchester became known as an important shipping center for wheat and barley, with over 200,000 sacks of grain shipped in 1889 alone (Gunther, 576). Despite the anticipated future growth and success of Winchester, by 1891, Amy Winchester had divested her land holdings in and around Winchester and moved out of the area.

During the early 1890s, some Winchester residents began to discuss irrigating lands in the Pleasant Valley area instead of depending on simple dry-farming and livestock. They believed that the crop diversification permitted by irrigation would improve their existence and standard of living. At that time, wells provided an adequate supply of water for residents and their livestock, but not enough for large scale farming. Unfortunately, a good, sufficient supply of water was several miles away in the San Jacinto Mountains, but this problem did not seem

insurmountable. Backers of a new irrigation district in Winchester joined with leaders in San Jacinto and on August 3, 1891, the San Jacinto and Pleasant Valley Irrigation District was formed. The new water district's task was to bring water from the San Jacinto Mountains to Winchester and San Jacinto, but the problem was that most of the water was already claimed so they were forced to purchase existing claims. Over the next few years, they purchased existing water systems in San Jacinto and those of the Fairview Land and Water Company (Lech, 471).

The prospect of having irrigation water made residents of the regions to be served downright giddy, especially in Winchester, and construction started almost immediately on ditches and flumes that would carry the water. Residents dreamed of orange groves, packing houses, and a city that would rival Riverside. By the summer of 1893, water had finally arrived in Winchester and the residents believed that their dreams would certainly now come true. Unfortunately, this was not to be the case. Not only was the water supply inadequate, but the canals had been dug into the dirt, with no concrete or rock lining, and as a result, a tremendous amount of water was lost to percolation, evaporation, and rodent burrowing. Further, the 1894 drought that devastated Southern California further eroded the amount of water available for irrigation.

By 1899, the San Jacinto and Pleasant Valley Irrigation District was no more, with the Riverside County Superior Court declaring that the district had been created illegally. Without irrigation water Winchester depended once again on dry-farmed grain and livestock raising. Good access to the railroad allowed the town to experience some success, particularly since it was surrounded by thousands of acres of land ideal for grain and livestock production. Although by the early 1900s Winchester had declined to the point of almost resembling a ghost town, by the latter half of the 20th century, the area gradually recovered and developed into a small rural town that serves the needs of farmers and ranchers of the region.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Research

Prior to commencement of the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment field survey, a records search request was submitted to staff at the Eastern Information Center located at the University of California, Riverside on September 12, 2020, with the results received on March 16, 2021. The records search included a review of all site maps, site records, survey reports, and mitigation reports within a one-mile radius of the study area. The following documents were also reviewed: National Register of Historic Places, California Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, and California Office of Historic Preservation Historic Properties Directory. In addition to the records search, a request for a Sacred Lands File search was submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission on September 12, 2020, with the results received on September 15, 2020. On September 18, 2020, project scoping letters were sent to 15 tribal representatives listed as being interested in project development within the Meniffee area.

Following the records and Sacred Lands File searches, a literature search of available published references to the study area was undertaken. Reference material included all available photographs, maps, books, journals, historical newspapers, registers, and directories held in various repositories. Archival and cartographic research was conducted through the USGS Historical Map Collection, the General Land Office records currently maintained by the California Office of the Bureau of Land Management, and documents containing census and other information held by Ancestry.com. The Riverside County Archives have been closed due to the COVID-19 situation, thus precluding access to property-specific ownership information. The following maps were consulted:

1852 thru 1880 General Land Office Plats, Township No. 5 south, Range No. 2 west
 1901 Elsinore, California 30' USGS Topographic Map
 1942 Murrieta, California 15' U.S. Dept. of the Army Corps of Engineers Topographic Map
 1953 Romoland, California 7.5' USGS Topographic Map
 1953 Winchester, California 7.5' USGS Topographic Map
 1959 Santa Ana, California 1:250,000 USGS Topographic Map
 1973 (photorevised), Romoland, California 7.5' USGS Topographic Map
 1973 (photorevised) Winchester, California 7.5' USGS Topographic Map
 1979 (photorevised) Romoland, California 7.5' USGS Topographic Map
 1979 (photorevised) Winchester, California 7.5' USGS Topographic Map
 1979 (photorevised) Santa Ana, California 1:250,000 USGS Topographic Map

Fieldwork

Subsequent to the literature, archival, and cartographic research, Jean Keller conducted a comprehensive pedestrian field survey of the subject property on October 6, 2020. Beginning at the northeastern property corner, the survey was accomplished by traversing the subject property in parallel transects at 15-meter intervals, when possible. The survey proceeded in a generally east-west, west-east direction following the existing land contours. The entirety of the property has been developed to some degree, thus making the use of standard survey transects somewhat problematic. In the relatively open fields in the western half of the property, standard parallel transects were employed, but an abundance of broken concrete, rocks, gravel, and other materials spread throughout most of this area greatly restricted ground surface visibility. On the remainder of the property, large mounds of various types of mulch are stored, so survey transects had to go around these mounds instead of through them. Also, the presence of various structures, equipment, and vehicles in the northeastern portion of the property necessitated the use of transects that were comprehensive, albeit not parallel. In those areas not covered by structures, materials, vehicles, and debris, ground surface visibility ranged from 25% in areas with dense ground cover to 100% throughout the landscape mulch storage yard which had been completely cleared of all vegetation around each mound of mulch.

RESULTS

Research

Results of the records search conducted by staff at the Eastern Information Center indicated that one previous cultural resources study involved the subject property. This study, conducted in 1990 by RMW Paleo Associates, Incorporated, was entitled "Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of the Winchester Hills Project Area, 2900 Acres in Riverside County, California" (RI-2959). The study encompassed all of Sections 30, 31, and 32 of Township 5 south, Range 2 west. No cultural resources were recorded within the boundaries of the subject property, although at that time, one structure existed that first appeared on the 1942 Murrieta Topographic Map, which was based on aerial photos taken in 1939. Why this structure of historical origin was not recorded or even mentioned is not known.

The records search conducted by staff at the Eastern Information Center indicated that the subject property is in a very well-studied area. Thirty-seven cultural resource studies have been conducted within a one-mile radius of the subject property, several of which encompassed large tracts of land. As a result, virtually all land within this radius has been involved in at least one previous study. During the course of field surveys for these studies, 24 cultural resources properties have been recorded (Table 1).

Of the recorded cultural resource properties, 14 were of prehistoric (Native American) origin and were comprised almost exclusively of bedrock milling features. One of these sites (P-33-14370) is actually an archaeological district comprised of over 100 archaeological sites, but only the northernmost limit of the district is one mile south of the subject property. Eight sites were of historical origin and two sites had both prehistoric and historical components. Perhaps of greater significance is that all prehistoric sites were recorded three-quarters to one mile from the subject property, with most at the one-mile radius limit (these are included in P-33-14370). The two sites containing both prehistoric and historical resources were located one-half to three-quarters of a mile from the subject property. Within a one-quarter to one-half mile radius was one historical era site and a prehistoric isolated artifact fragment. Only two sites, both historical farmsteads, are located within one-quarter mile of the proposed developments. There are no cultural resources properties within one mile to the west of the subject property and only three within one mile to the east, with all other sites being concentrated to the southwest and northeast.

A search of the *Sacred Lands File* was completed by the Native American Heritage Commission for the subject property, with negative results based on the provided USGS quadrangle information. At this time, no responses have been received from any of the 15 Tribal representatives that received project scoping letters.

Table 1
Previously Recorded Cultural Resources in the Scope of the Records Search
and Distance from Plot Plan No. 190038 and Conditional Use Permit No 200009

Primary No. (Trinomial)	Description of Recorded Cultural	Distance From Projects (in miles)
33-001164 (CA-RIV-1164)	50 bedrock milling features, rock shelter, lithic scatter	0.75 – 1.00
33-001165 (CA-RIV-1165)	Scattered metate slicks on granitic boulders at edge of mountain	0.75 – 1.00
33-001168 (CA-RIV-1168)	15 slicks on 7 outcrops, 7 flakes <i>Phase II Testing in 2004 found no subsurface deposit</i>	0.75 – 1.00
33-001175 (CA-RIV-1175)	<i>Prehistoric:</i> 4 slicks on boulders, possible mano, large flake core; <i>Historical:</i> trash dump with 100-150 artifacts	0.50 – 0.75
33-003429 (CA-RIV-3429)	8 slicks on 6 boulders, no surface artifacts. <i>Phase II Testing in 2000 found no subsurface artifacts</i>	0.75– 1.00
33-003437 (CA-RIV-3437)	Destroyed by residential development. Originally recorded as 10-15 metavolcanic and quartzite flakes, 1 chert flake, 2 bifacial mano fragments, and several milling slicks.	0.75 – 1.00
33-004036 (CA-RIV-4036)	Historic trash dump, minimal trash deposit, early 1900s to mid-1970s	0.50 – 0.75
33-004711 (CA-RIV-40711)	<i>Prehistoric:</i> 14 slicks on 9 milling stations, sparse lithic scatter (sparse <1 flake/meter, densest 2-3 flakes/meter), pictograph, 3 biface fragments, 58 debitage; <i>Historical:</i> broken flower pots, porcelain jar fragments, glass, clay, metal cans, lots of graffiti	0.50 – 0.75
33-004712	Early 20 th century historic water works – 9 features: developed springs, 2 stone/concrete reservoirs, stone-lined path, dirt road, irrigation ditch, 2 modern water features	0.25 – 0.50
33-009722	Historic farmstead (farmhouse, water tank, pole barn foundation, trash scatter (late 19 th century) grove of eucalyptus, pepper, & pomegranate trees.	0.00 – 0.25
33-009723 (CA-RIV-6482H)	Historical trash scatter (household refuse, glass, ceramics, bottles)	0.50 – 0.75
33-010994 (CA-RIV-6643H)	Historical trash scatter, ca. 1910-1930; homesteading or camping	0.75 – 1.00
33-011452 (CA-RIV-6834)	4 milling slicks on 4 bedrock outcrops	0.75 – 1.00
33-011453 (CA-RIV-6835)	5 bedrock milling features	0.75 – 1.00
33-011454 (CA-RIV-6836)	2 bedrock milling features and 1 chert scraper	0.75 – 1.00
33-011456 (CA-RIV-6838H)	Forest T. Lindenberger's 80-acre homesite, sometimes known as "Olive Green"; part of historic canal	0.75 – 1.00
33-012766	Bifacial fragment (or crescentic)	0.25 – 0.50

33-014370	An unnamed and informally-defined archaeological district that encompasses two ridges.	0.75 – 1.00
33-015743 (CA-RIV-8196)	Incorrect site (located on USGS Riverside East, Calif. 7.5' Quad)	N/A
33-021003 (CA-RIV-10879)	3 slicks on 3 boulders	0.75 – 1.00
33-021004 (CA-RIV-10880)	2 slicks on 2 boulders	0.75 – 1.00
33-021005 (CA-RIV-10881)	2 slicks on 2 boulders	0.75 – 1.00
33-021023	1965 single-story Minimal Traditional-style residence (28680 Leon Road)	0.75 – 1.00
33-024250 (CA-RIV-11909)	1 slick, 1 shaped slate rock (age and use unknown)	0.75 – 1.00
33-028919 (CA-RIV-6688)	1920 farmstead (27530 Briggs Road) consisting of 7 buildings: main residence, 4 sheds, trailer, canopy structure. Other features include shipping containers, oil tanks, piles of various materials.	0.00 – 0.25

Archival research was conducted relating to previous ownership of the subject property. Early settlers in the Winchester area typically obtained land from the public domain of the United States through homesteading or other means of public land acquisitions, such as the Land Act of 1820, or from agents of the Southern Pacific Railroad. In building an extension of the San Francisco to Los Angeles line eastward through Banning and Beaumont in the late 1870s, the Southern Pacific Railroad became eligible to receive federal grants of odd-numbered mile-square sections of public lands to a distance of 20 miles on either side of the proposed railroad right-of-way. Other lands in the region, including even-numbered mile-square sections, were homesteaded or obtained through preemption. Lands were granted to the State of California on March 3, 1853 by an Act of Congress (Ch. 145, 10 Stat. 244) to support public schools. These lands consisted of the 16th and 36th sections of land in each township, except for lands reserved for other public purposes, lands previously conveyed, e.g., rancho lands, sovereign lands, and swamp or overflowed lands, and lands known to be mineral in character. No federal patents to the State were required under the grant. Title to the lands was vested in the State upon approval of the U.S. Township Survey Plats.

According to available archival records, the first non-Native owner of the subject property was Wade H. Clark. On April 10, 1885, a State Volume Patent (CA0610...132) for 157.41 acres located in the NW ¼ of Section 30, Township 5 south, Range 2 west was issued to Clark under authority of the Homestead Act of 1862 (Fig. 9). As previously discussed in the History section of this report, under the Homestead Act of 1862, 160-acre homesteads were available to citizens of the United States (or those who had filed an intention to become one) who were either the head-of-household or a single person over the age of 21 (including women). Once the homestead claim

132



The United States of America,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 684

Application

1073

Whereas, There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Los Angeles California, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Wade H. Clark

has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the fractional north-west quarter of section thirty, in township five south of range two west of San Bernardino Meridian in California containing one hundred and fifty-seven acres and forty-one hundredths of an acre

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General.

Now know ye that there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Wade H. Clark

the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Wade H. Clark and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law.

In testimony whereof, J. Grover Cleveland, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed



Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty five; and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and ninth

By the President:

Grover Cleveland

By

M. W. Keane

Secretary.

S. W. Clark

Recorder of the General Land Office.

Figure 9: State Volume Patent issued to Wade H. Clark for 157.41 acres on April 10, 1885.

was filed the applicant had six months to move onto the land and was required to maintain residency for five years as well as to build a dwelling and raise crops. Upon completion of these requirements the homesteader had to publish intent to close on the property in order to allow others to dispute the claim. If no one did so the homesteader was issued a patent to the property, thus conveying ownership.

Interestingly, there is no indication that Wade Hampton Clark ever actually resided on or farmed his homestead. In order to have been issued the land patent for 157.41 acres in 1885, the Homestead Act required that he would have had to build a dwelling, raise crops, and live on the property since at least 1880. However, whether there was any type of verification involved or instead, simply that if no one disputed the claim it was assumed that all requirements had been fulfilled, is unknown. Research into archival materials available from Ancestry.com provides a rather complete – but still perplexing – picture of Wade's life journey and illustrates why it does not appear that he fulfilled the requirements of the Homestead Act that led to issuance of his patent in 1885. During the time he was supposedly living on his homestead, his name never appears in official documents for Winchester, but instead, shows his residence as San Jacinto.

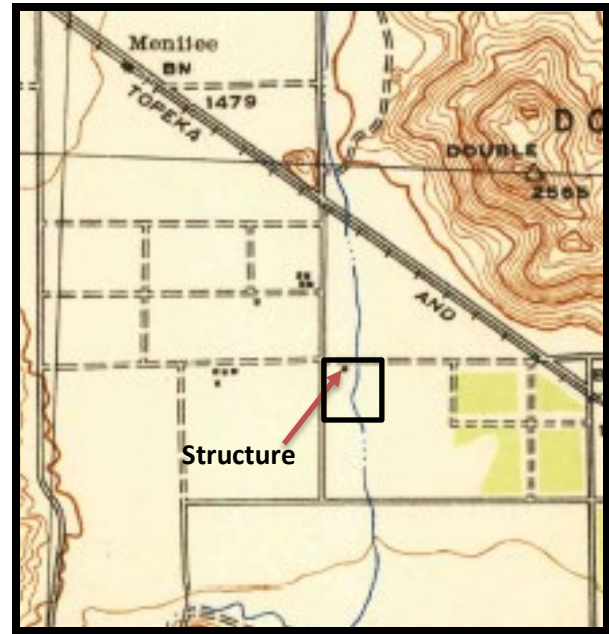
Wade Hampton Clark was born in May 1858 in Visalia, California. His family of father, mother, and older brother lived there until sometime before 1870, when they moved to Kings River, near Fresno. By 1870, the family had expanded to include a younger brother and two younger sisters. Wade left home in 1879 and as a responsible citizen, first registered to vote on April 28, 1879 in Westminster, where he worked as a farmer, then re-registered on June 11, 1879 when he moved to Anaheim, again working as a farmer. Of particular interest in regard to his homestead is that on June 22, 1880, 21-year-old Wade was living with two of his brothers in San Jacinto, all working as farmers. While the 1880 census may have been taken before he applied for his homestead, his residence from 1882 to 1890, as recorded in the Great Register of San Diego County, was San Jacinto. It was during this time that the State Volume Patent for the NW ¼ of Section 30, Township 5 south, Range 2 west for 157.41 acres of land was issued to him. So, during the five years from 1880 and 1885, when he was supposedly living on the land in a dwelling he had built and was raising crops, he was living in San Jacinto and working as a farmer. Wade Clark apparently decided at some time after 1890 that he wanted to change careers and by 1892, while still living in San Jacinto, was working as a butcher. By 1900, he had married his wife Delia, had a son, Wade H. Clark, Jr., was living in Banning and still working as a butcher. At some time between 1900 and 1901, the Clark family moved to Redlands, where they resided at 538 East Stuart Street at least until 1928, with Wade continuing to work as a butcher. By 1930, Wade and Delia, along with Wade's brother, Samuel, and Samuel's wife Clara, were living in the Mary Em Apartments in Los Angeles and by this time, Wade had retired. For the next three years, Wade Hampton Clark lived with his wife in Los Angeles, until his death on August 12, 1933, in San Bernardino, California. He was buried in Redlands at the Hillside Memorial Park.

Since the Riverside County Archives have been closed since March 2020, it was not possible to determine what Wade Clark did with his homesteaded land. It may be that he decided that the homestead life in Winchester was not for him and after receiving the patent, simply sold the land to another farmer. This would be possible only if there was no verification that he had actually fulfilled the requirements. Or it may be possible that he actually built a dwelling on the property and raised crops, despite living and farming in San Jacinto. Sort of part-time homesteading. The 1901 USGS Elsinore topographic map, which was based on a 1897-1898 survey, shows no structures within Clark's homestead, but it may be that whatever he built in 1880 had been removed, deteriorated, or demolished by that time.

Cartographic research indicates that by 1939, the date of aerial photography used to compile the 1942 Murrieta topographic map, a structure appears within the property boundaries (Fig. 10). This is the general location in which a residence existed on the subject property until shortly after 2018. Since the Riverside County Archives has been closed for over one year, it was not possible to determine who owned the land and built this structure. By this time, Briggs Road was improved, but Grand Avenue remained unpaved. A significant difference appears on the 1953 USGS Romoland topographic map (1951 aerial photos) in that the stream no longer appears. It is possible that instead of a natural watercourse, this was a canal that was plowed over or otherwise ceased to exist, but no information regarding this feature could be found. Other than this, the structure and infrastructure are essentially the same as in 1939. The slight difference between the mapped location of the structure in 1939 and 1951 is probably due to the accuracy of the aerial photography and the scale of the two topographic maps. It is not until the 1979 USGS Romoland topographic map (1976 aerial photos) that further changes occur on the subject property with the addition of a second structure a short distance east of the original structure (Fig. 10). Interestingly, despite significant changes occurring during this time throughout the region, the infrastructure in the vicinity of the subject property remained unchanged, with Briggs Road improved and Grand Avenue unpaved.



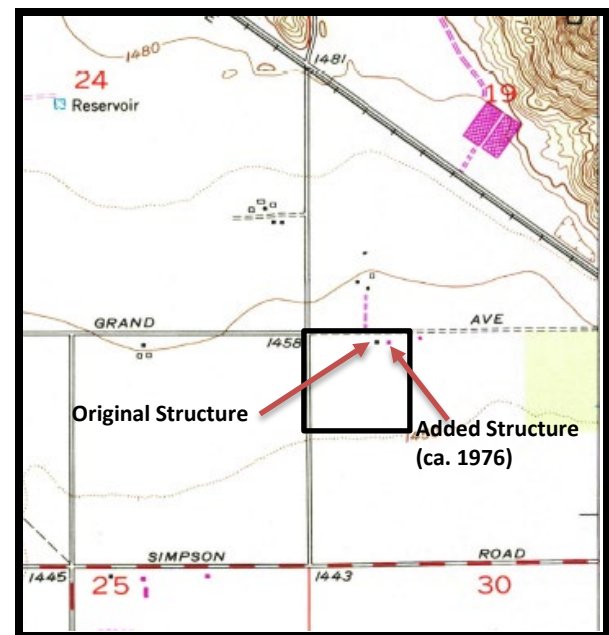
1901 Elsinore (1897-1898 survey)



1942 Murrieta (1939 aerial photographs)



1953 Romoland (1951 aerial photographs)



1979 Romoland (1976 aerial photographs)

Figure 10: Cartographic history of the subject property, 1901 – 1979.

Fieldwork

No cultural resources of prehistoric or historical origin were observed within the boundaries of the subject property during the current field survey. The two structures that originally existed, a ca. 1939 residence and a ca. 1976 associated structure, were demolished post-2018 and no remains were observed. A mobile home office, two fueling stations, and a parking area for the existing So Cal Mulch now occupy these areas. Much of the property is currently covered by large mounds of different types of landscape mulch, which impacted ground surface visibility, although the larger areas around the mounds was completely open and had 100% visibility. The portion of the property that is not occupied by So Cal Mulch appears to have had tons of broken concrete, rocks, gravel, and other materials dumped on it, so ground surface visibility was impaired. Aerial photographs show that over time, several types of endeavors have occupied this area, so the debris may be the remains of those ventures instead of representing dumped materials.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cultural resources of either prehistoric or historical origin were not observed within the boundaries of the subject property. No information has been obtained through Native American consultation that the subject property is culturally or spiritually significant and no Traditional Cultural Properties that currently serve religious or other community practices are known to exist within the project boundaries. During the current cultural resources evaluation, no artifacts or remains were identified or recovered that could be reasonably associated with such practices.

A records search completed by staff at the Eastern Information Center, University of California, Riverside indicated that one previous cultural resource studies had involved the subject property. The 1990 cultural resources study recorded no cultural resources within the boundaries of the subject property, despite the presence of a ca. 1939 house and an associated structure that existed at that time. Both structures were demolished approximately four years ago.

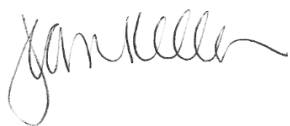
The subject property is located in a well-studied area with 37 previous cultural resource studies having been conducted within a one-mile radius, many of which included large acreages. During the course of these studies, 24 cultural resources properties have been recorded, none of which involved the project area. Of the recorded cultural resource properties, 14 were of prehistoric (Native American) origin and were comprised almost exclusively of bedrock milling features. Eight sites were of historical origin and two sites had both prehistoric and historical components. Perhaps of greater significance is that all prehistoric sites were recorded three-quarters to one mile from the subject property, with most at the one-mile radius limit. The two sites containing both prehistoric and historical resources were located one-half to three-quarters of a mile from the subject property. Within a one-quarter to one-half mile radius was one historical era site and a prehistoric isolated artifact fragment. Only two sites, both historical farmsteads, are located within one-quarter mile of the proposed developments. The Native American Heritage Commission determined that the Sacred Lands File search results were negative. Finally, no responses to project scoping letters sent to 14 tribal representatives have been received.

In consideration of the above, it is clear that Plot Plan No. 190038 and Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 are located in an area that is moderately sensitive for historical resources, but not sensitive for prehistoric (Native American) archaeological resources. The historical sensitivity is further enhanced by the fact that up until relatively recently, one structure that was at least 83 years old and another that was at least 45 years old existed on the property. Typically, this would minimally warrant a recommendation for archaeological grading monitoring in the area where the structures previously existed. However, in this case, such a recommendation would essentially be irrelevant. The historical structures were in the area where the So Cal Mulch mobile

home office, parking, and fuel stations are now located, and the proposed Conditional Use Permit No. 200009 project is limited to spreading decomposed granite at grade to provide a pervious parking surface area. There is no proposed grading, additional structures, or utilities included in the CUP. As far as grading monitoring for Plot Plan 190038 or the remaining acreage of APN 461-140-050, no tribal responses to project scoping letters apprising them of the proposed developments have been received, no cultural resources were observed on the property, and the lack of recorded cultural resources in the near vicinity indicate a very low probability of an existing subsurface cultural deposit. Therefore, neither further research nor mitigation is recommended for the subject property, which at this time includes Conditional Use Permit No. 200009, Plot Plan No. 190038, and the remaining acreage of APN 461-140-050. However, should any cultural resources be discovered during the course of earthmoving activities anywhere on the subject property, said activities should be halted or diverted until the qualified archaeologist can evaluate the resources, make a determination of their significance, and recommend appropriate treatment measures to mitigate impacts to the resources from the project, if found to be significant. If human remains are encountered unexpectedly during implementation of the project, compliance with State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 is required, with no further disturbances to the land until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98.

CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the attached report is a true and accurate description of the results of the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment described herein.



Jean A. Keller, Ph.D.
Riverside County Certificate No. 232

May 25, 2021

Date

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 1953 Map: Winchester, Calif. (7.5' 1:24,000); aerial photos taken in 1951
 1959 Map: Santa Ana, Calif. (1:250,000); aerial photos taken in 1955
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APPENDIX

Sacred Lands File Search Results
Record Search Results