

4.4 Cultural Resources

This section evaluates the potential for impacts on cultural resources resulting from implementation of the Perris Airport Logistics Center Project (Proposed Project) and identifies known and potential cultural resources on the Project Site. Information presented in this section is primarily based on the following documents:

- Cultural Resources Survey Letter Report – Negative Findings prepared by Harris & Associates (2023) and included in Appendix D of this EIR

4.4.1 Environmental Setting

4.4.1.1 Regulatory Setting

The treatment of cultural resources is governed by federal and state laws and guidelines. Specific criteria exist to determine if prehistoric and historic sites or objects are significant or protected by law. Federal and state significance criteria generally focus on the resource’s integrity and uniqueness, its relationship to similar resources, and its potential to contribute important information to scholarly research. Some resources that do not meet federal significance criteria may be considered significant under state criteria. The laws and regulations seek to mitigate impacts to significant prehistoric or historical resources. The federal and state laws and guidelines for protecting historical resources are summarized below.

Federal

National Historic Preservation Act (U.S. Code, Title 54, Section 300101 et seq.)

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established the National Register of Historic Places as the official federal list of cultural resources that have been nominated by state offices for their historical significance at the local, state, or national level. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides recognition that a property is significant to the nation, the state, or the community and assumes that federal agencies consider historical value in the planning for federal and federally assisted projects. Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places or determined eligible for listing must meet certain criteria for historical significance and possess integrity of form, location, and setting. Structures and features must usually be at least 50 years old to be considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, barring exceptional circumstances. Criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60.4, are as follows: the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and that:

- A. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

- B. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Eligible properties must meet at least one of the criteria and exhibit integrity, which is measured by the degree to which the resource retains its historic properties and conveys its historic character, the degree to which the original fabric has been retained, and the reversibility of changes to the property. The fourth criterion is typically reserved for archaeological and paleontological resources. These criteria have largely been incorporated into the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines).

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (U.S. Code, Title 25, Section 3001 et seq.)

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items—human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony—to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Native American Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act includes provisions for unclaimed and culturally unidentifiable Native American cultural items, intentional and inadvertent discovery of Native American cultural items on federal and Tribal lands, and penalties for noncompliance and illegal trafficking. Implementation of the Proposed Project would be conducted in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Federal curation regulations are also provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 79, and apply to collections that are excavated or removed under the authority of the Antiquities Act (16 USC 431–433), the Reservoir Salvage Act (16 USC 469–469c), Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470h-2), or the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 USC 470aa–mm). Such collections generally include those that are the result of a prehistoric or historical resources survey, excavation, or other study conducted in connection with a federal action, assistance, license, or permit.

State

Assembly Bill 52: Native Americans: California Environmental Quality Act

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) establishes a formal consultation process for California Native American Tribes as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and equates significant impacts on Tribal Cultural Resources with significant environmental impacts

(California Public Resources Code, Section 21084.2). California Public Resources Code, Section 21074, defines Tribal Cultural Resources as follows:

1. Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
 - a. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
 - b. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1.

Sacred places can include Native American sanctified cemeteries, places of worship, religious or ceremonial sites, and sacred shrines. In addition, both unique and non-unique archaeological resources, as defined in California Public Resources Code, Section 21083.2, can be Tribal Cultural Resources if they meet the criteria detailed above. The lead agency relies on substantial evidence to make the determination that a resource qualifies as a Tribal Cultural Resource when it is not already listed in the California Register of Historical Resources or a local register.

AB 52 defines a “California Native American Tribe” as a Native American Tribe in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (California Public Resources Code, Section 21073). Under AB 52, formal consultation with Tribes is required before determining the level of environmental document if a Tribe has requested to be informed by the lead agency of proposed projects and if the Tribe, upon receiving notice of the project, accepts the opportunity to consult within 30 days of receipt of the notice. AB 52 also requires that consultation, if initiated, address project alternatives and mitigation measures for significant effects if specifically requested by the Tribe. AB 52 states that consultation is considered concluded when the parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect on Tribal Cultural Resources or when either the Tribe or the lead agency concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached after making a reasonable, good-faith effort. Under AB 52, any mitigation measures recommended by the lead agency or agreed on with the Tribe may be included in the final environmental document and in the adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program if the mitigation measures were determined to avoid or lessen a significant impact on a Tribal Cultural Resource.

If the recommended measures are not included in the final environmental document, then the lead agency must consider the four mitigation methods described in California Public Resources Code, Section 21084.3(e). Any information submitted by a Tribe during the consultation process is considered confidential and is not subject to public review or disclosure. It will be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the Tribe consents to disclosure of all or some of the information to the public.

Assembly Bill 978: California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

The California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, enacted in 2001, required the state agencies and museums that receive state funding and that have possession or control over collections of human remains or cultural items, as defined, to complete an inventory and summary of these remains and items on or before January 1, 2003, with certain exceptions. The California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act also provides a process for the identification and repatriation of these items to the appropriate Tribes.

California Government Code, Sections 6254(r) and 6254.10

Sections 6254(r) and 6254.10 of the California Government Code were enacted to protect archaeological sites from unauthorized excavation, looting, or vandalism. Section 6254(r) explicitly authorizes public agencies to withhold information from the public relating to “Native American graves, cemeteries, and sacred places maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.” Section 6254.10 specifically exempts from disclosure requests for “records that relate to archaeological site information and reports, maintained by, or in the possession of the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Historical Resources Commission, the State Lands Commission, the Native American Heritage Commission, another state agency, or a local agency, including the records that the agency obtains through a consultation process between a Native American tribe and a state or local agency.”

California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5, and California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.9

California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5, addresses the protection of human remains discovered in any location other than a dedicated cemetery and makes it a misdemeanor for any person who knowingly mutilates or disinters, wantonly disturbs, or willfully removes any human remains in or from any location other than a dedicated cemetery without authority of law, except as provided in California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.99. It further states that, in the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains will occur until the coroner of the county in which the human remains are discovered has determined that the remains are not subject to the provisions concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner, and cause of any death and that the recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation, or to their authorized representative, in the manner provided in California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98. If the county coroner determines that the remains are not subject to their authority and if the county coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, they shall contact, by telephone and within 24 hours, the NAHC. Whenever the NAHC receives notification of a discovery of Native American human remains from the county coroner, the agency

shall immediately notify the most likely descendant if it believes them to be the most likely descendant of the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant may inspect the site of the discovery and make recommendations on the removal or reburial of the remains.

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register of Historical Resources is a state government program for use by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify, evaluate, register, and protect California's historical resources. The California Register of Historical Resources is the authoritative guide to the state's significant historical and archaeological resources and encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historic, archaeological, and cultural significance; identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes; determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding; and affords certain protections under CEQA.

The term "historical resource" includes but is not limited to any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that is historically or archaeologically significant or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California (California Public Resources Code, Section 5020.1[j]). Historical resources may be designated as such through three different processes:

- Official designation or recognition by a local government pursuant to local ordinance or resolution (California Public Resources Code, Section 5020.1[k])
- A local survey conducted pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Section 5024.1(g)
- Listing in or eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (California Public Resources Code, Section 5024.1[d][1])

To be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, a building must satisfy at least one of the following four criteria:

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

Native American Historic Cultural Sites (California Public Resources Code, Section 5097 et. seq.)

State law addresses the disposition of Native American burials in archaeological sites and protects such remains from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction; establishes procedures to be implemented if Native American skeletal remains are discovered during construction of a project; and establishes the NAHC to resolve disputes regarding the disposition of such remains. In addition, the Native American Historic Resource Protection Act makes it a misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year in jail to deface or destroy a Native American historic or cultural site that is listed or may be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources.

Senate Bill 18: Traditional Tribal Cultural Places

As of March 1, 2005, Senate Bill (SB) 18 (California Government Code, Sections 65352.3 and 65352.4) requires that, before the adoption or amendment of a General Plan proposed on or after March 1, 2005, a city or county must consult with Native American Tribes with respect to the possible preservation of, or the mitigation of impacts to, specified Native American places, features, and objects within that jurisdiction. The consultation intends to establish a meaningful dialogue regarding potential means to preserve Native American places of importance. It allows for Tribes to hold conservation easements and for Tribal Cultural Places to be included in open space planning.

Local

City of Perris General Plan

The following Goal, Policy, and Implementation Measures from the Conservation Element of the City of Perris General Plan (City of Perris 2008) are in place to protect cultural resources.

- **Goal IV – Cultural Resources:** Protection of historical, archaeological, and paleontological sites.
 - **Policy IV.A:** Comply with state and federal regulations and ensure preservation of the significant historical, archaeological, and paleontological resources.

Implementation Measures

- **IV.A.1:** For all private and public projects involving new construction, substantial grading, or demolition, including infrastructure and other public service facilities, staff shall require appropriate surveys and necessary site investigations in conjunction with the earliest environmental document prepared for a project.
- **IV.A.2:** For all projects subject to CEQA, applicants will be required to submit results of an archaeological records search request through the Eastern Information Center, at the University of California, Riverside.

- **IV.A.3:** Require Phase I Surveys for all projects located in areas that have not previously been surveyed for archaeological or historic resources, or which lie near areas where archaeological and/or historic sites have been recorded.
- **IV.A.5:** Identify and collect previous surveys of cultural resources. Evaluate such resource and consider preparation of a comprehensive citywide inventory of cultural resources including both prehistoric sites and man-made resources.
- **IV.A.6:** Create an archive for the City wherein all surveys, collections, records and reports can be centrally located.
- **IV.A.7:** Strengthen efforts and coordinate the management of cultural resources with other agencies and private organizations.

4.4.1.2 Existing Conditions

Cultural resources are found throughout the City of Perris and are reminders of the City's prehistoric and historical record. Cultural resources are the tangible or intangible remains or traces left by past people who inhabited the region. They encompass both the built and the archaeological environments, as well as Traditional Cultural Properties. They are typically in protected areas near water sources and multiple ecoregions and can include Traditional Cultural Places, such as gathering areas, landmarks, and ethnographic locations.

Prehistoric

Cultural resources are found throughout Riverside County and are reminders of the county's 10,000+-year-old historical record. Cultural resources are the tangible or intangible remains or traces left by prehistoric or historical people who inhabited the Riverside region. They encompass both the Historic (post-1774) and the archaeological environments, as well as Traditional Cultural Properties. They are typically in protected areas near water sources and multiple ecoregions and can include Traditional Cultural Places, such as gathering areas, landmarks, and ethnographic locations.

The following provides a brief cultural background for Riverside County.

Paleoindian Period (pre-5500 BC)

With the discovery of broadly accepted scientific evidence of human occupation of the southwestern United States at 23,000 before present (BP), it is reasonable to assume sites of such age may one day be found in Riverside County. This possibility is only strengthened by the currently accepted route for any peopling of North America at a time just prior to the Last Glacial Maximum being necessarily a seafaring route. While claims of sites in Southern California dating to over 100,000 BP have been thoroughly refuted and would not fit with the genetic evidence of

living native groups, sites within deposits coinciding with the time of, and around, the Last Glacial Maximum throughout Southern California may well retain undiscovered cultural materials.

The earliest scientifically accepted sites discovered in the Riverside area date back to a time period archaeologists refer to as the Paleoindian Period. At the time, much of what is now Riverside County showed site type and continuity with other areas of Southern California and it is thought that the small population size and high group mobility indicated a cultural and genetic continuity throughout much of the Southern California landscape. While currently known Paleoindian Sites in Riverside County date back to approximately 8 millennia BP, technically the term Paleoindian refers to any site prior to 7500 BP in the region so any older finds within the County discovered at a later time would also automatically be within the County's Paleoindian period.

This broader Southern California Paleoindian tradition included a presumed focus on mobile groups hunting large game with finely crafted stone tools in inland groups and some amount of reliance on maritime resources for many coastal groups. Counterintuitively, many early Paleoindian flaked lithics appear more finely worked and requiring more complex flaking skill than their lithic counterparts in later periods. The Paleoindian saw a lithic tradition that included “finely worked blades, spear points, choppers, and scrapers out of fine-grained volcanics” (Carrico 1977). In addition, leaf-shaped knives, foliate to ovoid bifaces, foliate to short-bladed shoulder points, crescents, engraving tools, core hammers, pebble hammers, and cores were part of the tool assemblage. While portable groundstone during the period was rare and Bedrock Milling Features are completely absent in this period, other stone artifacts occur in the region including the still-mysterious crescents of ancient California. Ceramics are completely absent from the archaeological record during this period and burials are usually flexed inhumations.

Much is still left to be learned about the Paleoindian Period, especially the early portion of it. Human populations in Southern California are estimated to be quite small during this time and the temporal distance between the present day and the Paleoindian period indicate many of those archaeological resources have already been forever lost to time. As such, Paleoindian sites represent a tiny fraction of overall prehistoric sites in the area.

Archaic (5500 BC–AD 500)

The archaic period was ushered in around 5500 BP, likely by the end of the last ice age and the stabilizing of temperatures and sea levels throughout the world. The Riverside area would have seen rising median temperatures and humidity and the final extinction of many of the megafaunal species that had been the focus of Paleoindian hunting attempts. Because of these environmental shifts, the Archaic Period sees a dramatic shift in artifact assemblages and presumed lifeways.

The most significant change noted in the artifact assemblage in an increased use of and reliance on portable milling tools to process acorns, seeds, berries, nuts, and small animals. These portable

metates and associated manos (or handstones) indicate a shift in subsistence strategies to seasonal plant resources and with it, an assumed shift to a slightly less nomadic lifestyle, with seasonal camps revisited annually based on the timing of local flora resources. Many of the lithic resources show a decrease in complexity and difficulty of manufacture, with Pinto and Elko atlatl points replacing some of the larger and more baroque lithic traditions of the Paleoindian period (such as Clovis and Folsom traditions). While the mysterious crescents tend to disappear in the early archaic, an even more mysterious and more localized tradition begins in the Archaic with the creation and (possible) use of cogstones, mainly found along the Santa Ana River that gives Riverside its name. Population sizes are thought to have expanded with the addition of plant resources to the archaic toolkit, but still remained fairly small throughout Southern California.

Late Prehistoric (AD 500–1769)

Between 2000 and 1500 BP, the native groups of much of Southern California went through a dramatic shift. Shoshonean-speaking groups from the Colorado River area moved westward with their language, technology, and cultural practices. While the extent of the genetic portion of this migration is currently unknown, the cultural effects were substantial, and those changes bring on a period archaeologists refer to as the Late Prehistoric Period. This period is marked by the introduction of ceramics (originally brownware but also later buffware technologies), the bow and arrow (which introduces the arrowhead to the Riverside archaeological record for the first time), and more expedited and simpler flaked-lithic traditions. This period also sees a huge expansion in the use of local plant resources and the associated milling implements needed to process these resources, including more permanent or seasonally visited settlements that included extensive bedrock milling elements, including mortars, basins, and slicks.

The focus on local plant resources and adoption of eastern technologies led to the largest expansion of population that had been seen in the area at that point, with Late Prehistoric peoples showing a dramatic population growth and the rise of large, seasonal camps in which multiple smaller bands would convene in the same location for weeks at a time on a seasonal basis; something that would have been impossible to support earlier given the limitations of inland resource utilization technologies in the Paleoindian and Archaic Periods. Additionally, there is a cultural shift from flexed inhumation burials to cremation in the Late Prehistoric.

The influence of the Late Prehistoric transition is emphasized by the fact that five of the six reported native groups present in Riverside at the time of European contact were all Shoshonean speakers with toolkits that still included the ceramics, bows and arrows, metates, and cremation practices from the time of the Late Prehistoric transition, indicating a lasting change that influenced the region for over a millennium.

Ethnohistoric Period (post-AD 1769)

The Ethnohistoric period begins with the first permanent European settlements. For Riverside County, there are at least six Native American groups living in the area during the Ethnohistoric period. These groups include the Cahuilla, Gabrieleño, Serrano, Luiseño, Chemehuevi, and Mojave Tribes (the Mojave being the only Yuman speaking group among the otherwise Shoshonean-speaking groups).

The Luiseño and Gabrieleño occupied the western end of what is now Riverside County, with the Luiseño occupying the southwestern ends of the county and the Gabrieleño occupying the northwest areas. Both groups extending west beyond present day Riverside County and to the coast. The Cahuilla and Serrano occupied the central areas of the County, with the Cahuilla occupying the southern portion of the County, and the Serrano the northern portion. The Chemehuevi, the southernmost of the Paiute groups, occupied what is now the northeastern areas of the County while the farthest eastern stretches of the present day County were occupied by the westernmost branches of the Mojave Peoples.

When not prevented from doing so by Europeans or their diseases, native groups in the Ethnohistoric Period carried on their lifeways from the Late Prehistoric Period, including a heavy reliance on traditional food acquisition including acorns, mesquite beans (in the lower desert settings), native grasses, and wild game such as birds, deer, rabbit, and rodents. Similar to the Late Prehistoric, Native settlements in the Ethnohistoric Period usually centered around permanent water sources and some form of food resource, be that oak trees, lake and river aquatic resources, or a concentration of other local foodstuffs.

Historical Period (post-AD 1774)

The Historical period can be divided into three phases (Spanish, Mexican, and American). Each phase is identified with a change in political power. Common goals in each phase included land gain, assimilation of the native population, and the attainment of wealth. However, these periods were dissimilar in the rationale behind these goals. Rationale included defense (Spain), independence and secularization (Mexico), and expansion and economics (United States). Assimilation of Native Californians was a desire of each government that came to power; however, the greatest misfortune of this period was the large decline in Native American populations (Phillips 1981).

Spanish Period (AD 1774–1821)

The Spanish period was ushered in by Anza's first expedition passing through in 1774. This was a time of European expansionism and is typically identified with the mission system. In addition, presidios (military defense) and pueblos (city government) played an important role in the structuring of the community. The mission system was the institution designated for the

assimilation and exploitation of native people. Jackson and Castillo (1995:6) identified this exploitation as an extension of the “sixteenth-century policy of congregacion/reduction.” In contrast, Costo noted that the transference of the Spanish Inquisition (originally established in 1478) to the New World that was the mechanism for this exploitation because the Inquisition contained economic and religious incentives. The Spanish stronghold in California declined with Spain’s loss of the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815), which eliminated funding to the missions.

Mexican Period (AD 1821–1859)

Mexican independence from Spain occurred in 1821, and in 1833, Mexico secularized the missions. After secularization, large tracts of land were granted to private citizens. “The secularization of the missions during the Mexican period is usually regarded as a watershed in California History because it resulted in the replacement of one Hispanic institution by another – the rancho for the mission” (Phillips 1981:33). Like the mission, the rancho became the institution of native exploitation. This period experienced an increase in cattle ranching and the hide and tallow trade. In 1838, Juan Bandini was the recipient of a Mexican land grant that became Rancho Jurupa, a 40,000+ acre tract of land in what is now Riverside County that was so large and impactful to the local area that many modern roads and boundaries in modern Riverside County owe their location to the early 19th century Rancho. Meanwhile, in 1846 and a bit south, Miguel Pedorena was granted the Rancho San Jacinto Nuevo y Potrero which includes much of the Moreno Valley. These Ranchos were the centers of both home life and business during the Mexican Period and helped expand cattle ranching into the main form of enterprise in the region during the 19th century.

The passage of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the Mexican American War in 1848 was the final event that culminated the Mexican period in California.

American Period (Post-AD 1850)

The concept of a two-ocean economy and the California Gold Rush were the impetus that brought about the annexation of California (1850) to the United States. A large number of immigrants entered California with the discovery of gold and the availability of free land with the passage of the Homestead Act (1863). This population increase caused the displacement of Native Californians and brought about a deterioration in their rituals and traditions. During this period, the ranchos experienced a decline primarily in response to their inability to validate land ownership as a result of the California Land Claims Act of 1851. “With the discovery of gold, the building of the transcontinental railroad, and the development of crops and cities, people in massive numbers from all parts of the world began to inhabit the region” (Phillips 1981: editors’ introduction).

In the 1870s, the importation of Brazilian Navel Oranges created a booming agricultural economy in the area, with orchards quickly taking over many of the fertile rolling hills. This orange-based economy continued to be a major feature of areas of western Riverside County for over a century.

In 1892, the US Bureau of Indian Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs jointly opened the Perris Indian School. The school was the first off-reservation native boarding facility geared toward “assimilating” natives from around the country and many of the native children brought there were forced against their will. The school changed its name during its move to the City of Riverside in 1903 to its more infamous name, The Sherman Institute. The school is currently still in use as a Bureau of Indian Education-funded off-reservation boarding high school for Native Americans under the name Sherman Indian High School.

A year after the founding of the Perris Indian School in 1894, the County of Riverside itself was formed out of land from surrounding counties. The new county took its name from the area’s proximity to the Santa Ana River.

Ethnohistory

Ethnohistoric and ethnographic evidence indicates that three Takic-speaking groups occupied portions of Riverside County: the Cahuilla, the Gabrielino, and the Luiseño. A discussion of the ethnohistoric and ethnographic background of the Project Site and surrounding areas is provided in Section 4.14, Tribal Cultural Resources, of this EIR.

Project Site

Results of Records Search

Harris & Associates conducted a records search of the surrounding area using the California Historic Resources Inventory System (Confidential Appendix B, CHRIS Background Data, of the Cultural Resources Survey Letter Report). Thirty-two studies (Table 4.4-1, Previous Studies within a 1.0-Mile Radius) have been conducted within a 1.0-mile radius, and twelve resources (Table 4.4-2, Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within a 1.0-Mile Radius) and 48 historic addresses (Table 4.4-3, Previously Recorded Historic Addresses) were previously recorded. Of the previously recorded resources, four are prehistoric (CA-RIV-000805/P-33-000805, CA-RIV-004178/P-33-004178, P-33-012617, and P-33-012618), and eight are historic (CA-RIV-000706/P-33-000706, CA-RIV-004719/P-33-004719, CA-RIV-005667/P-33-009776, CA-RIV-007863/P-33-014773, CA-RIV-007864/P-33-014774, CA-RIV-008126/P-33-015379, CA-RIV-8196/P-33-015743, and P-33-014775). None of these resources are located within the Project Site.

Table 4.4-1. Previous Studies within a 1.0-Mile Radius of the Project Site

Report ID	Title	Author	Year
RI-00146	Archaeological Impact Evaluation: Eastern Water District, Sewage Pipeline, Maripose Avenue to Existing Reclamation Facility, Sun City	Joan R. Smith	1974
RI-00527	Letter Report: Archaeological Reconnaissance – Perris, California	James P. Barker	1979
RI-02084	Negative Archaeological Survey Report: Route 215, P.M. 27.4/33.7	S.R. Hammond	1987
RI-02245	Letter Report: Archaeological Reconnaissance - Perris, California	Paul Bowey	1987
RI-02306	An Archaeological Survey of Three Proposed Locations for the Southwest County Justice Center, Riverside County	William H. Breece and Beth Padon	1988
RI-02777	Archival Records Search and Cultural Resources Survey of Perris Property Partners Property, Riverside County, California	Phillip de Barros	1988
RI-03216	A Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of the Riverglen Specific Plan, Approximately 332 Acres in the City of Perris, Riverside County, California	Kenneth M. Becker	1991
RI-03834	Historic Property Survey Report for the Evans Avenue/Ellis Road/I-215 Interchange in Perris, CA	Bradley Sturm	1994
RI-04348	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Community Day School Expansion, APN 310-160-056, City of Perris, Riverside County, California	Bruce Love and Michael Hogan	2000
RI-04404	Final Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Williams Communications, Inc., Fiber Optic Cable System Installation Project, Riverside to San Diego, California	Roger D. Mason	2004
RI-05361	Cultural Resources Survey for the Perris 50 Project, Riverside County, California	Roger D. Mason	2004
RI-06018	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Menifee Valley North Drainage Facilities Project, In and Near the Communities of Romoland and Homeland, Riverside County, California	Bai Tang, Michael Hogan, Mariam Dahdul, and Daniel Ballester	2003
RI-06578	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report, The Venue at Perris, City of Perris, Riverside County, CA	Bai Tang, Michael Hogan, Deirdre Encarnacion, and Josh Smallwood	2006
RI-06744	Cultural Resources Assessment: Goetz Road Project, City of Perris, Riverside County, California	Riordan Goodwin and Jodi L. Dalton	2006
RI-06978	An Historical Resources Identification Investigation of the Retail Building Project, 345 East Fourth Street, City of Perris, Riverside County, California.	John Stephen Alexandrowicz	2007
RI-06997	Archaeological Survey Report for the State Route 74/Interstate 215 Interchange Project, City of Perris, Riverside County, California.	Brian K. Glenn	2006
RI-07131	Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company: Removal of Two Poles (#1667999E and #1668000E) on Idle Facility Project on the Deacon 12kV Circuit, Riverside County, California (WO#6077-6900, AI#P7988)	Stacey C. Jordan	2007
RI-07338	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Asector's Parcel No. 330-070-007	Bai "Tom" Tang and Michael Hogan	2007

Table 4.4-1. Previous Studies within a 1.0-Mile Radius of the Project Site

Report ID	Title	Author	Year
RI-07492	Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company O&M - Global Plastics Project on the Deacon 12 kV Circuit, Riverside County, California	Koji Tsunoda and Michael M. DeGiovine	2007
RI-07689	A Cultural Resources Survey for the Galvez-El Sur Townhomes Project	James Clifford and Brian F. Smith	2005
RI-07993	Letter Report: Addendum to Historical/ Archaeological/ Paleontological Resources Studies - The Venue at Perris, City of Perris, Riverside County, California	Bai "Tom" Tang and Michael Hogan	2008
RI-08101	Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Assessment Report for The Green Valley Project, Perris, California	Steven McCormick and Sherri Gust	2006
RI-8527	Letter Report: Lake Elsinore & Perris Vicinity Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project (WO 6077-4800; 1-4806, 1-4807, 1-4808, 1-4809, 1-4810) Riverside County, California	James J. Schmidt	2010
RI-08771	Preliminary Historical/Archaeological Resource Study Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Perris Valley Line Positive Train Control (PTC) Project In and near the Cities of Riverside, Perris, and Menifee Riverside County, California CRM TECH Contract No. 2444	Bai 'Tom' Tang	2010
RI-08980	Final: Cultural Resources Inventory Of The Proposed DPV2 Construction Yards Riverside County California	Scott C. Justus, Matthew M. DeCarlo, and William T. Eckhardt	2010
RI-09005	Results of Archaeological Monitoring Program for the Mercado Park Project in the City of Perris (LSA Project No. PIS1201)	Riordan Goodwin	2013
RI-09791	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Biogas Service Pipeline Project, Perris, California	Brian F. Smith and Elena C. Goralogia	2016
RI-10461	Archaeological Investigations and Monitoring for the Construction of the Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California	William T. Eckhardt, Matthew M. DeCarlo, Doug Mengers, Sherri Andrews, Don Laylander, and Tony Quach	2015
RI-10652	San Jacinto Branch Line, Riverside County, California Determination of Eligibility and Effects Report	N/A	2003
RI-10948	Cultural Resources Assessment for Mapes Road Storage Project, Perris, Riverside County, California	David Brunzell	2020
RI-10975	Cultural Resources Assessment of the Monthes Pallets Project, Perris, Riverside County, California	David Brunzell	2020
RI-11359	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Perris Airport Project, Perris, California	Andrew Garrison and Brian F. Smith	2022

Bold = Within the Project APE.

Table 4.4-2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within a 1.0-Mile Radius

Primary Number	Trinomial	Chronological Placement	Site Type	Size
P-33-000706	CA-RIV-000706	Historic	Refuse Scatter	130x47 meters
P-33-000805	CA-RIV-000805	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	18x46 feet
P-33-004178	CA-RIV-004178	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	28x21 meters

Table 4.4-2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within a 1.0-Mile Radius

Primary Number	Trinomial	Chronological Placement	Site Type	Size
P-33-004719	CA-RIV-004719	Historic	Adobe Structure	300x275 feet
P-33-009776	CA-RIV-005667	Historic	Atchison, Topeks & Santa Fe Railroad Segment	N/A
P-33-012617	N/A	Prehistoric	Isolate – Secondary Flakes	N/A
P-33-012618	N/A	Prehistoric	Isolate - Chopper	N/A
P-33-014773	CA-RIV-007863	Historic	Iron Pipe Concrete Piers	52x17 feet
P-33-014774	CA-RIV-007864	Historic	Concrete Patio Slab Concrete Slab Concrete Pier Block Bricks	135x95 feet
P-33-014775	N/A	Historic	Single-Family Residence	420 square feet
P-33-015379	CA-RIV-008126	Historic	Trolley Line Segment	500 linear feet
P-33-015743	CA-RIV-008196	Historic	Railroad	1030 feet

Notes: N/A = not assigned/provided.

Table 4.4-3. Previously Recorded Historic Addresses within a 1.0-Mile Radius

Primary Number	Trinomial	Chronological Placement	Historic Name/Common Name/Site Type	Recorder, Date
P-33-007587	N/A	Historic	West 4 th Street Historic District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1982 – Riverside County Historical Comm. • 2003 - Carrie Chasteen
P-33-007601	N/A	Historic	Perris Depot/Santa Fe Depot Victorian Railroad Depot Building 120 West 4 th Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1982 - Robert Knight • 1987 - R. Mason/R. Hatheway • 1994 - Ida Minnich • 2003 - Carrie Chasteen
P-33-007605	N/A	Historic	None Bungalow 127 East 5 th Street	1982 – William Hedges
P-33-007606	N/A	Historic	None Vernacular Residence 270 5 th Street	1982 - Kay Hedges
P-33-007608	N/A	Historic	Congregational Church/Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Church Building 177 East 6 th Street	1982 - Kay Hedges
P-33-007609	N/A	Historic	None	1982 - Dorothy Cross

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			Cottages 132, 134, 140, & 142 East 7 th Street	
P-33-007610	N/A	Historic	W.R. Morrison House Residence 303 West 7 th Street	1982 - Betty Harmon
P-33-007611	N/A	Historic	None Bungalow/Late Victorian Residence 307 West 8 th Street	1982 - Betty Harmon
P-33-007612	N/A	Historic	First Perris Depot Vernacular Building 2201 South A Street	1982 - Jim Warner
P-33-007613	N/A	Historic	Metz/Smith Residence Vernacular Eastlake Residence 400 South B Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1987 – Roger Hatheway • 1982 - Kay Hedges
P-33-007614	N/A	Historic	Robertine Hotel Vernacular Building 510 C Street	1987 – William Hedges
P-33-007615	N/A	Historic	Southern Hotel Italianate Building 445 D Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1992 – Vincent Bautista & Gloria Scott • 1982 – Betty Harmon
P-33-007616	N/A	Historic	Bank of Perris/Golden Valley Realty Commercial Building 400 South D Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1987 – R.D. Mason & R.G. Hatheway • 1982 - Betty Harmon
P-33-007651	N/A	Historic	None Vernacular Residence 196 East 6 th Street	1982 – William Hedges
P-33-007654	N/A	Historic	Austin Residence Vernacular Residence 306 West 5 th Street	1982 - Betty Harmon
P-33-007655	N/A	Historic	A.W. Hook House Victorian Residence 223 West 7 th Street	1982 – William Hedges
P-33-007656	N/A	Historic	Robert Moore Home Vernacular Residence 239 West 7 th Street	1982 – William Hedges
P-33-007657	N/A	Historic	Fredrick House/Thompson House Vernacular Residence 363 West 7 th Street	1982 - Betty Harmon
P-33-007661	N/A	Historic	Relic of Pinacante/Trolley Museum Multiple Structures 2201 South A Street	1982 - Betty Harmon

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P-33-007662	N/A	Historic	Noonan Residence Vernacular Residence 715 B Street	1982 - Betty Harmon
P-33-007664	N/A	Historic	Brun Home Vernacular Residence 602 C Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2003 – Carrie Chasteen • 1982 – Betty Harmon
P-33-007665	N/A	Historic	Perris Theater/Harvest Time Crusade Church Moderne/Art Deco Theater Building 295 South D Street	1982 - Betty Harmon
P-33-007666	N/A	Historic	Colton Grain & Milling Company/Nance Building Vernacular Commercial Building 318 South D Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2003 – Carrie Chasteen • 1982 – Betty Harmon
P-33-007667	N/A	Historic	Kool Kove Tavern/Biedebach Realty Moderne/Art Deco Commercial Building 390 South D Street	<p>1987 – Roger Hatheway</p> <p>1982 – Betty Harmon</p>
P-33-007668	N/A	Historic	El Dorado Inn Vernacular Commercial Building 430, 436 & 498 South D Street	1982 - Betty Harmon
P-33-007669	N/A	Historic	Hook's Grain Yard Stone Foundation & Shed 832 South D Street	1982 - Betty Harmon
P-33-013496	N/A	Historic	Poinsettia Hotel/Biedebach Realty Commercial Building 337-395 South D Street	1987 - Roger Hatheway
P-33-015384	N/A	Historic	None Mid-20 th Century Residence 160 Mapes Road	2006 - Melissa Rees
P-33-015385	N/A	Historic	None Early 20 th Century Residence 170 Mapes Road	2006 - Melissa Rees
P-33-015386	N/A	Historic	None Mid-20 th Century Apartment Building 150-190 Mapes Road	2006 - Melissa Rees
P-33-015387	N/A	Historic	None Craftsman Residence 280 Mapes Road	2006 - Melissa Rees
P-33-015388	N/A	Historic	None	2006 - Melissa Rees

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			Craftsman Residence 310 Mapes Road	
P-33-026644	N/A	Historic	None Brutalist Commercial Building 120 East 3 rd Street	2014 - Justin Castells
P-33-028756	N/A	Historic	Charles E Sydnor Houe Ranch Residence 214 West 6 th Street	2003 - Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028770	N/A	Historic	None Vernacular Residence 422 South C Street	2003 - Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028771	N/A	Historic	Louis T. Funston House Vernacular Residence 430 South C Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028772	N/A	Historic	Janie Kirkpatrick House Victorian Cottage Residence 504 South C Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028779	N/A	Historic	J & H Kirkpatrick Modern Commercial Building 406 South D Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028780	N/A	Historic	None Mission Revival Commercial Building 418 South D Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028788	N/A	Historic	None Modern Commercial Building 422 South D Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028792	N/A	Historic	Stewart Building Modern Commercial Building 600 South D Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028793	N/A	Historic	None Ranch Residence 610 South C Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028795	N/A	Historic	Daisy's Commercial/Utilitarian Building 426 South D Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028796	N/A	Historic	Creative Printing Commercial/Utilitarian Building 428 South D Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028797	N/A	Historic	Free Indeed Christian Fellowship Commercial/Utilitarian Building 430 South D Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028799	N/A	Historic	A & M Wolff House Minimal Traditional Residence	2003 -Carrie Chasteen

			619 South C Street	
P-33-028800	N/A	Historic	None Ranch Residence 620 South C Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen
P-33-028803	N/A	Historic	Elmer & Dorothy Smith House Vernacular Residence 628 South C Street	2003 -Carrie Chasteen

Notes: N/A = not assigned/provided.

Historical Maps and Aerial Photographs Review

The Project Site is located within the 7.5-Minute Perris Quadrangle, Township 05 South, Range 03 West, Section 11. Historical maps and aerial photographs were reviewed from 1966 through 2018. The earliest aerial photograph is from 1966 and displays the Project Site as completely undeveloped. In 1967, the majority of the Project Site was in agriculture, which was followed by 1978. At that time, the airport runway that bisects the Project Site is present. No changes to the Project Site have occurred since 1978 (NETR Online 2022).

Riverside County Archives Review

The Riverside County archivist reviewed the assessor parcels and determined that the lot books from 1892 to 1949 have been digitized, lot books from 1949 to 1963 are out for preservation and cannot be accessed at this time, and lot books from 1964 to 1976 are available in print only. The archivist provided the following ownership and parcel information:

Year	Ownership
1913-1919	No Owners
1920-1925	No Owners
1926-1932	No Owners
1932	Louise A. Vernon & HA Hays
1933	FV and Mary L. Gordon
1937	Sec. First National Bank of LA
1940	MD Tatum et al.
1944	CR and Nina Tatum
1945	Lowell M. and Tressa P. Moore
1946	LaVern and Willa Tatum
1949	Harry T. Goodwin
1963	Citizen National Bank
1972*	Pure Gro Co et al.; and Butterfield Land Company

*Portions sold to each entity.

Research on each of the owners was conducted using internet searches including Ancestry.com. An overview of each of the owners is provided below.

Louise Vernon and H.A. Hays owned the property beginning in 1932. Louise was born in Iowa in 1865, and was married at age 22 to Walter A. Vernon. She passed away and was buried in 1953 at Little Lake Cemetery in Orange, California. No information is available for H.A. Hays.

The property was sold to Mary L. Gordon and F.V. Gordon in 1933. No information is available for the Gordons. The property was sold in 1937 to the Security First National Bank of Los Angeles. The bank was founded in 1888 by J.F. Sartori and Associates as Security Trust & Savings Bank (Online Archive of California, 2025). The bank grew through the development of business and mergers and became the Security First National Bank of Los Angeles.

The Security First National Bank of Los Angeles sold the property to Marion D. Tatum et al. in 1940. Marion D. Tatum was born in Texas circa 1890, and was married to Elsie Tatum. Elsie was born in Arizona in 1895. They had three children, La Verne, Donald, and Virginia, who were born in 1916, 1920, and 1916, respectively. In 1940, only Marion, Elsie, and the youngest child, Donald were residing in the same household. Marion's occupation is listed as a poultry farmer in the 1930 census; however, in the 1940 census, no occupation is listed.

In 1944, the property was sold to Clyde R. Tatum and Nina L. Tatum. Clyde was born in 1910 in Texas, and Nina was born in 1918 in Arizona. They had three children, Robert, James, and Roberta, who were born in 1936, 1938, and 1936, respectively. Clyde's occupation is listed as farm manager.

Lowell M. Moore and Tressa P. Moore purchased the property in 1945. No census data is available for the Moore's; however, U.S. Voter Registration (1900-1968) identifies that Lowell was residing in Perris in 1948. Lowell passed away in 1983. Tressa was born in 1897 in Iowa, and married Lowell in Billings, Montana in 1936. She passed away at age 90 in 1988.

LaVern(e) and Willa Tatum purchased the property in 1946. La Vern was born in 1916 in California, and his occupation is listed as farmer in 1950. Willa was born circa 1917 in California. Her occupation is listed as a home maker in the 1950 census; however, records indicate that her prior occupation was beauty operator and that she owned her own business. They had one child, Steven, who was born in 1940. Willa passed away and was buried at the Perris Valley Cemetery in 1982. The property was sold to Harry T. Goodwin in 1949. No information is available for Harry T. Goodwin.

In 1963, Citizen National Bank (CNB) purchased the property. The bank was initially established in Mississippi in 1888 when the Mississippi Legislature granted a handwritten charter to a group of businessmen and farmers who raised \$50,000 to open Citizens Savings Bank (Citizens National Bank 2025). CNB acquired the Bank of Perris in 1947. Portions of the property were sold to Pure Gro Co et al., and Butterfield Land Company in 1972.

Site Survey

Field surveys of the Project Site were conducted in April of 2022 and January of 2023.

The goal of this survey was to provide a constraints-level survey to assess the Project Site for the presence of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources and the historic built environment. Harris & Associates conducted the first survey on April 29, 2022, covering all undeveloped parcels of the Proposed Project. The field survey was conducted using standard archaeological procedures and techniques. The survey area included the entire Project Site including off-site improvements except for the 9.79-acre fenced and graded lot in the Proposed Project's southwestern portion that was surveyed on January 27, 2023 (see discussion below for supplemental survey). Continuous parallel transects (15-meter) were walked primarily in a north-south direction. Transect intervals were started on the western portion of the survey area, along the western edge and moving east.

Visibility was generally good; however, some areas of vegetative growth impaired surface visibility. The survey area was bisected by the Perris Valley Airport runway, which was actively used for takeoff and landing throughout the survey time frame. As such, for safety reasons, the areas directly next to the active runway were surveyed from approximately 15–20 meters.

The survey area was found to be heavily plowed and utilized for agricultural purposes, although there are signs that the fields have been fallow in recent years. Because of what appeared to be very extensive plowing, it was assumed that any cultural resources present before agricultural activities took place are likely either destroyed or obscured. No cultural resources were discovered, and most of the survey area lacked rocks bigger than a golf ball, a sign of extensive plowing activity. A few scattered and culturally unmodified cobbles of quartz and granitic were discovered in the northeastern portion of the Project area, but they appear associated with some dumping areas. The only evidence of any built environment is a small (approximately 4-foot-by-4-foot) visible portion of a concrete pad of undetermined size (because it is mostly now subsurface) in the very northeastern corner adjacent to the intersection of the nearby roads. The pad's location at a topographical low point and its apparent small size make it very unlikely to be part of a building's foundation and is likely associated with agricultural activities, such as a pad for a water tank.

A second, supplemental, survey was carried out on January 27, 2023, covering the 9.79-acre fenced and graded lot in the Proposed Project's southwestern portion. The entire lot was found to have been impacted to such a degree to make it highly unlikely for any in-situ cultural resources to remain. The entire lot was found to have been significantly graded down (between 1/3 and 1 meter in depth), covered with imported gravel, and routinely dragged with a leveling bar and tractor since at least 2008. The only non-graded areas consisted of the very edges of the property, and even

these soils likely represent a redeposited grading berm rather than in-situ soils. All structures on the parcel were found to be modern.

The survey area was photographed to document the environmental setting and is included in the Cultural Resources Survey Letter Report (Appendix D).

Archaeological Resources

No previously discovered archaeological resources were identified within the 1.0-mile search radius by the California Historic Resources Inventory System records search. As previously indicated, an archaeological field survey was conducted on April 29, 2022, and January 27, 2023, to determine if cultural resources exist within the Project Site. No cultural resources were observed.

Tribal Cultural Resources

The California NAHC maintains the confidential Sacred Lands File, which contains sites of traditional, cultural, or religious value to Native Americans. The NAHC was contacted for a Sacred Lands File check to determine whether sacred lands are present on site (Confidential Appendix C, Sacred Lands File Check, of the Cultural Resources Survey Letter Report). The NAHC response was positive and recommended that the list of Tribes provided be contacted for more information. All Tribal bands on the list were contacted for any information they may have regarding Sacred Sites that may be present on site (Cultural Resources Survey Report Confidential Appendix C). To date, three tribes (Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation, and Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians) have responded. The Agua Caliente Band identified that three sites are less than one mile from the project site and that survey site records are available with site specifics. The Quechan Tribe responded that the Historic Preservation Office does not wish to comment on the project and deferred to local Tribes and support their determinations. The Rincon Band responded that they have received the project information letter and that they will review and respond. To date, no additional responses have been received.

Tribal notification pursuant to AB-52 was initiated on June 7, 2022, by the City of Perris. Two tribes responded; the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Agua Caliente) and the Pechanga Band of Indians (Pechanga).

The Agua Caliente initially requested a copy of the cultural study including the records search, but consultation was not requested at that time. A follow-up letter from the Agua Caliente requested consultation. The City provided a copy of the cultural report to the Agua Caliente on May 22, 2023, and January 17, 2024. The City followed up on January 17, 2024, inquiring whether they would like to consult.

The Pechanga responded requesting consultation; however, the response was submitted on July 15, 2022, which was after the deadline (July 7, 2022). The City conducted consultation with the

Pechanga on August 17, 2022. The Pechanga identified that there is a high probability for the presence of resources since VIP Industrial and line b identified resources. They requested a follow-up consultation. City staff provided the CEQA status and cultural report status at the consultation meeting. The City provided a copy of the cultural report to the Pechanga on May 22, 2023, and January 17, 2024. The City followed up on January 17, 2024, inquiring whether they would like to consult further. A detailed discussion of the Tribal Cultural Resources is provided in Section 4.14, Tribal Cultural Resources, of this EIR.

4.4.2 Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the Proposed Project would have a significant impact on cultural resources if it would:

- **Threshold CUL-1:** Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.
- **Threshold CUL-2:** Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.
- **Threshold CUL-3:** Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.

4.4.3 Regulatory Implementation

RI CUL-1 In the event that human remains (or remains that may be human) are discovered at the Project Site or within the off-site project improvement areas during ground-disturbing activities, the construction contractors, project archaeologist, and/or designated Native American tribal representative shall immediately stop all activities within 100 feet of the find. Work outside of the 100-foot radius may continue. The Property Owner/Project Proponent/Developer shall then inform the Riverside County Coroner and the City of Perris Planning Division immediately, and the coroner shall be permitted to examine the remains as required by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(b).

If the coroner determines that the remains are of Native American origin, the coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will identify the “Most Likely Descendent” (MLD). Despite the affiliation with any Native American tribal representative(s) at the site, the NAHC’s identification of the MLD will stand. The MLD shall be granted access to inspect the site of the discovery of Native American human remains and may recommend to the Property Owner means for treatment or disposition, with appropriate dignity of the human remains and any associated grave goods. The MLD shall complete his or her inspection and make recommendations or preferences for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The disposition of the remains will be determined in consultation between the Property Owner and the MLD. In the event that there is disagreement regarding the

disposition of the remains, State law will apply and median with the NAHC will make the applicable determination (see Public Resources Code Section 5097.98I and 5097.94(k)).

The specific locations of Native American burials and reburials will be proprietary and not disclosed to the general public. The locations will be documented by the consulting archaeologist in conjunction with the various stakeholders and a report of findings will be filed with the South Coastal Information Center.

The following sections address various potential impacts relating to cultural resources that could result from implementation of the Proposed Project.

4.4.4 Environmental Impacts

4.4.4.1 Threshold CUL-1: Historical Resources

Impact Analysis

Under existing conditions, the Project Site is fallowed and undeveloped. The California Historic Resources Inventory System records search indicated that no historic resources are contained within the boundaries of the Project Site. In addition, based on research of the multiple property owners since 1932, none of the property owners are identified as significant for their association with the property or for any contributions to California or local history. Furthermore, according to the field survey, the Project Site has been impacted by agricultural and grading activities and does not contain any historic or prehistoric resources.

Under existing conditions, the Project Site is fallowed and undeveloped. Additionally, according to the field survey, portions of the Project Site were disturbed and do not contain any historic or prehistoric resources. The Project Site has been impacted by historical agricultural activities and modern grading; as such, any historical resources that may have been present are likely to have been destroyed. The only evidence of development on the Project Site was a small visible portion of a concrete pad that is assumed to be associated with agricultural activities, such as a pad for a water tank with no historical significance. All structures on the parcel were found to be modern.

Therefore, due to the lack of historical resources located within the Project Site or within proximity to the Project Site, implementation of the Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource and no impact would occur.

Significance of Impact

Less Than Significant Impact.

4.4.4.2 Threshold CUL-2: Archaeological Resources

Impact Analysis

As previously indicated, archaeological field surveys were conducted on April 29, 2022 and January 27, 2023, to determine if cultural resources exist within the Project Site. The surveys were completed in accordance with the City of Perris' environmental policies and CEQA significance evaluation criteria. According to the survey, no resources were recorded within the Project boundaries.

The survey area was found to be heavily plowed and utilized for agricultural purposes, although there are signs that the fields have been fallow in recent years. Because of what appeared to be very extensive plowing, it was assumed that any resources present before agricultural activities took place are likely either destroyed or obscured. The second, supplemental, survey was carried out on January 27, 2023, covering the 9.79-acre fenced and graded lot in the Proposed Project's southwestern portion. The entire lot was found to have been impacted to such a degree to make it highly unlikely for any in-situ cultural resources to remain. As such, there is little potential for archaeological resources to the present or disturbed by the Proposed Project. Based on the records search and the results of the field survey, archaeological resources are not expected to occur on the Project Site.

Though the Cultural Resources Survey Letter Report did not recommend mitigation to reach a less than significant conclusion, after conducting AB 52 consultation, the Agua Caliente tribe has requested that mitigation be incorporated as part of the Proposed Project to protect any resources that may be encountered during development of the Project Site. Mitigation measure MM CUL-1 requires that an archaeological monitor and a Tribal representative be present during ground-disturbing activities and identifies steps to be taken to protect any resources encountered. With implementation of mitigation measure MM CUL-1, potential impacts to archaeological resources would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Significance of Impact

Potentially significant without mitigation.

4.4.4.3 Threshold CUL-3: Human Remains

Impact Analysis

The Project Site has been historically used for agriculture use and therefore, it is not expected to contain human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries. Under existing conditions, the Project Site does not contain a cemetery, and no known cemeteries are located within the immediate vicinity. Field surveys conducted at the Project Site by Harris & Associates did not identify the presence of any human remains and no human remains are known to exist beneath the surface due to the site's historical use for agricultural purposes. In the unlikely event that suspected human remains are uncovered during construction, all activities in the vicinity of the remains shall

cease and the contractor shall notify the county coroner immediately pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5; California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98. The required actions as implemented by the City of Perris are described in Regulatory Implementation condition RI CUL-1, above, which identifies actions to be taken in the event that human remains are found, would be implemented. Thus, the Proposed Project would not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside dedicated cemeteries. With implementation of Regulatory Implementation condition RI CUL-1, potential impacts with regard to disturbing human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries, would be less than significant.

Significance of Impact

Potentially significant without mitigation.

4.4.5 Cumulative Impacts

The following sections address various potential cumulative impacts relating to cultural resources that could result from implementation of the Proposed Project.

4.4.5.1 Cumulative Threshold CUL-1: Historical Resources and Cumulative Threshold CUL-2: Archaeological Resources

Direct impacts to on-site cultural resources are site-specific. Each development proposal received by the City undergoes environmental review and would be subject to the same resource protection requirements as the Proposed Project as outlined in the City of Perris General Plan EIR and, as applicable. If there is a potential for significant impacts on cultural resources, an investigation will be required to determine the nature and extent of the resources and to identify appropriate mitigation measures, including requirements such as those identified in this section. Based on the information presented in the required site-specific cultural resource studies, construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would not impact any known prehistoric archaeological resources and the likelihood of uncovering previously unknown archaeological resources during project construction are low due to the nature of the site and the magnitude of disturbance that has occurred on the site. Nonetheless, the potential exists for subsurface archaeological resource that meet the definition of a significant archaeological resource to be discovered within the Project Site – and other development project sites in the City – during construction activities. Therefore, without mitigation, the Proposed Project would result in a potentially cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact to archaeological resources, if such resources are unearthed during Project construction. The Proposed Project includes mitigation to identify, recover, and/or record any cultural resource that may occur within the Project limits resulting in a less than significant impact (refer to mitigation measure MM CUL-1). The City of Perris requires incorporation of similar measures in each development project. As such, the Proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact to archaeological resources.

4.4.5.2 Cumulative Threshold CUL-3: Human Remains

Impact Analysis

Mandatory compliance with the provisions of California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5, as well as California Public Resources Code, Section 5097 et seq., (Regulatory Implementation condition RI CUL-1 in this EIR), would assure that all future development projects within the region, including the Project, treat human remains that may be uncovered during development activities in accordance with prescribed, respectful and appropriate practices, thereby avoiding significant cumulative impacts.

Significance of Impact

Less Than Significant Impact.

4.4.6 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

4.4.6.1 Threshold CUL-1: Historic Resources

The Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.

4.4.6.2 Threshold CUL-2: Archaeological Resources

Without mitigation, the Proposed Project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.

4.4.6.3 Threshold CUL-3: Human Remains

With regulatory implementation, the Proposed Project would not significantly disturb any human remains, including those interred outside dedicated cemeteries.

4.4.7 Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-1: Archaeological Resource – Monitoring. Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the Project Proponent/Developer shall retain a professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Standards for Archaeology (U.S. Department of Interior, 2012; Registered Professional Archaeologist preferred). The primary task of the Project archaeologist shall be to monitor the initial ground-disturbing activities at both the Project site and any off-site Project-related improvement areas for the identification of any previously unknown archaeological and/or cultural resources. Selection of the Project archaeologist shall be subject to the approval of the City of Perris Director of Development Services and no ground-disturbing activities shall occur at the site or within the off-site project improvement areas until the Project archaeologist has been approved by the City.

The Project archaeologist shall be responsible for monitoring ground-disturbing activities, maintaining daily field notes and a photographic record, and for reporting all finds to the developer and the City of Perris in a timely manner. The Project archaeologist shall be prepared and equipped to record and salvage cultural resources that may be unearthed during ground-disturbing activities and shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert ground-disturbing equipment within a 50-foot radius of the find to allow time for the recording and removal of the resources. Work may continue outside the 50-foot radius.

The Property Owner/Project Proponent/Developer shall also enter into an agreement with either the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, the Pechanga Band of Indians, or the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for a Native American Tribal representative (observer/monitor) to work along with the Project archaeologist. This Tribal representative will assist in the identification of Native American resources and will act as a representative between the City, the Property Owner/Project Proponent/Developer, and Native American Tribal Cultural Resources Department. The Native American Tribal representative should be on-site during all ground-disturbing of each portion of the Project Site including clearing, grubbing, tree removals, grading, trenching, etc. The Native American Tribal representative should be on-site any time the Project archaeologist is required to be on-site. Working with the Project archaeologist, the Native American representative shall have the authority to halt, redirect, or divert any activities in areas where the identification, recording, or recovery of Native American resources are ongoing.

The agreement between the Property Owner/Project Proponent/Developer and the Native American Tribe shall include, but not be limited to:

- An agreement that artifacts will be reburied on-site and in an area of permanent protection;
- Reburial shall not occur until all cataloging and basic recordation have been completed by the consulting archaeologist;
- Native American artifacts that cannot be avoided or relocated at the Project Site shall be prepared for curation at an accredited curation facility in Riverside County that meets federal standards (per 36 CFR Part 79) and available to archaeologists/researchers for further study; and
- The Project archaeologist shall deliver the Native American artifacts, including title, to the identified curation facility within a reasonable amount of time, along with applicable fees for permanent curation.

The Property Owner/Project Proponent/Developer shall submit a fully executed copy of the agreement to the City of Perris Planning Division to ensure compliance with this

condition of approval. Upon verification, the City of Perris Planning Division shall clear this condition. This agreement shall not modify any condition of approval or mitigation measure.

In the event that archaeological resources are discovered at the Project Site or within the off-site Project improvement areas, the handling of the discovered resource(s) will differ, depending on the nature of the find. Consistent with California Public Resources Code, Section 21083.2(b), and Assembly Bill 52 (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), avoidance shall be the preferred method of preservation for Native American/Tribal cultural/archaeological resources. However, it is understood that all artifacts, with the exception of human remains and related grave goods or sacred/ceremonial/religious objects, belong to the Property Owner. The Property Owner shall commit to the relinquishing and reburial and/or curation of all artifacts identified as being of Native American origin. All artifacts, Native American or otherwise, discovered during the monitoring program shall be recorded and inventoried by the consulting archaeologist.

If any Native American artifacts are identified when Native American Tribal representatives are not present, all reasonable measures shall be taken to protect the resource(s) in situ and the City Planning Division and Native American Tribal representative shall be notified. The designated Native American Tribal representative will be given sufficient time to examine the find. If the find is determined to be of sacred or religious value, the Native American Tribal representative will work with the City and Project archaeologist to protect the resource in accordance with Tribal requirements as may be feasible. All analysis will be undertaken in a manner that avoids destruction or other adverse impacts.

In the event that human remains are discovered at the Project Site or within the off-site Project improvement areas, Regulatory Implementation condition RI CUL-1 shall immediately apply, and all items found in association with Native American human remains shall be considered grave goods or sacred in origin and subject to special handling.

Non-Native American artifacts shall be inventoried, assessed, and analyzed for cultural affiliation, personal affiliation (prior ownership), function, and temporal placement. Subsequent to analysis and reporting, these artifacts will be subjected to curation, as deemed appropriate, or returned to the Property Owner.

Once grading activities have ceased and/or the Project archaeologist, in consultation with the designated Native American Tribal representative, determines that monitoring is no longer warranted, monitoring activities can be discontinued following notification to the City of Perris Planning Division.

A report of findings, including an itemized inventory of artifacts, shall be prepared upon completion of the tasks outlined above. The report shall include all data outlined by the Office of Historic Preservation guidelines, including a conclusion of the significance of all recovered, relocated, and reburied artifacts. A copy of the report shall also be filed with the City of Perris Planning Division, the South Coastal Information Center and the Native American Tribe involved with the Project.

4.4.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation

4.4.8.1 Threshold CUL-2: Archaeological Resources

With implementation of mitigation measure MM CUL-1, potential impacts to archaeological resources would be reduced to less than significant levels. No significant and unavoidable impacts would remain.