

Appendices

Appendix C1: Cultural and Paleontological Resources Report

Appendices

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July 25, 2024

Peter Carlson
Carlson Strategic Land Solutions
27134A Paseo Espada, Suite 323
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Subject: Cultural and Paleontological Resource Services for the Mercury Insurance Property, located at 1700 Greenbriar Lane, City of Brea, County of Orange, California

Dear Mr. Carlson:

At the request of Carlson Strategic Land Solutions (CLIENT), Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC (DUKE CRM), has prepared a cultural and paleontological resources assessment for the approximately 10-acres of land at 1700 Greenbriar Lane (Project) (Attachment 1; Figure 1). The City of Brea (CITY) is the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This letter report documents compliance with CEQA regarding cultural and paleontological resources and to provide information to allow the CITY to determine whether the proposed Project would cause substantial impacts to archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources.

The Project is in Section 13 of Township 3 South, Range 10 West, as depicted on the *La Habra*, California, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle (Figure 2), west of South Associated Road and Fullerton Creek, north of Brea Plaza Shopping Center, and east of State Route 57. The proposed Project entails the demolition of the existing structures and construction of residential units (Figure 3). The maximum depth of Project-related ground disturbance is anticipated to be five (5) feet below ground surface.

Research

Paleontological Resources

On July 9, 2024, DUKE CRM requested that the Cooper Center (OCPC) in Santa Ana, California, perform a paleontological records search for known fossil localities within and in the vicinity of the Project area. The OCPC responded on July 17, 2024, indicating that no fossil localities had been documented within the Project boundaries or the surrounding 1-mile radius. However, a locality was reported approximately 1.2 miles to the southwest, in the highly paleontologically sensitive sediments of the late to middle Pleistocene La Habra Formation (*Qlh*). This geologic unit has produced extensive Pleistocene vertebrate fauna and may be present at depth beneath the Project surface (Gelnaw 2024¹).

The geologic unit at the surface the Project area was mapped by Dibblee and Minch (2008²) as Quaternary very old alluvial fan deposits (*Qvof*) dating from the late to middle Pleistocene Epoch (Table 1). Extensive Pleistocene fauna have been recovered from the Quaternary very old alluvial fan deposits (*Qvof*) in the vicinity of the Project. Project excavations may impact paleontological resources within this geologic unit (Gelnaw 2024). Based on published data, the Project area is assessed as having high sensitivity for paleontological resources at depths of and exceeding six (6) feet.

¹ Gelnaw, Will

2024 Records search conducted for 1700 Greenbriar Lane Project at the Cooper Center (OCPC), Santa Ana, California.

² Dibblee, T.W., Jr., and Minch, J.A.

2008 Geologic map of the *La Habra* 15-minute quadrangles, Orange County, California: Dibblee Geological Foundation, Map DF-371, scale 1:62,500.

Table 1: Geologic Units in the Vicinity of the Project Area

Geologic Unit Name	Map Symbol	Location	Age	Paleontological Sensitivity
Quaternary very old alluvial fan deposits	<i>Qvof</i>	underlying the Project area	middle to late Pleistocene	high
La Habra Formation	<i>Qlb</i>	mapped within ½ mile of the Project	middle to late Pleistocene	high

Cultural Resources

On April 29, 2024, DUKE CRM conducted a records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC). The SCCIC is part of the California Historical Resources Information System and is located at California State University, Fullerton. The records search included a review of all recorded cultural resources and reports within a ½-mile radius of the Project area. The reports included archaeological and paleontological surveys, assessments, and inventories from various projects conducted previously within the Project area and the surrounding ½-mile radius.

SCCIC records indicated that a total, 14 cultural resource reports cover areas within ½ mile of the Project area (Table 2). One of the studies (OR-03822) ran adjacent to the Project area and covered portions of Brea, Fullerton, and Placentia. That study did not observe any cultural resources within or near the Project area. One (1) historic era cultural resource (P-30-100013) and no prehistoric resources have been recorded within a ½-mile radius of the Project area, and no resources have been recorded within the Project area. Resource P-30-100013, located 2,615 feet southeast of the Project, consists of 1 ironstone sherd dating to the late 1800s.

Table 2: Cultural Resource Studies within ½ Mile of the Project Area

Report No.	Year	Report Title	Authors	Sites within the Project area
OR-00474	1977	<i>Description and Evaluation of the Cultural Resources within Brea, Carbon Canyon, Fullerton and San Antonio Reservoirs, Santa Ana River Basin, Orange, Los Angeles, and San Bernadino Counties</i>	Martz, Patricia	none
OR-01134	1976	<i>A Cultural Resources Report (Prehistoric and Historic Resources) of a Tract of Land, City of Brea, California.</i>	Stickel, Gary E.	none
OR-01291	1993	<i>A Cultural Resources Assessment for the Imperial Highway Project, Orange County, California</i>	Elliot, John F. and James Brock	none
OR-01479	1994	<i>Birch Hills Specifics Plan, City of Brea, County of Orange</i>	White, Robert S.	none
OR-01773	1998	<i>Cultural Resources Survey Report for a Pacific Bell Mobile Services Telecommunications Facility: Cm 081-02, Fullerton, Orange County, California</i>	Mason, Roger D.	none
OR-01879	1985	<i>Historic Property Survey Report for the Proposed Imperial Highway Widening, City of Brea, CA, Route 90, P.M. 4.0-5.1, EA-013490</i>	Padon, Beth	none
OR-01886	1985	<i>Request for Determination of Effect Report</i>	unknown	none
OR-02117	2000	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment for Pacific Bell Mobile Services Facility Cm 422-01, County of Orange, California</i>	Lapin, Philippe	none
OR-02221	2000	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment for AT&T Fixed Wireless Services Facility Number OC_042_A, County of Orange, California</i>	Duke, Curt	none
OR-03394	2003	<i>Negative Archaeological Survey Report: Improvements to the Intersection of Imperial Hwy (State Route 90) and Associated Rd. Located Partially in the City of Brea and Partially in the City of Fullerton, Northern Orange County</i>	Shepard, Richard S.	none
OR-03734	1999	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment for AT&T Wireless Services Facility C572, County of Orange, California</i>	Duke, Curt	none

Report No.	Year	Report Title	Authors	Sites within the Project area
OR-03822*	2006	<i>Historic Property Survey Report and Archaeological Survey Report for the State Route 57 Northbound Widening Project 0.3 km (0.2 mile) South of Orangethorpe Avenue to 0.2 km (0.1 mile) North of Lambert Road in the Cities of Placentia, Fullerton, and Brea, Orange County, CA</i>	Harper, Caprice	none
OR-03823	2006	<i>Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey for the Birch Hills Golf Course/La Floresta Development Project, City of Brea, Orange County, California</i>	O'Neil, Stephen	none
OR-04356	1989	<i>Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of the 333 Acre Imperial Properties—Unocal Project Brea, Orange County, California</i>	Brown, Joan C.	none

* Adjacent to the Project area.

A request for a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 29, 2024, to ascertain the presence of known sacred sites, Native American cultural resources, and/or human remains within the boundaries of the proposed Project. The NAHC responded on May 14, 2024, and indicated that the results of the SLF search were negative. The CITY has conducted all tribal outreach.

Online Research

DUKE CRM conducted online research that included the California Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD), which includes data from the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, and the lists of California Historical Landmarks and California Points of Historical Interest. The BERD did not reference any cultural resources within the Project area. Additionally, a review of historical aerial photographs and historical topographic maps was conducted using images on file with the University of California, Santa Barbara, accessed via the online FrameFinder program; the USGS Historical Topographic Map Collection; and historicaerials.com. The 1952 1:24,000-scale La Habra, California, historical topographic map does not show any buildings within or adjacent to the Project area; however, there is an extensive concentration of buildings (residential and commercial) to the west of the Project area and the current alignment of Imperial Highway. In the 1972 aerial image, the Project area appears vacant, although State Route 57 west of the Project area and residential communities to the east and south of the Project area are visible. The existing building within the Project area appears in a 1980 aerial image, and additional research via loopnet.com confirmed that this building was constructed in 1976. Therefore, the Project is not historic in age. Much of the surrounding area was developed as it appears today by 1987, with the exception of the parking structure constructed between 2005 and 2009.

Field Survey

DUKE CRM archaeologist Morgan Beigle, Master of Arts, Registered Professional Archaeologist, conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project area on April 29, 2024 (Attachment 2). Mrs. Beigle is cross-trained in the identification of paleontological resources. The entirety of the 10 acres was accessible and was surveyed. The Project area is developed and consists of a paved parking lot, a parking structure, and a large office building. Since the Project area is paved, a reconnaissance-level survey was performed (Figure 3). The ground visibility was poor, and the only exposed sediment observed was in the planters in and around the parking lot. The vegetation within the Project area consists primarily of high grasses and also includes sparse creosote bushes and trees throughout.

Conclusions

DUKE CRM assessed the proposed Project area for potential impacts to important cultural and paleontological resources as defined under CEQA. Research suggested that the Project area is underlain throughout by late to middle Pleistocene Quaternary very old alluvial fan deposits (*Q_{vo}*), which are considered to have high sensitivity for paleontological resources. Additionally, it can be inferred that the highly paleontologically sensitive La Habra Formation, dating to the middle Pleistocene, is also present below the Project area, underneath the Quaternary very old alluvial-fan-deposit (*Q_{vo}*) sediments. Based on published data, the Project area is assessed as having

high sensitivity for paleontological resources at depths of and exceeding 6 feet. However, the maximum depth of Project excavation is anticipated to be 5 feet; therefore, paleontological monitoring is not needed. If the depth of excavation exceeds the estimated 5-foot maximum, then paleontological monitoring may be necessary. If any paleontological resources are discovered during any excavations for the Project, work should stop until the project paleontologist is able to identify the best course of action for the protection of, or mitigation of impacts to, the paleontological resources.

No cultural resources have been previously recorded within the Project area. The cultural resource records search identified one (1) historic era cultural resource recorded within a 1/2-mile radius of the Project, and it would not be impacted by the current Project. Furthermore, the pedestrian survey identified no cultural resources within the Project. Based on aerial photographs, the structures associated with the Project were likely erected between 1976 and 2009. Therefore, the Project property is not historic in age and is not a historical resource as defined by CEQA. The majority of the Project appears heavily disturbed. Based on these factors, the Project is assessed as having low sensitivity for prehistoric or intact historic era cultural resources, and no further archaeological investigation is recommended.

If previously unidentified cultural or paleontological materials are unearthed during Project-related construction, work shall be halted in that area until the qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the encountered materials. If human remains are encountered, *California Health and Safety Code* Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the origin and disposition of the remains, pursuant to *Public Resources Code* Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her/their authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and/or items associated with Native American remains/mortuary features.

DUKE CRM appreciates the opportunity to provide cultural and paleontological services in support of this Project. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by phone at (949) 356-6660 or by email at morganbeigle@dukecrm.com.

Sincerely,

DUKE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC



Morgan Beigle, M.A., RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachments

1. Project Maps
2. Project Photographs

ATTACHMENT 1

PROJECT MAPS

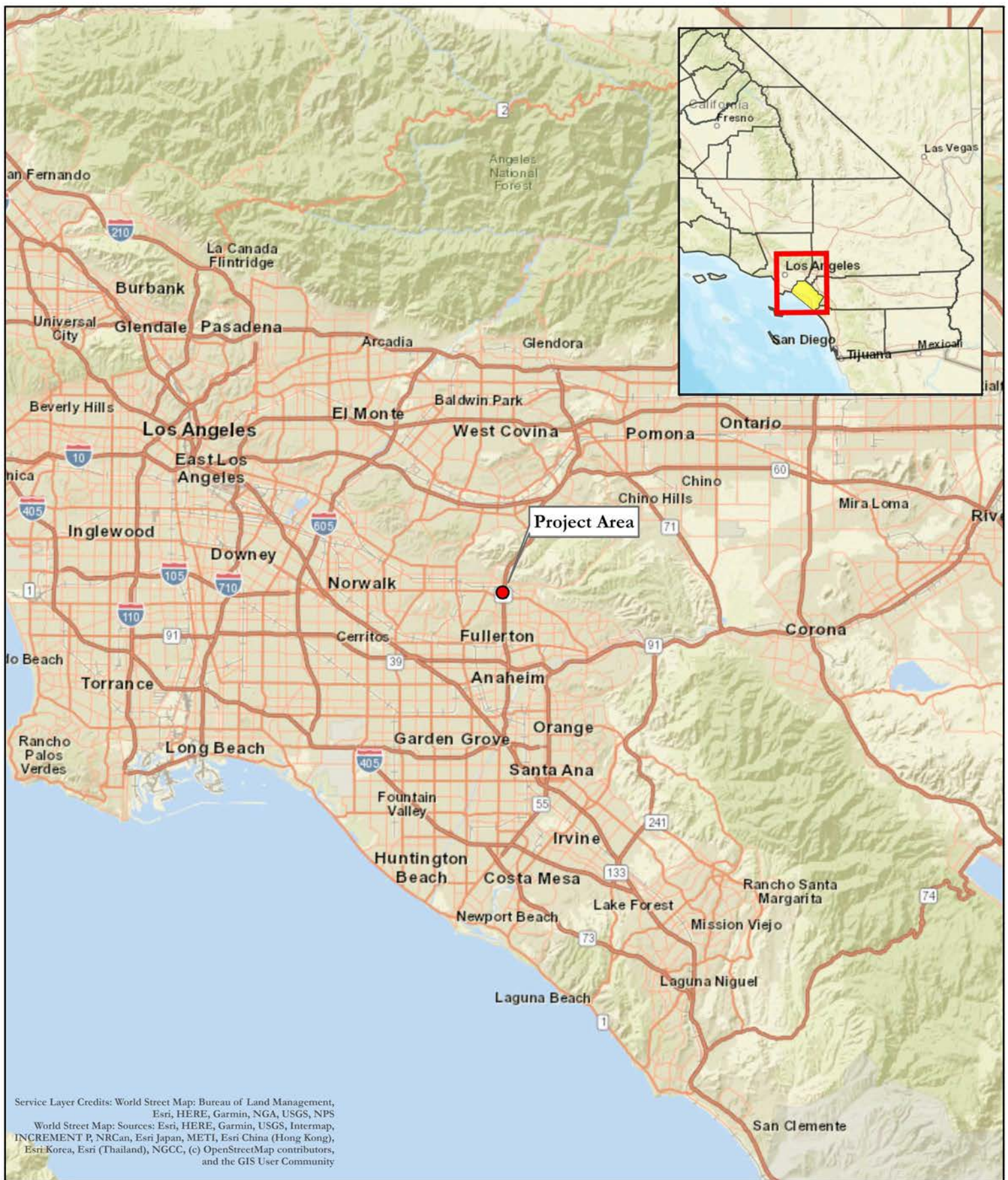
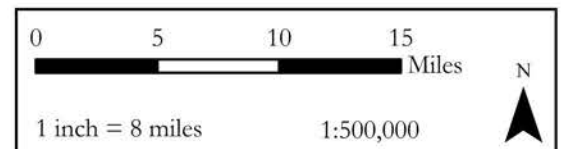


Figure 1. Project Vicinity

1700 Greenbriar Lane
 City of Brea, Orange County (C-0548)



● Project Area



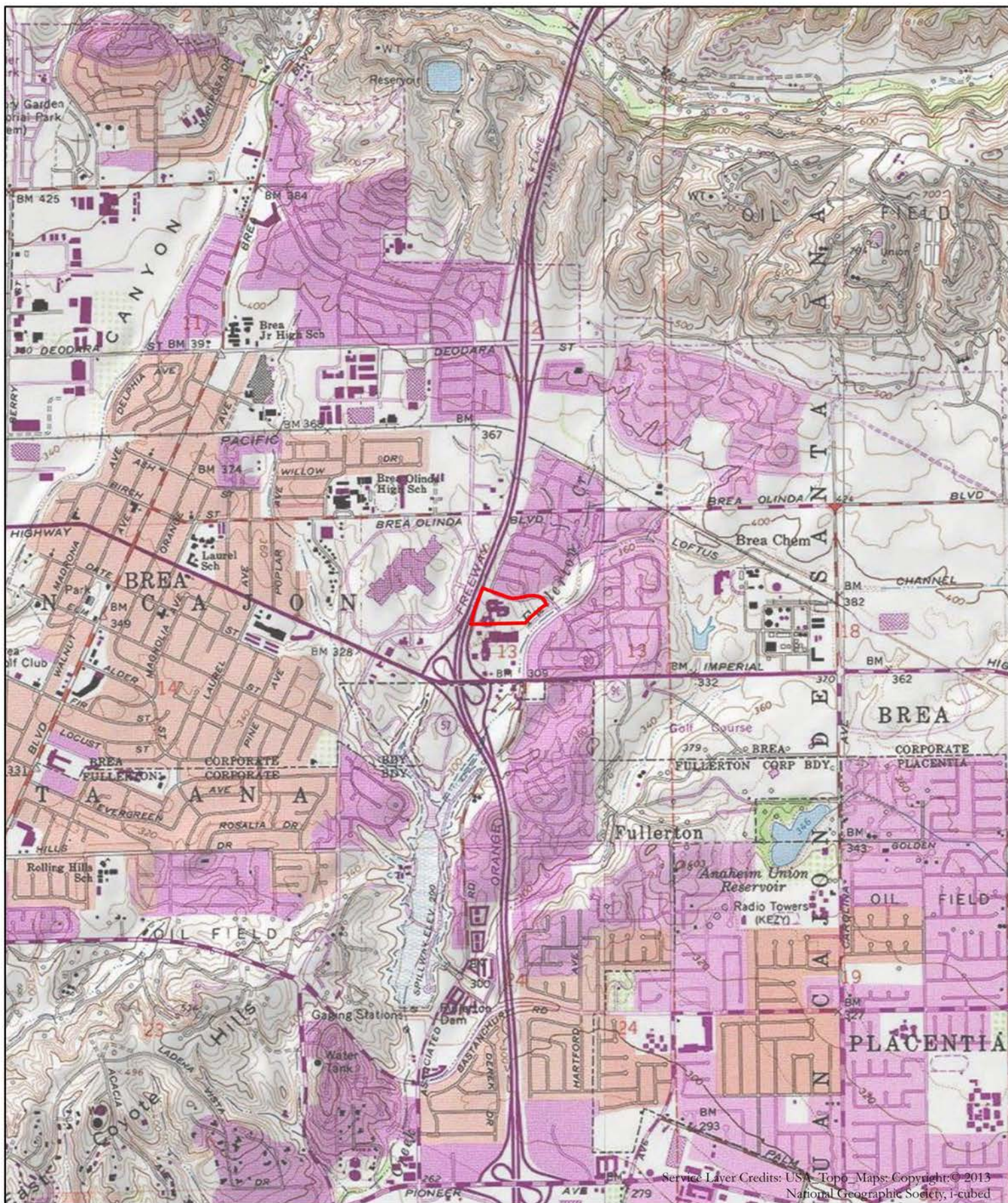
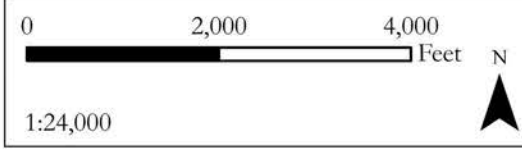


Figure 2. Project Location

1700 Greenbriar Lane
City of Brea, Orange County (C-0548)

Yorba Linda La Habra, Calif. USGS 7.5' quad
T3S, R10W, Section 13

Project Area



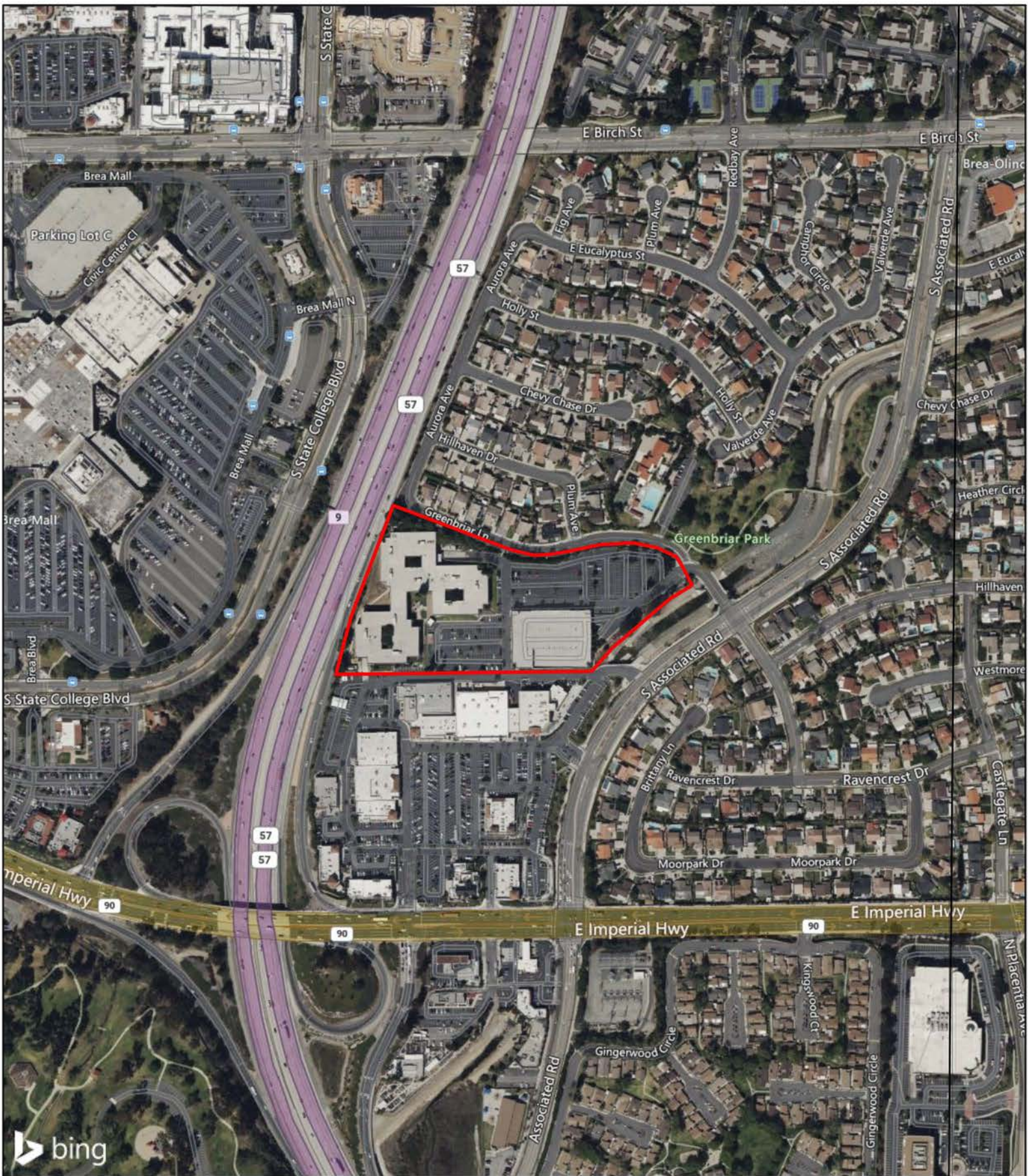
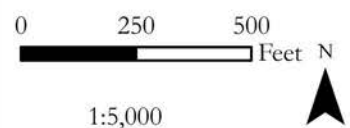


Figure 3. Project Aerial Photo
 1700 Greenbriar Lane
 City of Brea, Orange County (C-0548)

- Project Area
- Represented Map Area



ATTACHMENT 2

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Site overview, view to the east.



Overview of the parking structure, view to the north.



Overview of the parking structure, view to the southeast.



Overview of the parking lot, view to the south.



Overview of the parking lot/site entrance, view to the west.



Overview of the Mercury building, view to the east.



Site overview, view to the west.



Overview of the Mercury building, view to the southwest.



Overview of the Mercury building, view to the west.



Close-up of the entrance to the Mercury building, view to the west.