



RT FACTFINDERS
Cultural Resources

REPORT

**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION
FOR THREE PARCELS WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF
10TH STREET EAST AND EAST AVENUE J-5
LANCASTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared For:

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Prepared By:

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Archaeologists**

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Job. No. 655

May 2022

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 3140-009-003, -006 and 3140-034-036

**Performed under: Private contract
USGS Quadrangle: Lancaster East, Calif. 7.5'
Area covered: Approximately 4 acres
Location: Township 7 North, Range 12 West, Section 23
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 undertaken for approximately 4 acres situated west of the intersection of 10th Street East and East Avenue J-5. The subject property consists of three parcels recorded as Los Angeles County Tax Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 3140-009-003, -006 and 3140-034-036.

The purpose of the study was to identify cultural resources within the subject property, and recommend mitigation measures, as warranted. The scope of the investigation included an on-foot inspection of the property, a review of the literature and records, a review of the Native American Heritage Commission's sacred lands file, filing of record forms as specified by the Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines, and preparation of a phase I report.

As a result of the investigation no prehistoric 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 use or development of the property. 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 undertaken for approximately 4 acres situated west of the intersection of 10th Street East and East Avenue J-5. The subject property is three parcels recorded as Los Angeles County Tax Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 3140-009-003, -006 and 3140-034-036. The property is within the northeast 1/4 of Section 23, Township 7 North, Range 12 West (Figure 1, 2).

CEQA defines cultural resources as including archaeological sites, historic buildings, structures or objects, and properties of unique ethnic or cultural value or religious/sacred uses. The City of Lancaster required this study, under CEQA, because use or construction on the property has the potential to 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 mitigation measures, as warranted. The scope of the investigation included an on-foot inspection of the property, a review of the literature and records, a review of the Native American Heritage Commission's sacred lands file, filing of record forms as specified by the Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines, and preparation of a phase I report.

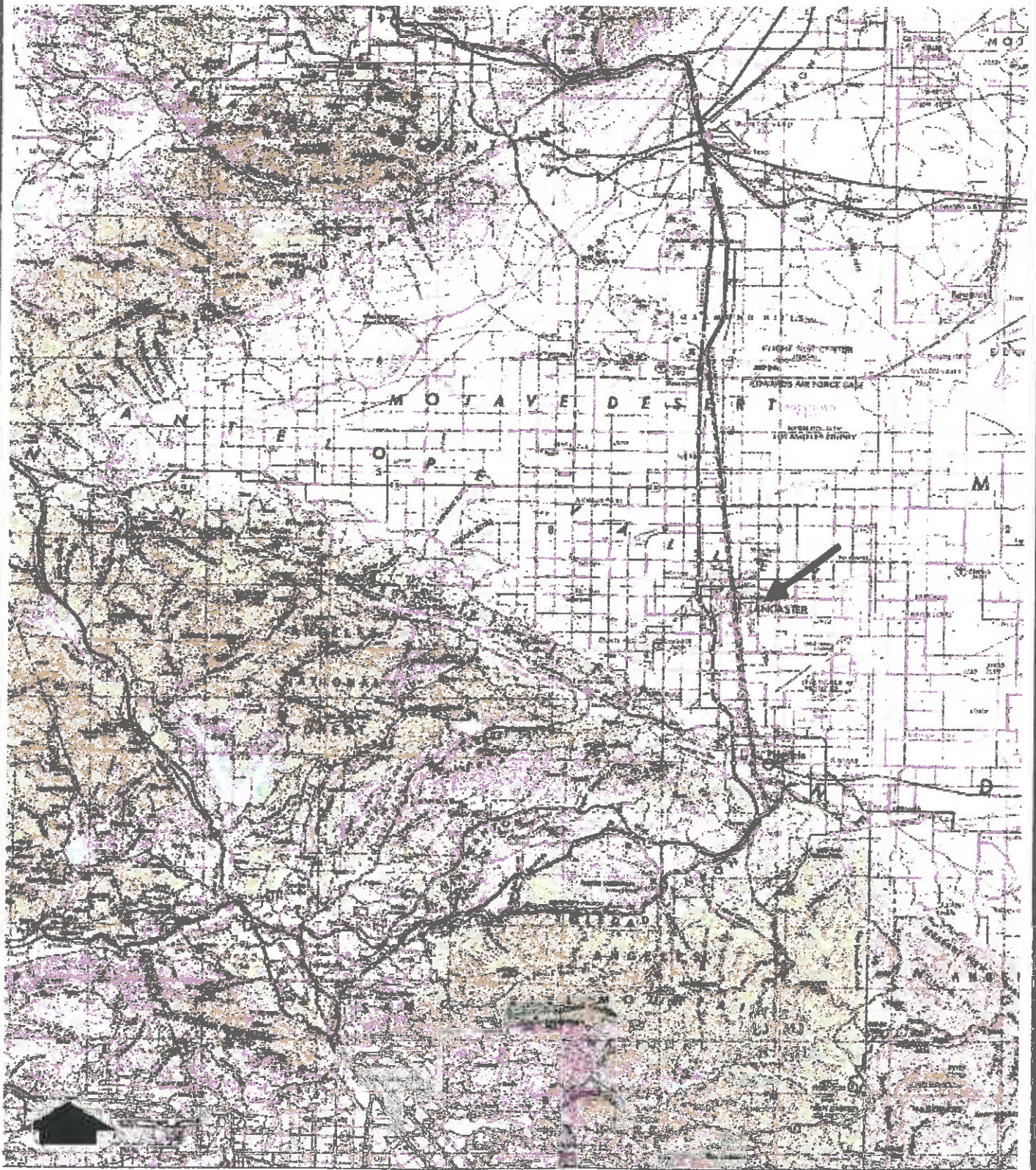
II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The property has been entirely cleared and leveled in the past. No natural contours or native vegetation remains on the property. The property has been graded and disked. There are two drainage ditches running diagonally across the property. There are some introduced grasses and weeds in the central portion of the property. There is scattered late period trash and debris across the property as would be expected in an urban setting.

The parcels are surrounded by older (1950s-1960s) residential developments. There are undeveloped parcels to the immediate east and south and some commercial development along 10th Street East. There are no structures on the subject property.

Soil on the property is quaternary in age and is sandy alluvium overlying lakebed clay. There are no notable physiographic features, rock outcrops, springs, or other permanent sources of water on or near the property.

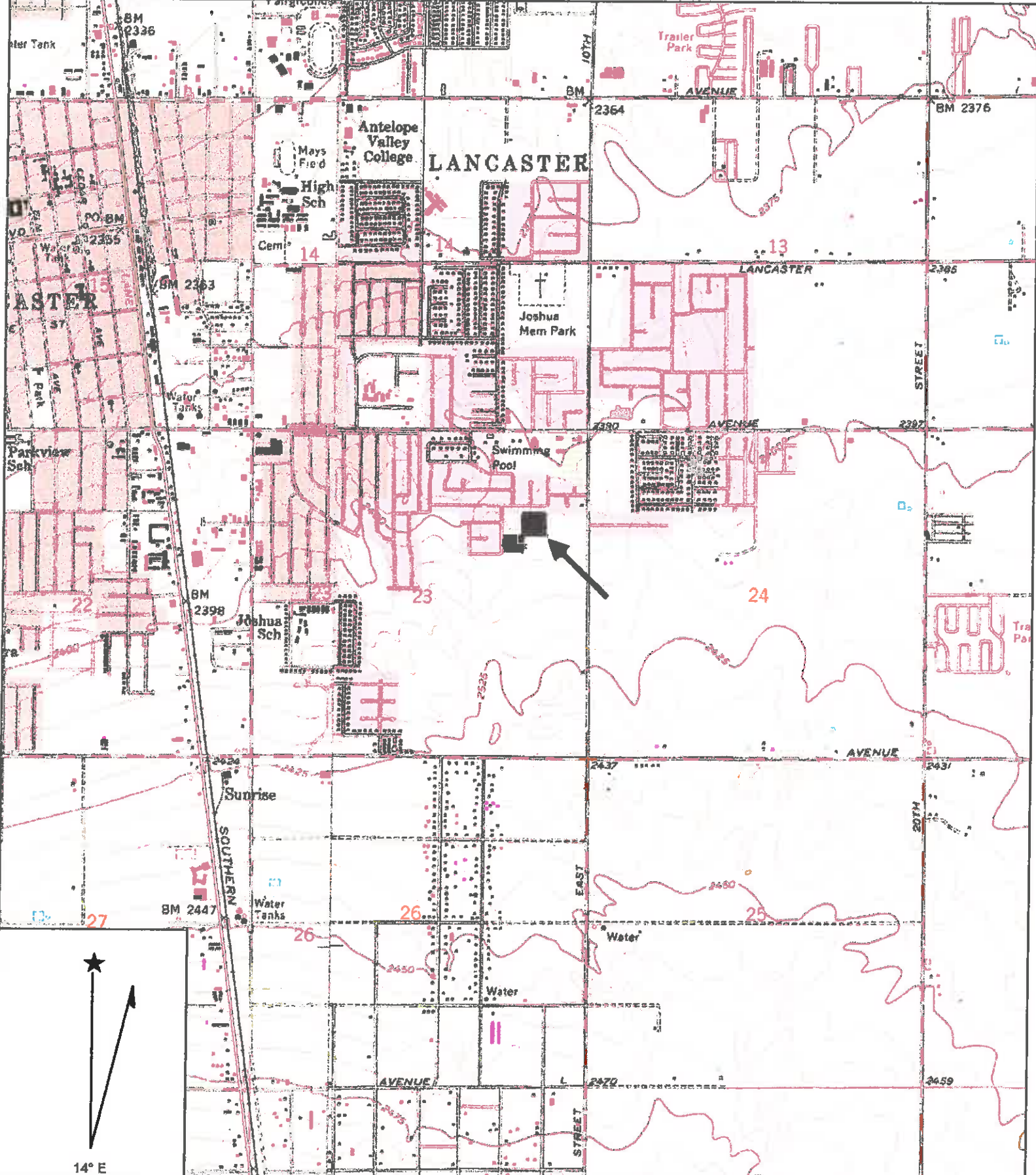
The property is situated on the Antelope Valley floor. The Antelope Valley is a broad, flat V-shaped basin in the Western Mojave Desert. The Valley is bounded on the north by the Tehachapi Mountains and on the south by the San Gabriel Mountains and extends eastward to the Mojave River Valley. Low points in the Antelope Valley are Rogers and Rosamond Dry Lakes with elevations of approximately 2275 feet above mean sea level. The subject property lies south of Rosamond Dry Lake and its elevation is approximately 2405 feet above mean sea level.



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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 EAST
 Date: 3/21/2022
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 11 0397750 E 3838386 N
 Caption: Figure 2; Project location depicted on the Lancaster East 7.5" USGS map.

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 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), Zigmund (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. (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 favored with land having a high water table and productive 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 FILE SEARCH RESULTS

Native American sacred lands file search: Information regarding Native American Cultural Resources and/or Sacred sites was requested from the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Their records indicate that no Native American resources have been previously identified on or near the property. They provided a list of contacts that the jurisdiction may contact for any further information or concerns (Attachment 1).

Record Search: Much of the surrounding area was developed prior to the advent of cultural resource review. A few small surveys have occurred in the section, with negative findings (Norwood 2002, 2003, 2006a, 2006b, 2007b). There was a construction monitoring effort less than a mile to the northwest of the subject property (Norwood and Norwood 1995). This project involved monitoring for the Division Street Storm Drain along Division Street in the vicinity of Lancaster Boulevard and a cemetery. It resulted in negative findings. One parcel (3140-009-003) composing part of the subject property was previously surveyed (Norwood 2007a) with negative results (Norwood 2007b).

Various historic period sites occur in the region that relate to the 1880-1950 period growth and development of Lancaster. Most finds date between the 1900s and the 1950s. As would be expected, finds from 1925 onward are much better represented in the archaeological record. Prehistoric finds in this particular region of Lancaster are rare. Their rarity is largely due to extensive agriculture and development in the early 20th century which may have obliterated prehistoric Native American sites. The immediate area may never have been particularly rich in prehistoric period sites due to the lack of dependable surface water or special food resources, such as mesquite groves. For this reason, it is expected that the subject property region would be more likely to contain historic period sites rather than prehistoric sites.

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

1911: The earliest regional map of Lancaster is Johnson's (1911) Water Supply map showing well locations throughout Lancaster and the surrounding area. Data for this map is based on a 1909 field survey. There are no wells or structures shown on the subject property or anywhere within Section 23.

1915: The Elizabeth Lake 15' USGS map shows no structures on the subject property or anywhere within the section.

1922: By 1920-1925 Lancaster had matured into a typical American small rural town of several thousand. Carpenter and Cosby's Soil Survey map (1926), based on a 1922 field survey, shows no structures on the subject property. However, one structure is shown north of the subject property adjacent to East Avenue J.

1933: The Lancaster, Calif. 7.5' map shows three structures within Section 23. None of these are on or near the subject property.

1938: Walsh's 1930s era real property map does not show structures, but it does depict land ownership. No ownership is shown for land encompassing the subject property.

1958: The Lancaster 15' USGS map shows development had occurred in the section. There are no structures shown on the subject property, but there are homes located to the north, east and west at this time.

GLO Records: The Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) records were checked for historic period transactions. Harold T. Bullock purchased 160 acres of land from the government which encompassed the subject property. His deed was granted on 7/13/1922.

In summary, the map search indicates no that no structures were located on the subject property itself. Historic period use of land in the section occurs relatively late.

V. SURVEY METHODS AND CONDITIONS

Field survey for the property was completed on April 15, 2022 by Melinda Walton representing RTFactfinders. Fieldwork required 2 person-hours. The property was systematically surveyed using 7 to 10-meter intervals and north/south-directed linear transects. Visibility was excellent with bright sun and variable light winds. Surface visibility was excellent with minimal vegetation cover. There were no inhibiting conditions that would prevent the detection of surface evidence of cultural resources. In accordance with State Historic Preservation Office Guidelines any sites or artifacts greater than 50 years of age, if present, were to be noted and considered as potential cultural resources. Photos were taken to document property conditions (Attachment 2).

VI. SURVEY FINDINGS

No prehistoric Native American or historic period sites or artifacts were found as a result of the survey. There is a considerable amount of trash and debris scattered across the property, however, it dates to periods dating less than 50 years ago and does not qualify for recording or consideration as a cultural resource due to lack of age. There is an earthen irrigation pond east of the subject property and some scattered and displaced irrigation pipes on the property. The property may have been under cultivation at one time.

VII. MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has provisions to ensure that any cultural resources identified during the environmental review process need to be evaluated for significance, because unique or important resources require mitigation. To determine if mitigation is required, evaluation is required to assess a resource's significance in terms of CEQA criteria. Nothing observed on the subject property meets criteria necessary for recognition as significant.

Since no prehistoric or historic period cultural resources were identified on the subject property, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated when development occurs. No further measures are recommended.

While unlikely and not expected, buried deposits 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 buried cultural materials (arrowheads, grinding stones, etc.) or features (old foundations, cellars, privy pits, etc.) are encountered during any future grading, 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, during construction, 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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Norwood, Richard H. and Ken S. Norwood

1995 Cultural Resource Monitoring Investigation for Division Street Storm Drain, Avenue I to Milling Street, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #119. Report on file at the Archaeological Information Center, CSU, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

2003 Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Tentative Tract 54406, 4.76 Acres at 5th Street East and East Avenue J-12, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California, Job #233. Report on file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

2006a Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for 1.25 Acres Near the Intersection of 8th Street East and East Avenue J-12, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California, Job #451. Report on file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

2006b Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for 1.61 Acres Northwest of the Intersection of Tabler Avenue and Woodington Drive, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California, Job #516. Report on file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton, California.

Richard H. Norwood

2007a Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for 1.25 Acres West of the Intersection of 10th Street East and East Avenue J-5, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California, Job #540.

Richard H. Norwood

2007b Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for a .19-Acre Property North of the Intersection of Division Street and East Avenue J-7, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #555. Report on file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton, California.

Starr, Richard Boblett

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Zigmond, Maurice L.

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ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

May 5, 2022

Richard Norwood
RTFactfindersVia Email to: artefct@gmail.comCHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
LuiseñoVICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
ChumashPARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Aitebery
KarukSECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
MiwokCOMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Palute/White Mountain
ApacheCOMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-CostanoanCOMMISSIONER
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
NomlakiCOMMISSIONER
Wayne Nelson
LuiseñoCOMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
KumeyaayEXECUTIVE SECRETARY
**Raymond C.
Hitchcock**
Miwok/Nisenan**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov**Re: #655 3 Lot Residential Project, Los Angeles County**

Dear Mr. Norwood:

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

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

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
5/5/2022**

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Jairo Avila, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer
1019 Second Street, Suite 1
San Fernando, CA, 91340
Phone: (818) 837 - 0794
Fax: (818) 837-0796
jairo.avila@tataviam-nsn.us

Tataviam

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Donna Yocum, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA, 91322
Phone: (503) 539 - 0933
Fax: (503) 574-3308
ddyocum@comcast.net

Kitanemuk
Vanyume
Tataviam

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951) 755 - 5110
Fax: (951) 755-5177
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Cahuilla
Serrano

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Jessica Mauck, Director of Cultural Resources
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 864 - 8933
Jessica.Mauck@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Serrano

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Ann Brierty, THPO
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951) 755 - 5259
Fax: (951) 572-6004
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Cahuilla
Serrano

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (253) 370 - 0167
serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (760) 572 - 2423
historicpreservation@quechantribe.com

Quechan

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (909) 528 - 9032
serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman
Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (928) 750 - 2516
scottmanfred@yahoo.com

Quechan

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed #655 3 Lot Residential Project, Los Angeles County.

ATTACHMENT 2



PHOTO 1: APN 3140-034-036 View northeast from the southwest property corner.



PHOTO 2: APN 3140-009-003, -006 View southeast from the northwest property corner.