

APPENDIX J: TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT

SWCA Environmental Consultants,
Technical Memorandum, Tribal Cultural Resources Review, for a Proposed Mixed-Use
Development at 400 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles California,
November 11, 2022.

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Dennis Carey
400 S. San Vicente, LLC
c/o TACMar Development LLC
900 Cercis Place
Newport Beach, California 92660

From: Chris Millington, Senior Archaeologist
David K. Sayre, Project Archaeologist

Date: November 11, 2022

Re: **Tribal Cultural Resources Review for a Proposed Mixed-Use Development at
400 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, California**

INTRODUCTION

400 S. San Vicente LLC (Project Applicant) retained SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to prepare a tribal cultural resource review for a proposed mixed-use development at 400 San Vicente Boulevard (Project). The Project is in the Beverly Grove neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. The Project proposes to demolish two extant buildings and construct a new mixed-use, multi-family development with multiple subterranean parking levels on parcels located at 400 and 432 South San Vicente Boulevard (Project). The Project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the City of Los Angeles (City) Department of City Planning (City Planning) is the lead CEQA agency.

The Project site consists of two parcels between South Vicente and South La Cienega boulevards to the west, West 4th Street to the north, and an unnamed alley to the east (Figure A-1 and Figure A-2).¹ The Project site measures a total of approximately 0.8 acre and comprises two parcels designated as Assessor's Parcel Numbers 5511-044-013 (400 South Vicente Boulevard) and 5511-044-038 (432 South Vicente Boulevard) (see Figure A-2). The Project is in Section 20 of Township 1 South, Range 14 West, and is plotted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Beverly Hills, California, quadrangle (Figure A-3).

This technical memorandum provides a review of available evidence for known tribal cultural resources within the Project site and analyzes the likelihood (i.e., sensitivity) for as-yet unknown tribal cultural resources that could be present in the Project site as buried archaeological deposits. The results of this study are intended to provide a basis on which the potential for impacts to tribal cultural resources can be determined in accordance with the significance thresholds in Appendix G of CEQA Guidelines. This study includes a summary of resources identified in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) through the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), the results of a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and background research used to assess the potential for a buried resource that has not been previously identified. The CHRIS and SLF results are included in Attachments B and C, respectively.

¹ All figures are included in Attachment A.

Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21082.3.1, as amended by Assembly Bill (AB) 52, requires the lead agency to begin consultation with culturally and geographically affiliated California Native American tribes prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project. Tribal consultation for the Project is being conducted concurrent with the preparation of this report; therefore, any input from consulting tribal parties has not been assessed in this report. Furthermore, the evaluation of a tribal cultural resource must consider the cultural value to a California Native American tribe, in addition to scientific and archaeological considerations. Although not all tribal cultural resources are archaeological in nature, those preserved below the surface would likely fit the definition of both an archaeological and a tribal cultural resource. Accordingly, SWCA's assessment of the buried resource potential focuses exclusively on the scientific and archaeological sources of evidence consistent with standard industry practices, and the analysis of the sensitivity for buried tribal cultural resources considered only those that are archaeological in nature.

This report was prepared by Chris Millington, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist and David K. Sayre, B.A. Mr. Millington meets the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualification Standards in archaeology and the Society for California Archaeology's standards for a principal investigator. Copies of this report are on file with the Project Applicant, City Planning, and the SCCIC at California State University, Fullerton. All background materials are on file with SWCA's office in Pasadena, California, referenced under Project No. 75434 and Report No. 22-824.

Summary of Results

The CHRIS and SLF searches did not identify any known tribal cultural resources within the Project site. Native American settlements and sites in the vicinity were identified through supplemental background research, and none are considered close enough to the Project site to suggest a corresponding increase in sensitivity for material remains associated with the intensive use of those sites. Foraging and other cultural activities by Native Americans occurred throughout the Los Angeles Basin during the prehistoric and historic period. Some of these activities could have produced material remains, some of which could be preserved as buried deposits, which forms a baseline level of sensitivity effectively across the entire Los Angeles Basin. These cultural activities may have been concentrated along specific trails or travel routes, some of which are approximated by contemporary thoroughfares, but the correlation is difficult to substantiate such that there should be a corresponding increase in the sensitivity for tribal cultural resources near any major street that would vary from baseline levels.

It has been demonstrated at various sites throughout the Los Angeles Basin that buried Native American objects can be preserved below historically modified surfaces and may even be recovered from within those modified surficial sediments. Accordingly, the effects of development within the Project site do not fully eliminate the potential for deposits, but it is considered to have a net decrease in the potential sensitivity. Given the lack of evidence to suggest the Project site was the focus of intensive use by Native Americans and based on the above considerations, SWCA finds that **the sensitivity for tribal cultural resources in the Project site is low.**

REGULATORY SETTING

State Regulations

Assembly Bill (AB) 52

AB 52 of 2014 amended PRC Section 5097.94 and added PRC Sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 21084.3. Section 4 of AB 52 adds Sections 21074(a) and (b)

to the PRC; these sections address tribal cultural resources and cultural landscapes. Section 21074(a) defines tribal cultural resources as being one of the following:

- (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 (CRHR).
 - (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. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Section 1(a)(9) of AB 52 establishes that “a substantial adverse change to a tribal cultural resource has a significant effect on the environment.” Effects on tribal cultural resources should be considered under CEQA.

AB 52 Tribal Consultation

California Native American tribes are defined in AB 52 as any Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC, regardless of their being federally recognized. AB 52 specifies that California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area may have expertise concerning their tribal cultural resources.

Under PRC 21080.3.1, consultation with California Native American tribes must be initiated by the lead agency and concluded prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project. Once an application for a project is completed or a public agency makes a decision to undertake a project, the lead agency has 14 days to formally notify Native American tribes designated by the NAHC as having traditional and cultural affiliation with a given project site and previously requested in writing to be notified by the lead agency (PRC Section 21082.3.1[b][d]). The notification shall include a brief description of the proposed project, the location, contact information for the agency contact, and notice that the tribe has 30 days to request, in writing, consultation (PRC Section 21082.3.1[d]). Consultation must be initiated by the lead agency within 30 days of receiving any California Native American tribe’s request for consultation.

Section 6 of AB 52 adds Section 21080.3.2 to the PRC, which states that tribal parties may propose mitigation measures “capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource.” Further, if a California Native American tribe requests consultation regarding project alternatives, mitigation measures, or significant effects to tribal cultural resources, the consultation shall include those topics (PRC Section 21080.3.2[a]). The environmental document and the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (where applicable) shall include any mitigation measures that are adopted (PRC Section 21082.3[a]). The consultation shall be considered concluded when either the parties agree to measures mitigating or avoiding a significant effect, if one exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or a party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that agreement cannot be reached (PRC Section 21082.3.2[b]).

Confidentiality

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 6254 and 6254.10, and PRC Section 21082.3(c), information submitted by a California Native American tribe during consultation under AB 52 shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed to the public by the lead agency, project applicant, or the project applicant's agent, unless written permission is given. Exemptions to the confidentiality provisions include any information already publicly available, in lawful possession of the project applicant before being provided by the tribe, independently developed by the project applicant or the applicant's public agent, or lawfully obtained by a third party (PRC Section 21082.3[c]).

California Register of Historical Resources

Created in 1992 and implemented in 1998, the CRHR is "an authoritative guide in California to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state's historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change" (PRC Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1). Certain properties, including those listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Historical Landmarks (CHL) numbered 770 and higher, are automatically included in the CRHR. Other properties recognized under the California Points of Historical Interest program, identified as significant in historical resources surveys, or designated by local landmarks programs, may be nominated for inclusion in the CRHR. According to PRC Section 5024.1(c), a resource, either an individual property or a contributor to a historic district, may be listed in the CRHR if the State Historical Resources Commission determines that it meets one or more of the following criteria, which are modeled on NRHP criteria:

- **Criterion 1:** It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- **Criterion 2:** It is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- **Criterion 3:** It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
- **Criterion 4:** It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Resources nominated to the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to convey the reasons for their significance. Resources whose historic integrity does not meet NRHP criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project site is in the northwest of the Los Angeles Basin, a broad, level plain defined by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Santa Monica Mountains and Puente Hills to the north, and the Santa Ana Mountains and San Joaquin Hills to the south. This extensive alluvial wash basin is filled with Quaternary alluvial sediments deposited as unconsolidated material eroded from the surrounding hills. Several major watercourses drain the Los Angeles Basin, including the Los Angeles, Rio Hondo, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers. The Project site and vicinity are within a fully urbanized setting on an open aspect plain at an elevation of 45.1 meters (148 feet) to 46.6 meters (153 feet) above mean sea level. The Project site is located approximately 10.9 km (6.8 miles) west from downtown Los Angeles and approximately 13.2 km (8.2 miles) northeast of the Pacific Ocean.

The Project site is situated on a relatively level alluvial plain southeast of the Santa Monica Mountains. During most of the nineteenth century, the Project site and surrounding parts of the alluvial plain had been used for ranching and agriculture and retained a rural character. Beginning in the 1880s, urban and suburban growth occurred steadily throughout the Los Angeles Basin, but was notably punctuated by extensive real-estate booms that continued through the 1920s. In the vicinity of the Project site, residential and commercial land-uses were deferred because of the development of the Salt Lake Oil Field, most of the wells for which were drilled between ca. 1905 and 1917. Eventually, properties that comprised the oil field were subdivided and developed into built environment that characterizes the present-day setting.

Prior to these major historical transformations of the landscape, the alluvial plain in this part of the Los Angeles Basin was drained by several drainages, some of which included water from several springs. These stream courses generally flowed south and southwest where they converged with what is now Ballona Creek, which has been the primary channel of the Los Angeles River at various times over at least the last several hundred years (Gumprecht 2001). These stream courses, some of the nearby springs and their swampy surroundings, and elements of the natural topography are reflected in historic maps produced in the latter parts of the nineteenth century, shown here in Figure A-4 and Figure A-5. These historical maps and other sources were incorporated into Dark et al.'s (2011) study that reconstructed the historical ecology of the Ballona Creek watershed, which includes most of the northwestern Los Angeles Basin. Figure A-6 shows the Project site in relationship to the former springs and historical water courses identified in the Dark et al. study and Gumprecht's estimate of the former Los Angeles River channel courses.

Prior to the transformations of the landscape beginning in the late nineteenth century, the vegetation in the western Los Angeles Basin consisted of species associated with the Coastal sagebrush community. The Santa Monica Mountains continue to maintain a diverse community of wildlife including coyotes, mountain lions, and foxes, as well as birds, smaller mammals, insects, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians, many of which historically would have also been found in the adjacent basins.

Surficial geology in the Project vicinity is characterized by Quaternary younger alluvium (Qya2), which is composed of early Holocene sediments in the uppermost levels. A more detailed analysis of the physical setting in the Project site was conducted as part of the geotechnical assessment prepared by Partner Engineering and Science, Inc. (PESI) and Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (Langan). PESI drilled a total of six bores to a depth of up to 66.5 feet below grade; Langan drilled four bores to a depth of up to 76.1 feet below grade. Sediment profiles from one of the geotechnical bores in the Project site showed between 2 and 7 feet of what was characterized as "artificial fill" directly beneath the pavement. Groundwater was encountered between 14 and 32 feet below grade. One of the bores encountered trace bivalve shells between 14 and 17 feet below grade. The remaining bores identified younger Quaternary alluvium across the Project site between approximately 14 and 19 feet below grade, which consists of very stiff clay and sandy clay and soft sandy silt (Langan 2022). Beneath the younger alluvium are older alluvial sediments that compose the Quaternary San Pedro Formation; these sediments consist of stiff to very stiff silt and clay with varying amounts of sand to depths of approximately 33 to 36 feet below grade. This layer of older alluvium typically includes the presence of coarser-grained deposits, trace shell fragments, and/or caliche (Langan 2022).

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Overview

Numerous chronological sequences have been devised to aid in understanding cultural changes within southern California. Table 1 provides a reference point for the primary periods and cultural traditions and is a composite of several cultural chronologies that have been advanced by researchers working in the

region over the last hundred years. Geologic time periods are used as the primary temporal designations—Terminal Pleistocene and Early, Middle, and Late Holocene—and the corresponding chronologies are denoted by “years before present” (B.P.) and calendar ages (B.C. and A.D.). California prehistory is generally divided into three cultural periods referred to as the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Emergent periods. These were originally put forward by Fredrickson (1973, 1974, 1994) as a means of characterizing similar cultural characteristics observed throughout the state, which are understood to have been generally governed by climatic and environmental variables, such as the drying of pluvial lakes at the transition from the Paleoindian to the Lower Archaic.

Table 1. Prehistoric Cultural Chronology for the Southern California Coast

Years Before Present	Calendar Age	Geologic Period*	California Prehistory Periods†	Horizons/Traditions‡	King’s Chronology§
13,000 B.P.	11,000 B.C.	Terminal Pleistocene	Paleoindian / Paleocoastal ~13-8,000 B.P. ~11-6000 B.C.	Paleoindian	
10,000 B.P.	8000 B.C.	Early Holocene		Horizon I / San Dieguito	
			Archaic Period ~8,000-1500 B.P. ~6000 B.C. to A.D. 500	Horizon II / Milling Stone Horizon (MSH) / Encinitas Tradition	King’s Early Period 5500-1350 B.C.
7,000 B.P.	5000 B.C.	Middle Holocene			
3,500 B.P.	1500 B.C.	Late Holocene		Horizon III / Intermediate Horizon / Campbell Tradition	King’s Middle Period 1350 B.C. to A.D. 1200
1,500 B.P.	A.D. 500		Emergent Period ~1,500 B.P. to Historic Contact ~A.D. 500 to Historic Contact	Horizon IV / Late Prehistoric / Chumash Tradition	King’s Late Period A.D. 1200 to Historic Contact
Historic Contact					

* Erlandson and Colton 1991; † Fredrickson 1973, 1974, 1994; ‡ Wallace 1955, 1978, and Warren 1968; § King 1981, 1990.

The earliest evidence for human occupation in southern California is found on the northern Channel Islands, where multiple Terminal Pleistocene sites have been identified and dated in the past couple decades, firmly establishing the presence of early coastal-adapted people in the region (Erlandson et al. 1996, 2011, 2020; Erlandson and Braje 2008). On Santa Rosa Island, human remains have been dated from the Arlington Springs site to approximately 13,000 years ago (Johnson et al. 2002) and recent excavations and radiometric dating of multiple archaeological assemblages on San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz islands document Paleoindian technologies, subsistence strategies, and seasonality of site occupation during the Terminal Pleistocene with similarities to the Western Stemmed Tradition found across much of western North America (Braje et al. 2013; Erlandson 2013; Erlandson et al. 2011, 2015; 2020; Erlandson and Braje 2008; Jew et al. 2013; Rick et al. 2013). It is important to recognize that the Terminal Pleistocene was a period of shifting climate and sea level rise that has now inundated many kilometers of shoreline worldwide and along southern California shorelines specifically (i.e., Reeder-Myers et al. 2015). Accordingly, any evidence of human occupation in what now are coastal settings, is likely only a small fraction of what originally existed (see Erlandson et al. 2007, 2015). It is likely that similarly early sites were present on the mainland California coast; however, the rate and degree of development has likely destroyed most early sites along the California mainland coast. Although few Clovis-like or Folsom-like fluted points have been found in southern California (e.g., Dillon 2002;

Erlandson et al. 1987), it is generally thought that small, mobile populations may have been more numerous than current data suggests.

Decades before Fredrickson, Wallace (1955, 1978) had developed a prehistoric chronology for southern California based on four sequential horizons: Early Man (Horizon I); Milling Stone (Horizon II); Intermediate (Horizon III); and Late Prehistoric (Horizon IV). This regional prehistoric cultural chronology is summarized in Table 2 and describes some of the basic characteristics in the respective periods. Wallace's original synthesis initially lacked chronological precision; however, the advent of radiocarbon dating in the 1950s allowed researchers to further refine and revise these periods as radiocarbon datasets grew and additional analyses were conducted resulting in more refined chronologies and sequences, including those of Frederickson, but several others as well (e.g., Byrd and Raab 2007:217; Koerper and Drover 1983; Koerper et al. 2002; Mason and Peterson 1994; see also Moratto 1984). Additional primary syntheses for southern California prehistory were developed by Warren (1968) and King (1981, 1990), which utilized the growing archaeological datasets of specific subregions within southern California to define increasingly localized cultural sequences.

Table 2. Prehistoric Cultural Chronology based on Wallace's Periods

Period	Key Characteristics	Date Range
Early Man	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diverse mixture of hunting and gathering• Greater emphasis on hunting	ca. 10,000–6000 B.C.
Milling Stone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subsistence strategies centered on collecting plant foods and small animals• Extended and loosely flexed burials	6000–3000 B.C.
Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shift toward a hunting and maritime subsistence strategy, along with a wider use of plant foods• Trend toward greater adaptation to regional or local resources• Fully flexed burials, placed facedown or faceup, and oriented toward the north or west	3000 B.C.–A.D. 500
Late Prehistoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in the use of plant food resources, as well as an increase in land and sea mammal hunting• Increase in the diversity and complexity of material culture• Increased usage of the bow and arrow• Increase in population size, accompanied by the advent of larger, more permanent villages	A.D. 500–ca. 1769

Ethnographic Overview

The Project site is in an area historically occupied by the Gabrielino (Bean and Smith 1978:538; Kroeber 1925:Plate 57). Surrounding Native American groups included the Chumash to the northwest, the Tataviam/Alliklik to the north, who traditionally occupied the San Fernando Valley and some of the surrounding areas, the Serrano to the east, and the Luiseño/Juaneño to the south (Figure A-7). There was well-documented interaction between the Gabrielino and many of their neighbors in the form of intermarriage and trade.

The name “Gabrielino” (sometimes spelled Gabrieleno or Gabrieleño) is a term designated through Spanish custom, which named local tribes according to the nearest mission. Native Americans near Mission San Gabriel Arcángel were therefore named “Gabrielino.” By the same token, Native Americans near Mission San Fernando were historically referred to as Fernandeno (Kroeber 1925:Plate 57). There is little evidence that the people we call Gabrielino had a broad term for their group (Dakin 1978:222). Instead, they reportedly identified themselves as inhabitants of a specific community with locational suffixes; for example, a resident of Yaanga was referred to as a Yabit, much the same way that a resident of New York is called a New Yorker (Johnston 1962:10).

Native words that have been suggested for the broader group of Native Americans indigenous to the Los Angeles region also include Tongva and Kizh, although there is evidence that these terms originally referred to local places or smaller groups of people within the larger group that we now call Gabrielino. Tongva, or Tong-vā (Merriam 1955:77–86), was a term for the people living near Tejon, but the similar sounding Tōñwe was the name for a village near San Gabriel. Tobikhar may have been used to denote the people living near San Gabriel. It means “settlers,” and it may be derived from tobohar or tovaar, meaning “earth” (McCawley 1996:9). Kizh, Kij, or Kichereño (Kroeber 1907:141; Sugranes 1909:29) may be derived from the word meaning “houses.” The term was first recorded by Horatio Hale between 1838 and 1842 as the name of the language spoken at San Gabriel Mission (Barrows 1900:12). One of Harrington’s (1942) native advisors specifically attached the name to people living in the Whittier Narrows area, near San Gabriel Mission’s original location, stating that “Kichereño is not a placename, but a tribename, the name of a kind of people” (McCawley 1996:43).

Many present-day descendants of these people have taken on Tongva and Kizh as a preferred group name, in part because of the Native American rather than Spanish origin (King 1994:12). Because there is no agreement over the most appropriate indigenous term for this group, the term Gabrielino is used in the remainder of this report to designate Native people of the Los Angeles Basin and southern Channel Islands and their descendants.

Gabrielino lands encompassed the greater Los Angeles Basin and three Channel Islands: San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Catalina. Their mainland territory was bounded on the northwest by the Chumash at Topanga Creek, the Serrano at the San Gabriel Mountains in the east, and the Juaneño on the south at Aliso Creek (Bean and Smith 1978:538; Kroeber 1925:636). The mainland area occupied by the Gabrielino included four macro-environmental zones (Interior Mountains/Adjacent Foothills, Prairie, Exposed Coast, and Sheltered Coast) that encompass the watersheds of the Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and San Gabriel Rivers (Bean and Smith 1978:538).

The Gabrielino subsistence economy centered on gathering and hunting. The surrounding environment was rich and varied, and the tribe exploited mountains, foothills, valleys, deserts, riparian, estuarine, and open and rocky coastal eco-niches. Like for most Native Californians, acorns were their staple food (an established industry by the time of the Early Intermediate period). Inhabitants supplemented acorns with the roots, leaves, seeds, and fruits of a variety of flora (e.g., islay, cactus, yucca, sages, and agave). Freshwater and saltwater fish, shellfish, birds, reptiles, and insects, as well as large and small mammals, were also consumed (Bean and Smith 1978:546; Kroeber 1925:631–632; McCawley 1996:119–123, 128–131).

The Gabrielino used a variety of tools and implements to gather and collect food resources. These included the bow and arrow, traps, nets, blinds, throwing sticks and slings, spears, harpoons, and hooks. Groups residing near the ocean used oceangoing plank canoes and tule balsa canoes for fishing, travel, and trade between the mainland and the Channel Islands (McCawley 1996:7). Gabrielino people processed food with a variety of tools, including hammerstones and anvils, mortars and pestles, manos and metates, strainers, leaching baskets and bowls, knives, bone saws, and wooden drying racks. Food was consumed from a variety of vessels. Catalina Island steatite was used to make ollas and cooking vessels (Blackburn 1963; Kroeber 1925:629; McCawley 1996:129–138).

At the time of Spanish contact, the basis of Gabrielino religious life was the Chinigchinich religion, centered on the last of a series of heroic mythological figures. Chinigchinich gave instruction on laws and institutions and also taught the people how to dance, the primary religious act for this society. He later withdrew into heaven, where he rewarded the faithful and punished those who disobeyed his laws (Kroeber 1925:637–638). The Chinigchinich religion seems to have been relatively new when the Spanish

arrived. It was spreading south into the southern Takic groups even as Christian missions were being built and may represent a mixture of Native and Christian belief and practices (McCawley 1996:143–144).

Deceased Gabrielino were either buried or cremated, with inhumation more common on the Channel Islands and the neighboring mainland coast and cremation predominating on the remainder of the coast and in the interior (Harrington 1942; McCawley 1996:157). Remains were buried in distinct burial areas, either associated with villages or without apparent village association (Douglass et al. 2016). Cremation ashes have been found in archaeological contexts buried within stone bowls and in shell dishes (Ashby and Winterbourne 1966:27) as well as scattered among broken ground stone implements (Cleland et al. 2007). Archaeological data such as these correspond to ethnographic descriptions of an elaborate mourning ceremony that included a variety of offerings such as seeds, stone grinding tools, otter skins, baskets, wood tools, shell beads, bone and shell ornaments, and projectile points and knives. Offerings varied with the sex and status of the deceased (Dakin 1978:234–365; Johnston 1962:52–54; McCawley 1996:155–165).

Relocating Former Native American Settlements

In general, it has proven difficult to establish the precise location of Native American settlements occupied immediately preceding and following Spanish arrival in California approximately 250 years ago (McCawley 1996:31–32). Many of the settlements and so-called villages had long since been abandoned by the time ethnographers, anthropologists, and historians attempted to document any of their locations, at which point Native American lifeways had been irrevocably changed. McCawley quotes Kroeber (1925:616) in his remarks on the subject, writing that “the opportunity to prepare a true map of village locations ‘passed away 50 years ago’” (McCawley 1996:32).

Several factors have confounded efforts at relocating former Native American settlements. Firstly, many settlements were recorded with alternative names and spellings. Second, there have been conflicting reports on the meaning and locational reference of the placenames. In addition to differences in the interpretation of a given word, some of the placenames refer to a site using relatively vague terms that could fit several possible locations, or the word may reference a natural feature that no longer exists such as a type of plant that once grew in an area now fully urbanized. Third and perhaps most importantly, Native American placenames recorded in historic records and reported in oral histories did not necessarily represent a continually occupied settlement within a discrete location, which is how the term “village” is commonly understood today. Instead, in at least some cases, the settlements were represented by several smaller camps scattered throughout an approximate geography, shaped by natural features that were subject to change over generations (Ciolek-Torello and Garraty 2016; Johnston 1962:122). Furthermore, the criteria for what constitutes a village site has been especially lacking in consistency and specificity, even within a strictly academic context (see summary by Ciolek-Torello and Garraty [2016:69]). Much of the debate in this regard concerns whether sites were occupied on a permanent or temporary basis, and archaeological data do not always provide unequivocal evidence to make a reliable classification for a given site.

Still, within the range of terms put forth to characterize different types of Native American settlements, there are conventions and core insights shared among scholars. Prehistoric sites in coastal California, for example, are commonly referenced in archaeological sources as residential sites, habitation sites, and seasonal camps, whereas the term village is more often used to reference Mission period settlements such as the Chumash site of Humaliwo, Helo’, and Muwu, or Luiseño sites such as Topomai (Ciolek-Torello and Garraty 2016:69). These Spanish and Mexican period sites are also sometimes referred to as *rancherías*—a term with connotations for a more permanent settlement and often used synonymously with village. The convention was established by Hugo Reid in 1852 who published the first list of Native American placenames in the Los Angeles area, which was by no means comprehensive (Stoll et al. 2016:

387–389). The more generic terms of settlement and site will be used in this report and refer to places where Native American communities were once gathered. Native American sites may also refer to locations where archaeological materials, including human remains, have been discovered. Such locations may consist of one or more known tribal cultural resources or a general area in which a tribal cultural resource could exist.

Native American Settlements and Sites in the Project Vicinity

The Project site is in an open alluvial plain comprising the northern portion of the Los Angeles Basin, bound to the north by the Santa Monica Mountains. The Project site is situated between several Native American sites and settlements (Figure A-6), the nearest of which are located between 1 and 8 miles and include the following: the La Brea Tar Pits (1.2 miles to the southeast), Kuruvungna Springs (5.0 miles to the west), Geveronga (7.0 miles to the east), Guaspet (7.4 miles to the southwest), and Yaanga (7.9 miles to the east).

The La Brea Tar Pits and Kuruvungna Springs are among the nearest and most notable Native American sites to the Project site, which is situated in the alluvial between them (see Figure A-6). Both the La Brea Tar Pits and Kuruvungna Springs have cultural significance to local Native American tribes, and for purposes of CEQA, each meets the definition of a tribal cultural resource. Both localities are distinguished for the natural resources they provided to ancestral Native Americans: La Brea for the naturally occurring asphaltum (also known as bitumen) that had a wide variety of uses but primarily functioned as an adhesive and waterproofing agent; Kuruvungna Springs as a perennial source of freshwater and associated plant and animal resources. Both are registered as a CHL but also include a respective archaeological site designated separately in the CHRIS.

The La Brea Tar Pits is listed as CHL No. 170 (Hancock Park), and the boundary includes archaeological site CA-LAN-159 (all trinomial site numbers hereafter will exclude the state prefix). Kuruvungna Springs is listed as CHL No. 522 (Serra Springs) and partially overlaps archaeological site LAN-382. Both archaeological sites are composed of various Native American artifacts and human remains; those from LAN-159 consist of a partial skeleton from a female commonly referred to as the La Brea Woman. Her remains were recently reanalyzed and dated to $9,080 \pm 15$ radiocarbon years before present (^{14}C yr B.P.) (10,200–10,250 calibrated years B.P.), which are among the oldest found in North America (Fuller et al. 2016). The human remains from Kuruvungna Springs were identified in 1975 within the portion of the site occupied by University High School and are described simply as a post-cranial skeleton, presumed to be from the Late Period (Messick and Greenwood 2006: 13; Singer 1980).

The La Brea Tar Pits and Kuruvungna Springs also share the distinction of having been described in the diaries of members from the Portolá party when they passed through the area in 1769. The path leading them west from Yaanga—a major Native American settlement in what is now downtown Los Angeles—followed what most researchers assume were trails and footpaths that had been actively used by generations of Native American communities. The alignment for portions of what is now Wilshire Boulevard is believed to have originated from these same paths. Portions of this same route would later become part of the major travel corridor established between the missions, pueblos, and other settlements created during Spanish colonization, which was memorialized in the early twentieth century as “El Camino Real.”

Kuruvungna Springs has been referred to under a variety of names that include the following: Serra Springs, Tongva Springs, Gabrielino Tongva Springs, San Vicente Springs, Wounded Deer Springs, and San Rogerio Spring (Messick and Greenwood 2006:13). In their overview of tribal history for the Los Angeles area, Akins and Bauer Jr. (2021) observe that the site not only served as an important natural resource prior to Spanish arrival, but “Kuruvungna still had a substantial population in the early 1810s,

whereas other villages had largely been depopulated. During the next decade, the residents of the village left, mostly by forced relocation to the mission at San Gabriel. The springs continued to flow.”

The next closest known Native American sites and settlements include a complex of archaeological sites to the south of the Project site and along what is now Ballona Creek and the sites of Yaanga and Gerevongna in what is now downtown Los Angeles, to the east of the Project site.

The recording of sites along Ballona Creek were first made by amateur investigators in the early decades of the 1900s. Nels Nelson was the first archaeologist to visit and describe archaeological sites in the Ballona area, which he did in 1912. While not a professionally trained archaeologist, Malcom Farmer conducted what is recognized as the first systematic archaeological inventory for the Ballona area in the 1930s. Charles Rozaire and Russell Belous tried to relocate sites designated by Farmer and some of those described previously by Nelson, among others, and provided a general synthesis of what was known at the time (Rozaire and Belous 1950). Around this same time, work on various sites was also being conducted on Ballona-area sites by archaeologists from the anthropology department at the University of California, Los Angeles. The next major body of work occurred began in 1989 and continued into the mid-2000s by Statistical Research, Inc. Its work included extensive excavation and research of several prominent sites along Ballona Creek as well as extensive archival research discussing Native American placenames described in Spanish mission records and settlements occupied during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, especially the site known as Guaspel (Stoll et al. 2016). The complex of sites near Ballona Creek include a wide range of prehistoric archaeological materials as well human burials, which collectively span a wide range of time periods going back approximately 8,000 years (see Douglass et al. [2016] for a summary).

While they were not identified during any of the above-mentioned surveys conducted in the Ballona area, two other sites containing relatively old Native American human remains (LAN-171 and LAN-172) have been identified at the north end of Ballona Creek in the toeslopes of the Baldwin Hills, just south and east of the channel. LAN-171 was identified in 1924 and consists of the remains from at least eight individuals who are referred to as the Haverty skeletons. Their ages have been estimated to be between 4,600 and 16,000 ¹⁴C yr B.P., or between 4,100 and 25,000 years B.P. based on the 1975 calibration (Brooks et al. 1990). The wide range of dates suggested problems with the methods used in the radiocarbon dating and calibration, especially concerning the use of amino acid racemization (AAR), and subsequent revisions to the estimates found a revised date range of between 4,050 and 7,900 ¹⁴C yr B.P. (Taylor et al. 1985:137). LAN-172 consists of fossilized human remains identified in 1936 and were referred to at the time as “Los Angeles Man,” which was identified approximately 2 miles west of the LAN-171. The remains at LAN-172 consisted of skull fragments and a broken humerus that were described as having been found in the same stratigraphic setting as mammoth bones, suggesting late Pleistocene antiquity, although neither of the discoveries were conducted as controlled excavation and the mammoth discovery was made approximately 370 m (1,213 feet) away. Subsequent dating using AAR could only yield a date of more than 23,600 years B.P. (Berger et al. 1971:47), but revised estimates based on ¹⁴C and AAR yielded a more much more recent date of 3,560 ¹⁴C yr B.P. (Taylor et al. 1985:137).

Very little is known about Geveronga, except that it was mentioned in ethnographic accounts as having been a settlement immediately adjoining the Pueblo of Los Angeles, and that Mission San Gabriel records identify 31 people as having come from here between 1788 and 1809 (McCawley 1996:57). Yaanga was believed to have been among the most prominent Native American communities in the Los Angeles Basin, at least at the time the Spanish arrived. The precise location of the settlement has been much debated, with multiple possible locations having been proposed. Dillon (1994) presented an exhaustive review of the potential locations, most within several blocks of the Los Angeles plaza. Johnston (1962:122) concluded that “in all probability Yaanga lay scattered in a fairly wide zone along the whole arc [from the base of Fort Moore Hill to Union Station], and its bailiwick included as well seed-gathering

grounds and oak groves where seasonal camps were set up.” The proximity of Yaanga to a massive sycamore tree known as El Aliso is also commonly cited and often referred to synonymously with that of Yaanga. The tree is visible in early photographs and plotted on plat maps showing the vineyard and winery established by Louis Vignes. A memorial plaque was recently placed to commemorate Yaanga and its location—on the north side of Commercial Street near the intersection with Vignes Street. The location was chosen based on proximity to the place where El Aliso had once grown, which was in what is now in the channel excavated for the Hollywood Freeway.

During construction of the Metropolitan Water District headquarters building in the mid-1990s, an archaeological site (LAN-1575/H) was identified and included a substantial Native American component composed of artifacts and primary interments and cremation reburials. The archaeological investigation by Goldberg and colleagues found evidence of occupation that both predated and overlapped the Spanish historical period, but ultimately the researchers could not reach a definitive conclusion as to whether portions of the site represented the material remains of Yaanga and the members of the indigenous community who may have considered it as their place of origin (Goldberg et al. 1999:151–159). While most of the natural landscape features that would have characterized Yaanga and its surroundings are no longer present and the precise location of the settlement remains an open question, the general location still retains its association with Yaanga and is considered an important place by contemporary Gabriolino groups.

Historic Overview

Rancho La Brea (1828–1937)

The Project is in the former Rancho La Brea—originally a Spanish period land grant of one-square league (4,444.4 acres) given to Antonio Jose Rocha in 1828 (Seaman 1914). The rancho is situated in the vast open space between Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean, which included very few landmarks amidst the agricultural fields and lands used for grazing cattle and sheep. In his memoir, merchant Harris Newmark describes the surroundings in 1854 as “one huge field, practically unimproved and undeveloped,” extending from Spring Street to the coast (Newmark 1930:112). As a ranch property, Rancho La Brea derives its name from the association with the swampy asphaltum source (*brea* in Spanish), now world-famous as a paleontological site. Even as a Spanish- and Mexican-era rancho, public access to the asphaltum seeps and grazing within the Rancho La Brea boundaries was consistently maintained, and in the case of the former, land grants often included stipulations recognizing the asphaltum as a public resource (Torrance 1977:9).

The land ownership history of Rancho La Brea in the early American Period is a complicated one. Approximately 1855, after Antonio Rocha’s heirs were unable to secure the land rights under from the U.S. Land Commission, they began to sell their claims and lease portions of their inheritances to American buyers. The Project site is situated the tract granted to John Hancock, which previously had been acquired from Jose Jorge Rocha. Much of the central portions of Rancho La Brea would end up being developed as the Salt Lake Oil Field. Drilling in the oil field began approximately 1905 and continued until 1917, and the last wells stopped producing around the 1930s.

Real-estate booms in the 1880s and early decades of the twentieth century saw significant urban and suburban growth within the greater Los Angeles area. This growth included expansions from existing population centers and new towns and communities being established, much of which occurred within former ranching and agricultural properties like Rancho La Brea. The western portion of Rancho La Brea, including the Project site, was part of the 1,200-acre property granted to John Hancock, who unexpectedly died in 1892. Up to this point, comparatively less development had occurred in the western portions of the increasingly subdivided rancho.

Hancock's inheritors included some of his surviving family, most of whom sold their inheritances to developers who then quickly subdivided and developed the properties. Among these was Thomas Quint, one of Hancock's nephews, who in 1894 sold portions of his land to General Moses H. Sherman, owner of the Pasadena & Pacific Railroad Company. Sherman and his nephew-turned-business-partner, Eli Clark, completed the Pasadena & Pacific Railway in 1896. The line ran from Pasadena to Santa Monica via Colegrove and the newly formed townsite of Sherman. The next year they completed a segment of the Venice Short Line that ran west from downtown Los Angeles to the Vineyard Station (near the current intersection of Venice and San Vicente Boulevards). By the middle of 1897, the two had lost control of the railway, but they continued developing interurban lines under their new corporation, the Los Angeles Pacific Railway, which completed its Venice Short line in 1902 and extended the route from Vineyard Station to Venice.

The Westgate Line was completed in 1906 as a suburban route that followed a newly constructed track extending northwest from Vineyard Station along a private right-of-way adjacent to what is now San Vicente Boulevard, then diverging at an intersection known as Sherman Junction (Myers and Swett 1976: 17, 21). All the Los Angeles Pacific Company's railways, including the Westgate Line, were consolidated in 1911 by the Southern Pacific under the newly formed Pacific Electric Railway Company (Myers and Swett 1976: 27). The Westgate Line would continue to operate as part of the Pacific Electric network until 1940 when it was officially taken out of service. The Westgate Line and San Vicente Boulevard were both situated along the western boundary of Rancho La Brea where it adjoins Rancho Rodeo de las Aguas and what would become the city of Beverly Hills.

By the 1920s, the last oil well had already been drilled in the Salt Lake Oil Field and production within existing wells was beginning to decline. Meanwhile, the population of Los Angeles was undergoing exponential population growth consisting of domestic and foreign immigrants. With a growing population came the expansion of suburban areas into agricultural and ranching properties, including the former oil properties and open space in Rancho La Brea. Geographically, the expansion of the street grid in the vicinity of the Project adhered to the northwest-southeast skew created by the Westgate Line, ultimately reflecting the original rancho boundaries, which San Vicente Boulevard still approximates. As various residential and commercial tracts were established along the railroad and fronting San Vicente Boulevard, the Project site remained vacant into the late 1930s, as the pastoral character increasingly gave way to the urbanized setting of today.

Historical Development of the Project Site (1937–Present)

The two parcels comprising the Project site are currently developed with the Beverly Plaza Shopping Mall, paved parking in the northern portion of the Project site, and India's Grill Restaurant and Professional Clinical Laboratory in the southern portion of the Project site. The parcels were originally designated as part of Tract No. 7555, surveyed in 1923 and approved in 1924. This tract was created in the area bound by San Vicente Boulevard to the west, 3rd Street to the north, Fairfax Avenue to the east, and Wilshire Boulevard to the south. Build-years listed in the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office parcel data for properties in Tract 7555 show that 45 percent of all the parcels were developed by 1928, and by the time the United States entered World War II in 1942, 75 percent were developed.

Inspection of aerial photographs taken in 1928 and 1937 shows far fewer of the parcels along San Vicente Boulevard were developed than those along the tract's interior residential streets. The block containing the Project site was entirely vacant in 1928, and in 1937, three smaller buildings can be seen: one smaller structure that appears to be a gasoline service station in the northern portion at the intersection with 4th Street; a narrow and long structure adjacent to the gas station, possibly a mechanics shop; and a relatively small building in one of the central lots that later Sanborn maps identify as being 424 South San Vicente Boulevard. The 1950 Sanborn Insurance map shows these three structures with additions and identifies

the occupying businesses as a drapery shop and furniture store in the southern building with auto parking near the central portion of the Project site. By 1960, the area of the original northern structure is labeled as parking, and by 1969, the Church of Religious Science of Beverly Hills occupies the middle structure, and the building on the southern edge of the Project site is being used as an office. A historical aerial photograph from 1973 shows a circular structure on the northern edge of the Project site where one of the parking areas was previously situated. The office building along the southern edge of the Project site is still present and appears to be the same office building that is currently within the Project site. The remaining portion of the Project site has yet to be removed, and the present-day strip mall is not yet developed.

RECORDS SEARCH

Previously Conducted Studies

SWCA received the results of the CHRIS records search from the SCCIC on November 4, 2022. Results of the records search indicate that 19 cultural resources studies have been conducted within 0.8 km (0.5 mile) of the Project site, one of the studies intersects the Project site (LA-06484) (Table 3). LA-06484 consists strictly of a literature search completed in 2001. The 18 cultural resources studies outside of the Project site include seven archaeological field studies, an architectural/historical evaluation and management/planning study, three literature searches, a management/planning study, two monitoring projects, and four “other research” studies.

Table 3 Prior Cultural Resources Studies within a 0.8-km (0.5-mile) Radius of the Project site

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Author (Affiliation)	Year	Proximity to Project site
LA-00847	<i>Surveyed a 1/4 Acre Lot on the Northwest Corner of San Vicente Blvd. and Beverly Blvd.</i>	Botkin, Steven G. (University of California, Los Angeles Archaeological Survey)	1973	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-01968	<i>Cultural Resources Literature Review of Metro Rail Red Line Western Extension Alternatives, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California</i>	Bissell, Ronald M. (RMW Paleo Associates, Inc.)	1989	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-02271	<i>An Archaeological Assessment of the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center - Located Adjacent to San Vicente Blvd. in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County</i>	White, Robert S. (Archaeological Associates, Ltd.)	1991	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-04603	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment for Pacific Bell Mobile Services Facility LA 577-02, County of Los Angeles, California</i>	Duke, Curt (LSA Associates, Inc.)	1999	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-06115	<i>Cultural Resources Monitoring Cedars-Sinai Central Plant 8700 Beverly Boulevard, City and County of Los Angeles County, California</i>	Bonner, Wayne H. (W.H. Bonner Associates)	2002	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-06116	<i>Cultural Resources Monitoring Cedars-Sinai S. Mark Taper Foundation Imaging Center 8700 Beverly Boulevard, City and County of Los Angeles County, California</i>	Bonner, Wayne H. (W.H. Bonner Associates)	2000	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-06484	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment Cingular Wireless Facility No. SM 038-01 Los Angeles County, California</i>	Duke, Curt (LSA Associates, Inc.)	2001	Within
LA-06513	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment for AT&T Wireless Services Facility Number C924.1, County of Los Angeles, California</i>	Duke, Curt (LSA Associates, Inc.)	2001	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Author (Affiliation)	Year	Proximity to Project site
LA-09432	<i>Phase I Archaeological Assessment of Less Than One Acre for the Burton Way Project, Los Angeles, California</i>	Bray, Madeleine (Environmental Science Associates)	2008	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-10568	<i>City of West Hollywood Historic Resources Survey 1986-1987 Final Report</i>	Anonymous (Johnson Heumann Research Associates)	1987	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-11005	<i>Westside Subway Extension Historic Property Survey Report and Cultural Resources Technical Report</i>	Anonymous (Cogstone)	2010	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-11432	<i>Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Survey and Historic Architectural Resource-Inventory and Assessment. AT&T Site: EL0456-12, 156 North La Cienega Boulevard Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, California 90210. CASPR#3551016878</i>	Loftus, Shannon (ACE Environmental)	2011	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-11437	<i>Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Survey and Historic Architectural Resource-Inventory and Assessment. AT&T Site: EL0456-10, 8725 Wilshire Boulevard Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, California 90211. CASPR#3551016878</i>	Loftus, Shannon (ACE Environmental)	2011	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-11585	<i>Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for AT&T Mobility, LLC Candidate LAR032-01, USID 11951 (Wilshire/San Vicente), 8300 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, California</i>	Bonner, Wayne (Environmental Assessment Specialists)	2011	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-11642	<i>Westside Subway Extension Project, Historic Properties and Archaeological Resources Supplemental Survey Technical Reports</i>	Daly, Pam and Sikes, Nancy (Cogstone)	2012	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-11785	<i>Final Environmental Impact Statement—Final Environmental Impact Report for the Westside Subway Extension</i>	Rogers, Leslie (U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration and LA County Metro Transit Authority)	2012	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-11822	<i>Archival Documentation Report for the Chateau Arnaz Condominium Project. Documenting Buildings Located at 143, 145, 147, and 149 N Arnaz Dr, Beverly Hills, California</i>	Hatheway, Roger G (Hatheway and Associates)	2001	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-12004	<i>Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for T-Mobile West, LLC Candidate SV01671B (01671 Amir Development) 8730 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, California</i>	Bonner, Wayne (Michael Baker and Associates)	2012	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)
LA-12522	<i>AT&T Site: LAC047, C047 Beverly Hills Overlay-C047, 248 North Robertson Boulevard, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, California</i>	Loftus, Shannon (ACE Environmental)	2012	Outside (within 0.5-mile buffer)

Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

The CHRIS records search did not identify any archaeological resources within a 0.8-km (0.5-mile) radius of the Project site.

SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

On September 19, 2022, the NAHC submitted the results of an SLF search in response to the SWCA's request. The results of the SLF were negative. In the response letter, the NAHC noted that the lack of recorded sites does not indicate the absence of tribal cultural resources within the Project site, and that the

CHRIS and SLF are not exhaustive. The NAHC's response to SWCA's request included a list of nine Native American contacts who may have knowledge of cultural resources in or near the study area and recommended they be contacted prior to work. All tribal outreach and consultation conducted for the Project will be implemented by the City pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. No outreach to tribal parties was conducted as part of the current study. The SLF results letters are included in Attachment C.

SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

Methods

This section assesses the potential (i.e., sensitivity) for tribal cultural resources that are archaeological in nature to be preserved below the surface of the Project site. Although not all tribal cultural resources are archaeological in nature, those likely to be preserved below the surface are likely to fit the definition of an archaeological and tribal cultural resource. The location of buried archaeological deposits, including those that are potential tribal cultural resources, is unpredictable in nature; however, combining information from different sources can allow for a qualitative assessment of the likelihood for a buried tribal cultural resource to be present within a given area or project site. Accordingly, sensitivity assessments are qualitative or probabilistic in nature—ranging along a spectrum of increasing probability—which is designated here as low, moderate, and high sensitivity. The sensitivity assessment essentially combines two variables: indications of intensive use and preservation conditions. Areas with a favorable setting for habitation or use, soil conditions capable of preserving buried material, and little to no disturbances are considered to have a high sensitivity. Areas lacking these traits are considered to have low sensitivity. Areas with a combination of these traits are generally considered to have moderate sensitivity.

The first variable considered in SWCA's sensitivity assessment concerns the link between human behavior and material remains, i.e., whether there are any indications that a given area was the focus of past use by Native Americans such that any material remains, or physical evidence associated with those activities would have resulted. Questions asked include: What was the environmental setting within the time period of human occupation in southern California (approximately the last 13,000 years)? and Was the location favorable for habitation or other types of activities in this time span based on what we about past Native American lifeways?

The next consideration given is whether the setting of a given project site is conducive to the preservation of any such material remains that may have once been present. Assessing the preservation conditions considers the following types of questions. Is there a potential for shallow or deeply buried deposits? What kinds of land uses have occurred within the region and have there been any alterations to the physical setting within the project site? What is the age of the sediments, and is there evidence of high or low energy deposition or erosion during the period of human occupation? Did the physical alterations result from natural causes, such as flooding or erosion, or from more recent historic-period developments, such as mechanical grading, and how have these processes influenced the potential for preserving buried materials? In other words, is there evidence that natural or historic-period developments may have eroded, displaced, or otherwise destroyed any potential materials that may have once been present?

To assess these variables, SWCA considers archaeological, ethnographic, historical, environmental, and other archival data sources. These sources are reviewed to determine whether the general location is described in ethnographic studies and oral histories and whether the area of interest is similar to the physical setting in which other Native American archaeological sites have been identified. Where the sensitivity assessment considers proximity to a given feature—a known archaeological site, a former village, settlement, or placename, or an environmental feature—there is no universal measure between sensitivity and distance, nor is there a consistent depth above or below which buried resources can occur

in all circumstances. These variables are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and the conclusions incorporate a degree of professional judgment based on industry standards and best practices for archaeology.

Archaeological site data include those identified in the CHRIS records search and supplemental background research. The CHRIS data are also analyzed in greater detail to identify any sample bias in the identification of sites, which is to say, to what degree the absence of site information is the result of no resources having been identified or that no archaeological investigation took place. In addition to the literature sources cited above and listed in the references section below, SWCA consulted the following publicly accessible data sources: David Rumsey Historical Map Collection; Huntington Library Digital Archives; Library of Congress; Los Angeles Public Library Map Collection; USGS historical topographic maps; and University of California, Santa Barbara, Digital Library (aerial photographs). Historical maps drawn to scale are georeferenced using Esri ArcGIS software suite to show precise relationships to the Project site.

Results

The CHRIS and SLF searches were negative for tribal cultural resources or potential tribal cultural resources within the Project site or a 0.5-mile radius. SWCA conducted supplemental background research focusing on Native American land uses and settlement patterns in the region and the effects of ranching and urban development. This research identified several named Native American sites and suspected settlements within the region, specifically to the north, northwest, and west of the Project site. The nearest of these includes the La Brea Tar Pits (LAN-159), located 1.2 miles to the southeast, and Kuruvungna Springs (LAN-382), located 5.0 miles to the west. The next closest known Native American sites and settlements include a complex of archaeological sites to the south of the Project site and along what is now Ballona Creek, between 3 and 8.5 miles to the southwest, and the sites of Yaanga and Gerevongna in what is now downtown Los Angeles, located approximately 7 miles to the east. Except for Gerevongna, Native American archaeological components have been identified and designated as sites at each of these locations. Two other locations with Native American skeletal remains (LAN-171 and LAN-172) have also been identified in the toeslopes of the Baldwin Hills at the north end of Ballona Creek, between 3.4 and 4 miles of the Project site. Collectively, these sites demonstrate that Native Americans have been present within the Los Angeles basin for at least the last 9,000 years. While the Native American sites identified in the vicinity all likely contain additional material components (i.e., potential tribal cultural resources) beneath the existing grade and outside of their mapped boundaries, these locations are considered to be too far away to suggest an increased sensitivity directly within the Project site.

Native Americans who occupied these settlements and foraged for resources in the area would have accessed the different locations using footpaths. Foraging and other types of activities, including interring human remains, would have occurred intermittently along these routes, some of which would have produced archaeological deposits. Such deposits, typically described as open camps, tend to be characterized by less substantial deposits than what might be expected at a more permanently inhabited settlement or intensively used area. At least some of the primary thoroughfares within the contemporary street grid were likely established along some of these trails. For example, when the Portolá expedition passed through this part of the Los Angeles Basin, they were reportedly guided by Native Americans following along one such trail. However, within the urbanized setting that characterizes the Project site and its surroundings, there is little to no direct evidence identified that would allow for a reliable reconstruction of any such trails in a spatially explicit way. Therefore, the influence on tribal cultural resource sensitivity is considered similarly generalized.

SWCA considered the physical setting of the site to help assess the potential for the preservation of any tribal cultural resources that may have once been present as a buried deposit. This assessment considers

regional and site-specific historical land uses and geophysical data. The Project site was part of Rancho La Brea and was used in the Spanish and Mexican periods as open range for grazing cattle and sheep. No evidence was identified indicating ranch houses or settlements associated with the operation of the ranch during this period. The Project site is situated in the western portion of the Salt Lake Oil Field, which was actively used for oil extraction from 1905 to 1917 and was largely abandoned during the 1930s. No oil wells were drilled within the Project site, which appears to have remained a vacant lot during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The tract that established the current parcels and street grid was surveyed in 1923 and was quickly developed with housing and commercial properties, a large proportion of which occurred during the periods of rapid population growth in Los Angeles during the 1920s. San Vicente Boulevard was established parallel to a commuter railway—the Westgate Line—that had been constructed in 1906 and remained in operation until 1940. The first development within the Project site that could be determined through archival research occurred at some point between 1928 and 1937 when a gas station was constructed in the northern end of the Project site. It is not clear whether at this point the Project site would have already been graded during construction of the adjacent streets and development of adjacent parcels. Historical photographs, Sanborn Insurance Company maps, and other archival sources make it clear that between 1937 and 1973 the Project site underwent several iterations of construction and demolition. Currently, the Project site is developed with two buildings that occupy approximately one-third of the area, and the remaining portion is a paved and used for parking.

Evidence of these historical alterations were evident in sediment profiles prepared from bores drilled within the property as part of the Project's geotechnical assessment. A total of 10 bores were drilled, and between 2 and 7 feet, the sediments are described as "fill soils" composed of varying amounts of sand, silt, and gravel. While it is not clear whether the sediments were imported, the presence of the fill soils in the sediment profiles across the site to depths of 7 feet suggest the near-surface stratum beneath the existing pavement has been intensively altered during the development of the Project site. The fill soils were underlaid by (geologically) younger Quaternary alluvium observed to depths ranging between 14 and 19 feet below grade, which then transitioned to older alluvium (San Pedro Formation) that contained trace shell and/or caliche.

Native American archaeological components can be preserved at depth within younger Quaternary alluvium. Such sites could include tools or the debris from their creation, plant and animal remains, hearths, and items of adornment or sacred objects. However, given the volume of younger Quaternary alluvium within the Los Angeles Basin and the varied conditions under which these deposits were created, the presence of alluvial sediments of this age does not automatically indicate increased potential for a tribal cultural resource, only that the physical conditions could be conducive to the presence of material remains that once may have been present and deeply buried. By comparison, the older Quaternary alluvium is likely too old to contain preserved tribal cultural resources.

To summarize, there have clearly been alterations to the physical setting from developments starting sometime between 1928 and 1937. It has been demonstrated at various sites throughout the Los Angeles basin that buried Native American objects can be preserved below historically modified surfaces and may even be recovered from within those modified surficial sediments, so the potential for a tribal cultural resource can rarely be completely ruled out. The presence of younger Quaternary alluvium underlying fill soils within the Project site indicates at least some of the subsurface setting could be conducive to the preservation of a buried resource if such a resource was present before the twentieth century developments. However, no evidence was identified to suggest the Project site was the focus of intensive use by Native Americans such that any substantial deposits would be likely to have once been present. Accordingly, SWCA considers the Project site to have **low sensitivity for tribal cultural resources**.

STUDY CONSTRAINTS AND DISCLAIMER

In creating the category of tribal cultural resources, the legislative intent of AB 52 is expressly stated as seeking to consider “the tribal cultural values in addition to the scientific and archaeological values when determining impacts and mitigation” and “recognize that California Native American tribes may have expertise with regard to their tribal history and practices, which concern the tribal cultural resources with which they are traditionally and culturally affiliated” (Gatto 2014). Analysis of tribal cultural resources in the absence of information provided by local tribes, therefore, is considered to be constrained insofar as the evidence considered may be confined to published, academic, and archaeological sources, and the conclusions can only be considered as representing scientific and archaeological values. The analysis and conclusions stated herein are based on the expertise and professional judgement of SWCA’s qualified archaeologists and intended to present information that can be used in assessing the potential for tribal cultural resources under CEQA and should not be considered a replacement for tribal expertise or assumed to represent tribal cultural values. Furthermore, this assessment is explicitly focused on material remains or objects associated with Native Americans and considers the scientific values strictly from an archaeological perspective. The evaluation of a tribal cultural resource must also consider the cultural values to a California Native American tribe, for whom variables not assessed here may have relevance.

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ATTACHMENT A

Report Figures

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Figure A-1. Project vicinity.



Figure A-2. Project site plotted on a 2017 aerial.

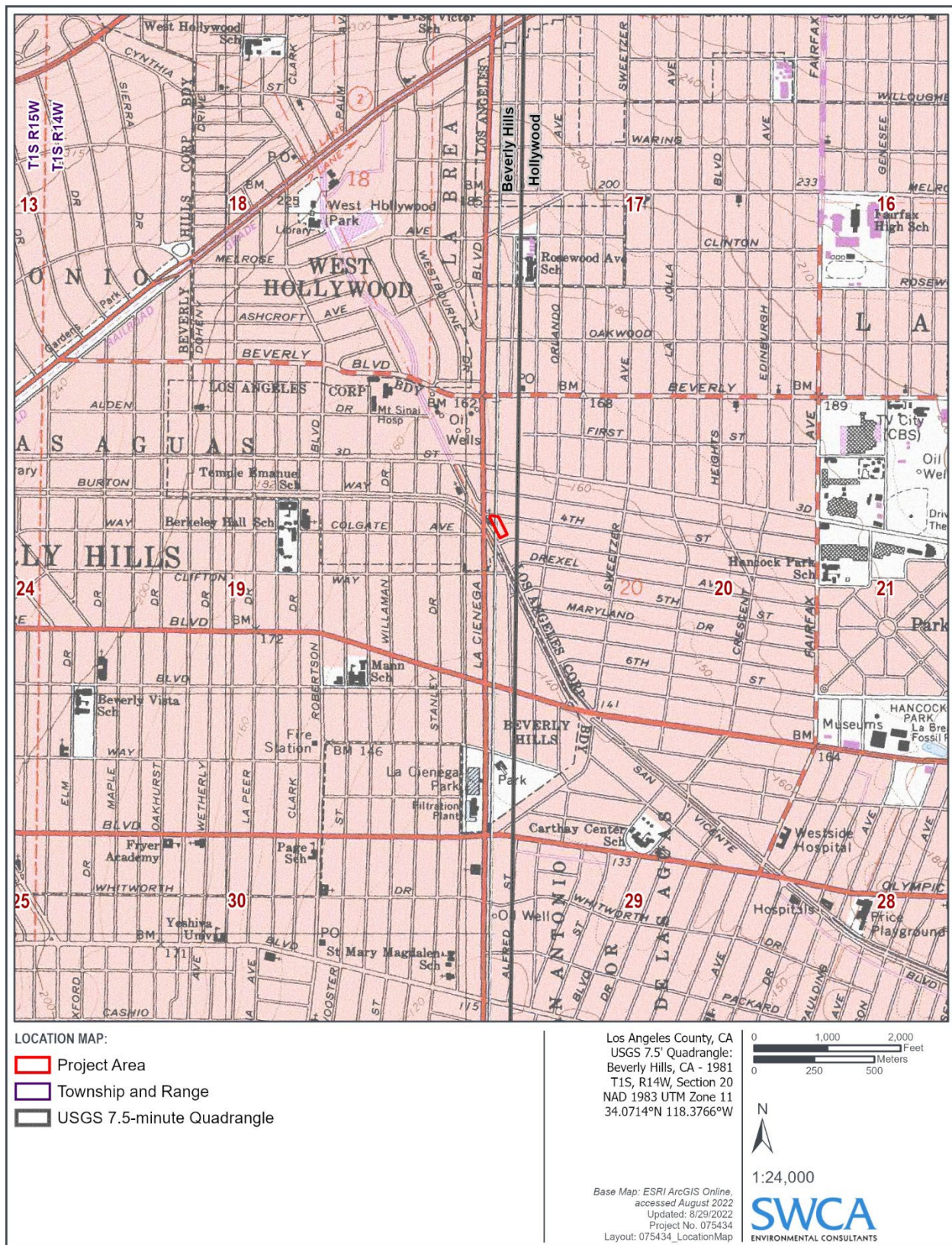


Figure A-3. Project location plotted on USGS Beverly Hills, California, 7.5-minute quadrangle.



Figure A-4. Project site plotted on Hall's (1888) Santa Monica Irrigation Map.



Figure A-5. Project site plotted on USGS (1894) Los Angeles, California, quadrangle, 1:62,500.

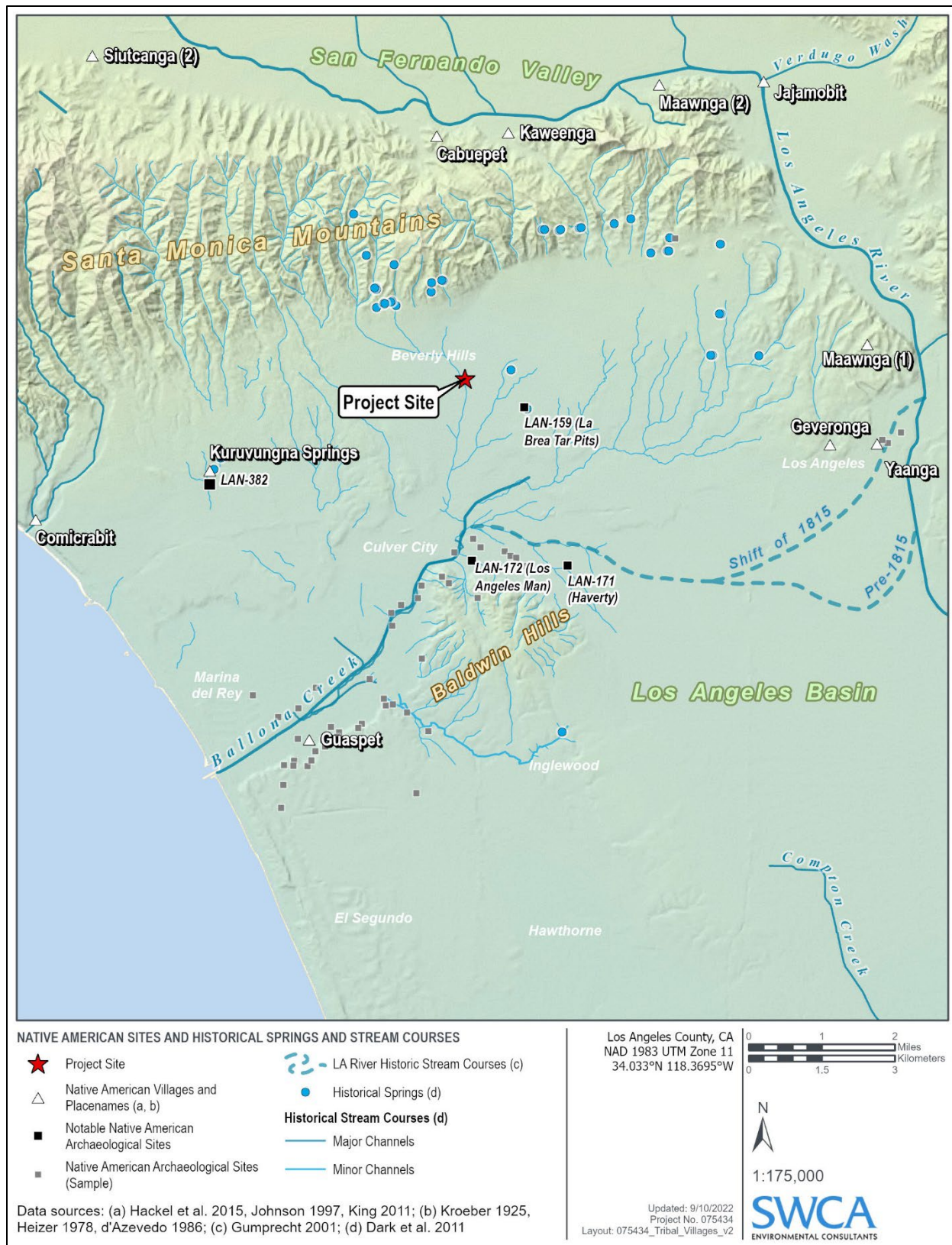


Figure A-6. Native American sites and historical springs and stream courses.



Figure A-7. Traditional tribal territories based on ethnographic sources.

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ATTACHMENT B

South Central Coastal Information Center Records Search Results

South Central Coastal Information Center

California State University, Fullerton
Department of Anthropology MH-426
800 North State College Boulevard
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846
657.278.5395 / FAX 657.278.5542

sccic@fullerton.edu

California Historical Resources Information System
Orange, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties

11/4/2022

Records Search File No.: 24068.10343

David Sayre
SWCA Environmental Consultants
51 W. Dayton Street
Pasadena, CA 91105

Re: Record Search Results for the 400 San Vicente Mixed-Use Development Project (Project No. 75434)

The South Central Coastal Information Center received your records search request for the project area(s) referenced above, located on the Beverly Hills and Hollywood, CA USGS 7.5' quadrangle(s). Due to the COVID-19 emergency, we have temporarily implemented new records search protocols. With the exception of some reports that have not yet been scanned, we are operationally digital for Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties. See attached document for your reference on what data is available in this format. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a ½-mile radius:

As indicated on the data request form, the locations of archaeological resources and reports are provided in the following format: ☐ custom GIS maps ☒ shape files ☐ hand drawn maps

Archaeological resources within project area: 0	None
Archaeological resources within ½-mile radius: 0	None
Reports within project area: 1	LA-06484
Reports within ½-mile radius: 18	SEE ATTACHED LIST

Resource Database Printout (list):

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Database Printout (details):

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Digital Database (spreadsheet):

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☒ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (list):

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (details):

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Digital Database (spreadsheet):

☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Record Copies:

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☒ nothing listed

Report Copies:

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

OHP Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) 2019:

☒ available online; please go to

https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30338

Archaeo Determinations of Eligibility 2012:

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☒ nothing listed

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments

Historical Maps:

Ethnographic Information:

Historical Literature:

GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:

Caltrans Bridge Survey:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm>

Shipwreck Inventory:

http://shipwrecks.slc.ca.gov/ShipwrecksDatabase/Shipwrecks_Database.asp

Soil Survey Maps: (see below)

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

☒ not available at SCCIC

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Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System,

Isabela Kott

Assistant Coordinator, GIS Program Specialist

Enclosures:

(X) Emergency Protocols for LA, Orange, and Ventura County BULK Processing Standards – 2 pages

(X) GIS Shapefiles – 19 shapes

(X) Resource Digital Database (spreadsheet) – 19 lines

Emergency Protocols for LA, Orange, and Ventura County BULK or SINGLE PROJECT Records Searches IF YOU HAVE A GIS PERSON ON STAFF ONLY!!

These instructions are for qualified consultants with a valid Access and Use Agreement.

WE ARE ONLY PROVIDING DATA THAT IS ALREADY DIGITAL AT THIS TIME. SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY IS NOT DIGITAL AND THESE INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY.

Some of you have a fully digital operation and have GIS staff on board who can process a fully digital deliverable from the Information Center. If you can accept shape file data and do not require a custom map made for you by the SCCIC, and you are willing to sort the data we provide to you then these instructions are for you. Read further to be sure. You may have only one project at this time or some of you have a lot of different search locations that can be processed all at once. This may save you a lot of time getting results back and if we process your jobs in bulk, and you may enjoy significant cost savings as well. If you need individual invoice or summaries for each search location, then bulk processing is not for you and you need to submit a data request form for each search location.

Bulk processing will work for you if you have a GIS person on staff who can sort bulk data for you and make you any necessary project maps. This type of job can have as many job locations as you want but the point is that we will do them in bulk – at the same time - not one at a time. We send all the bulk data back to you and you sort it. This will work if you need searches in LA, Orange, or Ventura AND if they all have the same search radius and if all the other search criteria is the same– no exceptions. This will not work for San Bernardino County because we are not fully digital for San Bernardino County. You must submit all your shape files for each location at the same time and this will count as one search. If you have some that need a different radius, or different search criteria, then you should submit that job separately with its own set of instructions.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BULK PROCESSING:

Please send in your requests via email using the data request form along with the associated shape files and pdf maps of the project area(s) at 1-24k scale. PDFs must be able to be printed out on 8.5X 11 paper. We check your shape file data against the pdf maps. This is where we find discrepancies between your shape files and your maps. This is required.

Please use this data request form and make sure you fill it out properly.

<http://web.sonoma.edu/nwic/docs/CHRISDataRequestForm.pdf>

DELIVERABLES:

1. A copy of the Built Environment Resources Directory or BERD for Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, or San Bernardino County can now be found at the OHP Website for you to do your own research. This replaces the old Historic Properties Directory or HPD. We will not be searching this for you at this time but you can search it while you are waiting for our results to save time.

You will only get shapefiles back, which means that you will have to make your own maps for each project location. WARNING! If you don't request the shape files, you won't be able to tell which reports are in the project area or the search radius. Please note that you are charged for

each map feature even if you opt out of receiving shape files. You cannot get secondary products such as bibliographies or pdfs of records in the project area or search radius if you don't pay for the primary products (shape files) as this is the scaffolding upon which the secondary products are derived. If you do not understand the digital fee structure, ask before we process your request and send you data. You can find the digital fee structure on the OHP website under the CHRIS tab. In order to keep costs down, you must be willing to make adjustments to the search radius or what you are expecting to receive as part of the search. Remember that some areas are loaded with data and others are sparse – our fees will reflect that.

2. You will get a bulk processed bibliographies for resources and reports as selected; you will not get individual bibliographies for each project location.
3. You will get pdfs of resources and reports if you request them, provided that they are in digital formats. We will not be scanning records or reports at this time.
4. You will get one invoice for the bulk data processing. We can't bill this as individual jobs on separate invoices for you. If there are multiple project names, we are willing to reference all the job names on the invoice if needed. If there a lot of job id's we may ask you to send them in an email so that we can copy and paste it into the invoice details. If you need to bill your clients for the data, you can refer to our fee schedule on the OHP website under the CHRIS tab and apply the fees accordingly.
5. We will be billing you at the staff rate of \$150 per hour and you will be charged for all resources and report locations according to the CHRIS Fee Structure. (\$12 per GIS shape file; 0.15 per pdf page, or 0.25 per excel line; quad fees will apply if your research includes more than 2 quads). Discounts offered early on in our Covid-19 response will no longer be offered on any records searched submitted after October 5th, 2020.
6. Your packet will be sent to you electronically via Dropbox. We use 7-zip to password protect the files so you will need both on your computers. We email you the password. If you can't use Dropbox for some reason, then you will need to provide us with your Fed ex account number and we will ship you a disc with the results. As a last resort, we will ship on a disc via the USPS. You may be billed for our shipping and handling costs.

I may not have been able to cover every possible contingency in this set of instructions and will update it if necessary. You can email me with questions at sccic@fullerton.edu

Thank you,

Stacy St. James
South Central Coastal Information Center

Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, and San Bernardino Counties

ATTACHMENT C

Sacred Lands File Search Results

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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

September 19, 2022

David Sayre
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Via Email to: David.sayre@swca.com

CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
Karuk

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
Apache

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

COMMISSIONER
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

EXECUTIVE 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: 400 San Vicente Mixed-Use Development Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Sayre:

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
9/19/2022**

Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation

Andrew Salas, Chairperson
P.O. Box 393
Covina, CA, 91723
Phone: (626) 926 - 4131
admin@gabrielenoindians.org

Gabrieleno

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians

Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair
P.O. Box 391820
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 659 - 2700
Fax: (951) 659-2228
Isaul@santarosa-nsn.gov

Cahuilla

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Anthony Morales, Chairperson
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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 400 San Vicente Mixed-Use Development Project, Los Angeles County.