Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory

for the 8th Street Project, City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

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NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (NADB)

INFORMATION SHEET

PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY for the 8th Street Project

LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA

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August 2023

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USGS Lancaster West 7.5-Minute Quadrangle

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EXECUTIVE/MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Psomas was retained by Synergy Consulting, to conduct a Phase I Cultural Resources Study in Support of the 8th Street Project (hereinafter referred to as the "proposed Project") located within the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County. The Project includes the construction and operation of a warehouse on the 5-acre Project site.

This document has been prepared to satisfy Section 15064.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines with respect to the identification and preservation of cultural resources. The format of this report follows an amended version of the Office of Historic Preservation's (OHP's) *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format* (Office of Historic Preservation 1990) and the City of Lancaster's General Plan (2009).

DATES OF INVESTIGATION

Psomas Senior Archaeologist Charles Cisneros completed the cultural resources records search and literature review for the Project site on July 19, 2023, at the South-Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) located on the campus of California State University, Fullerton (Attachment A). The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted July 19, 2023 (Attachment B). The Natural History Museum (NHM) of Los Angeles County was contacted on July 19, 2023, to request a paleontological resources records search for the Project site. On July 31, 2023, a Psomas cultural resource specialist completed an archaeological and paleontological resources field survey of the 5-acre Project site. This report was prepared in August 2023.

FINDINGS OF THE INVESTIGATION

During the summer of 2023, Psomas conducted archaeological and paleontological investigations for the 8th Street Project site, the ½-mile search radius (cultural resources), and 1-mile search radius (paleontology) surrounding the Project site. The work was performed under Psomas' contract with Synergy Consulting. The main goal of the archaeological and paleontological investigation was to gather and analyze information needed to determine if the Project would have a significant impact on properties eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) and significant fossil localities/unique geologic features, and to provide mitigation measures for those resources.

Aerial imagery and a field survey of the Project site revealed evidence of mechanical disturbance is present in the southern half of the Project site where a level terrace appears to have been constructed with heavy equipment. Additionally, large piles of soil are in the northeastern corner of the Project site and scattered trash occurs throughout the Project site. No prior historic structures appear to have been onsite. Vegetation onsite consisted of both native and non-native plant species. Ground visibility was moderate to good throughout the Project site.

The SCCIC records search identified four previously recorded cultural resources within the half-mile search radius of the Project site. The previously recorded resources consisted solely of historic-period cultural resources. The resources included a foundation from a former structure, trash scatters, and an isolated historic can. Of the four previously recorded cultural resources identified in the search radius, none are located within the Project site. The NAHC results of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) search for cultural resources considered important to Native Americans is negative.

The NHM paleontological literature review and record searches did not identify paleontological resources within the Project site or the 1-mile search buffer/radius. However, the search did identify fossil localities nearby from the same sedimentary deposits that occur in the proposed Project site, either at the surface or at depth.

The field survey was negative for archaeological and paleontological resources. Nevertheless, as discussed below in Section 3.0 Contextual Setting, the Mojave Desert, including the Antelope Valley has an extensive history regarding paleontological resource and centuries of human activities; therefore, there is always possibility that archaeological and paleontological materials, such as historic refuse, undisturbed precontact archaeological sites, fossil localities, or other resources, could be discovered during ground disturbing activities on the property.

MITIGATION PROGRAM

Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, Psomas recommends that the Property Owner/Developer provide a letter from an Archaeologist and Paleontologist stating that the Property Owner/Developer has retained the Archaeologist and Paleontologist and that the Archaeologist and Paleontologist shall be on call during all grading and other significant ground-disturbing activities in native sediments. The Archaeologist and Paleontologist shall attend the pre-grade conference and shall inform construction personnel of the potential for encountering unique archaeological and paleontological resources, how to identify these resources if encountered, and that the resources may be evaluated pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Mitigation for the discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources is currently pending between the City and interested tribes. Additional mitigation measures may be required by the City after consultation with interested tribes is completed.

DISPOSITION OF DATA

This report will be filed with the SCCIC, the City of Lancaster, and Psomas. All field notes and other documentation related to the study are on file at Psomas.

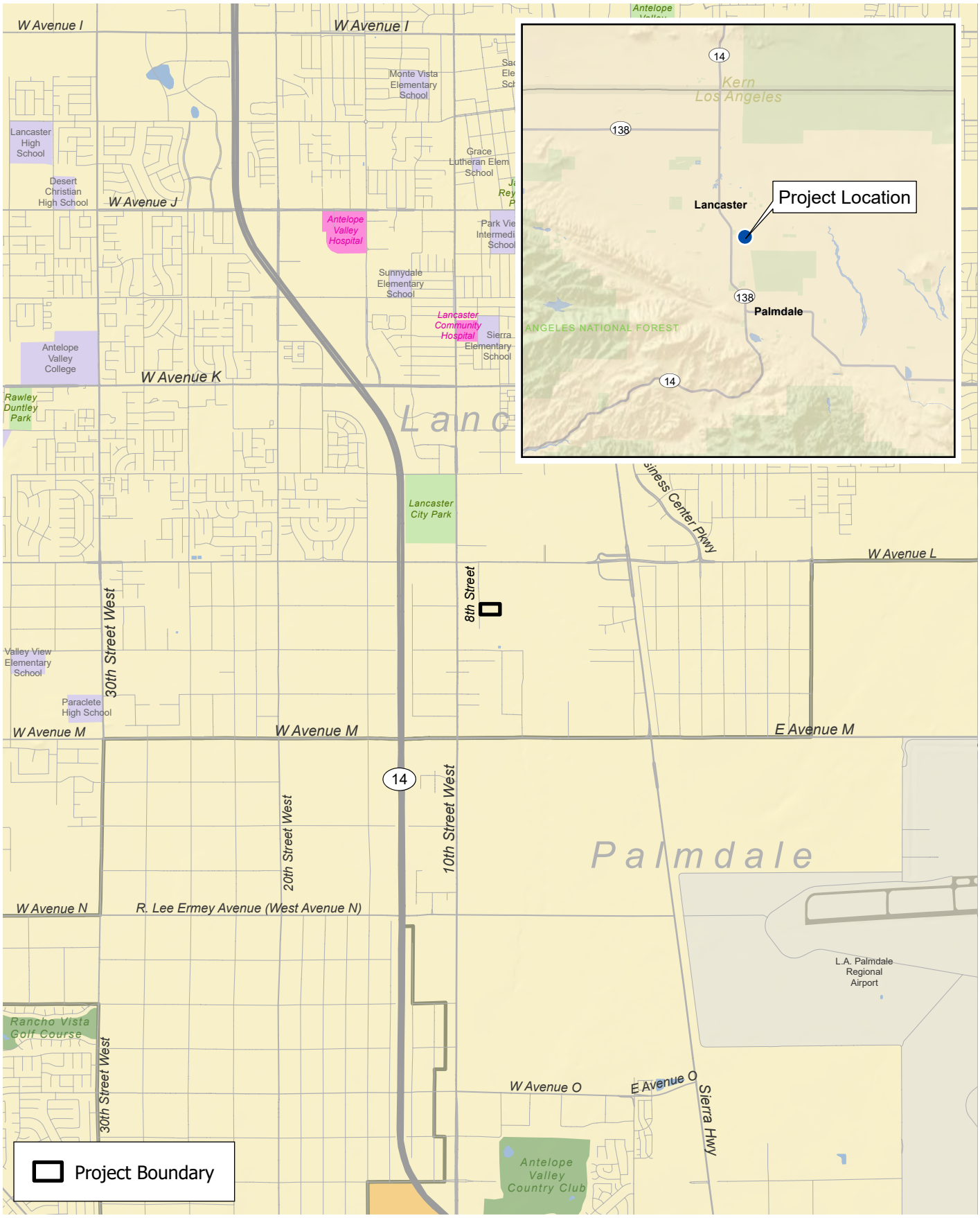
1.0 PROJECT LOCATION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project site (Figure 1) is located southeast of the intersection of State Route 14 and West Avenue L in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County (Exhibit 1). The Project site is located east of West 8th Street, north of West Avenue L-6, and west of the terminus of 7th Street West. The Project site is approximately five acres and encompasses Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 3128-009-104 and 3128-009-089. Land uses in the surrounding vicinity include industrial development and open space.

More specifically, the Project site is shown on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS') Lancaster West 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles of the San Bernardino Meridian in Township 7 North, Range 12 West, Section 34 (Exhibit 2). Elevations on the Project site are approximately 2,475 to 2,480 feet above mean sea level. Amargosa Creek is located approximately 920 feet to the east of the Project site. The proposed Project description for the 5-acre site is the construction and operation of a warehouse.



FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT SITE (VIEW FACING WEST)



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Project Location

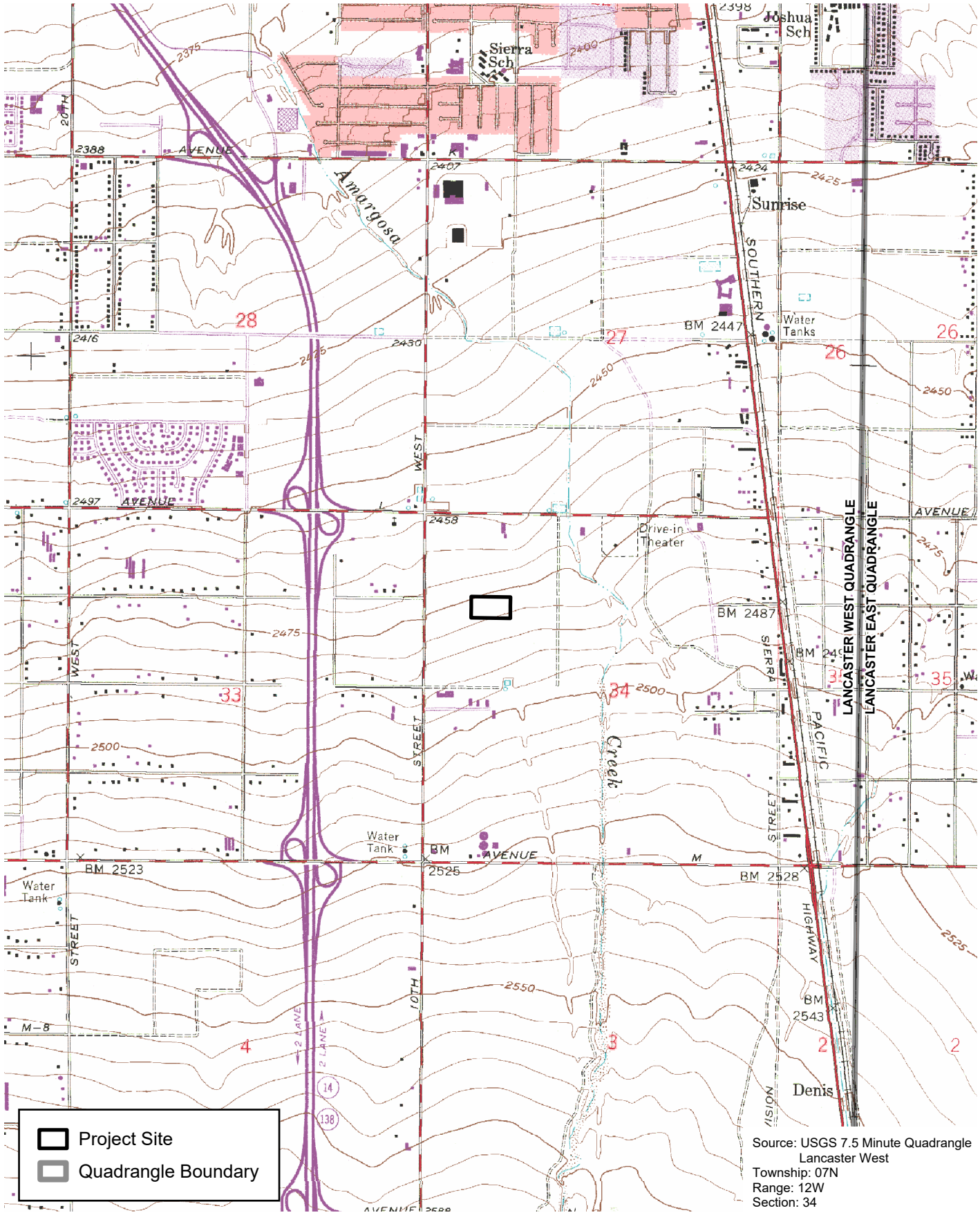
Exhibit 1

8th Street Project

N
W E
S

4,000 2,000 0 4,000 Feet

PSOMAS



U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-Minute Quadrangle

Exhibit 2

8th Street Project

N W E S

2,000 1,000 0 2,000 Feet

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2.0 REGULATORY SETTING

Cultural resource laws, regulations, and guidelines set up the processes for defining what is or is not a significant cultural resource and include various agency procedures for managing these archaeological resources and accessing the information that cultural remains can provide to determine their importance. Most importantly is whether these cultural remains are eligible for inclusion in a national or State register (i.e., the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP], California Register of Historic Resources [CRHR]). As defined by archaeologists Thomas Neumann and Robert Sanford (2001: 27), the purposes of the laws and regulations serve to do the following:

- set forth the criteria for assessing the relative importance of cultural remains,
- outline the procedures for reviewing assessments,
- delineate the responsible parties involved in making such assessments,
- identify and then define the extent of jurisdiction and responsibility of each party in the evaluation process,
- set forth the criteria for making a determination of significance as well as indicating which party can or cannot make such determinations,
- set forth the criteria for the archaeological and historic preservation work performed, and
- set forth the criteria regarding who can perform the archaeological and historic preservation work.

The following subsections provide a summary of applicable State and local laws, regulations, and standards that govern cultural resource management within the Project site.

2.1 CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

CEQA requires a lead agency to determine whether a project would have a significant effect on one or more historical resources. A “historical resource” is defined as a resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR (*California Public Resources Code* [PRC], Section 21084.1); a resource included in a local register of historical resources (14 *California Code of Regulations* [CCR], Section 15064.5[a][2]); or any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant (14 CCR 15064.5[a][3]).

Section 5024.1 of PRC, Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR) and Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 of the CEQA Statutes were used as the basic guidelines for the cultural resources study. PRC 5024.1 requires evaluation of historical resources to determine their eligibility for listing on the CRHR. The purposes of the CRHR are to maintain listings of the State’s historical resources and to indicate which properties are to be protected from substantial adverse change. The criteria for listing resources in the CRHR were expressly developed to be in accordance with criteria developed for listing in the NRHP (per the criteria listed in the *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR], Title 36, Part 60.4) and include those listed below.

> A resource may be listed as an historical resource in the CRHR if it meets any of the following criteria:
>
> (1) is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history or cultural heritage,

(2) is associated with the lives of persons important in our past,

(3) embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values, or

(4) has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

According to Section 15064.5(a)(3) (A–D) of the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR), a resource is considered historically significant if it meets the criteria for listing in the NRHP (per the criteria listed at 36 CFR 60.4 previously discussed). Impacts that affect those characteristics of the resource that qualify it for the NRHP or that would adversely alter the significance of a resource listed in or eligible for listing in the CRHR are considered to have a significant effect on the environment. Impacts to cultural resources from the proposed Project are thus considered significant if the Project (1) physically destroys or damages all or part of a resource; (2) changes the character of the use of the resource or physical feature within the setting of the resource that contributes to its significance; or (3) introduces visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of significant features of the resource.

The purpose of a cultural resource investigation is to evaluate whether any built environment cultural resources are present in or near the Project site or can reasonably be expected to exist in the subsurface. If resources are discovered, management recommendations would be included that require evaluation of the resources for NRHP or CRHR eligibility.

2.1.1 Human Remains

Section 7050.5 of the *California Health and Safety Code* provides for the disposition of accidentally discovered human remains. Section 7050.5 states that, if human remains are found, no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains.

Section 5097.98 of the PRC states that, if remains are determined by the Coroner to be of Native American origin, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours which, in turn, must identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descended from the deceased Native American. The descendants shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.

2.2 CITY OF LANCASTER GENERAL PLAN

2.2.1 Preservation of Important Cultural Resources

The City's General Plan includes measures to protect cultural resources, as follows:

GOAL 12: To promote community appreciation for the unique history of the Antelope Valley and the City of Lancaster and to promote community involvement in the protection, preservation, and restoration of the area's significant cultural, historical, or architectural features.

Objective 12.1: Identify and preserve and/or restore those features of cultural, historical, or architectural significance.

- Policy 12.1.1: Preserve features and sites of historical and cultural value consistent with their intrinsic and scientific values.
    - Specific Action 12.1.1(a): As part of the CEQA review process, require site specific historical, archaeological, and/or paleontological studies where there exists a possibility that significant environmental impacts might result or where there is a lack of sufficient documentation on which to determine potential impacts.
    - Specific Action 12.1.1(b): Include a condition of approval on all development projects that addresses State and federal regulations with respect to the disposition of cultural resources.
    - Specific Action 12.1.1(c): Process requests for inclusion in State and federal historic registers those historic and prehistoric sites and features which meet state or federal criteria.
    - Specific Action 12.1.1(d): Prior to permitting demolition of any historic structure, require that an evaluation of the condition of the structure, potential adaptive reuse of the structure, and the cost of rehabilitation are undertaken.
    - Specific Action 12.1.1(e): Work with area schools and historical/archaeological/ paleontological preservation support groups to establish educational programs related to all phases of Lancaster's cultural and historical heritage.

3.0 CONTEXTUAL SETTING

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project site is within the Antelope Valley in the western Mojave Desert. The Mojave Desert is bounded on the west by the Sierra Nevada Mountains, on the south by the Transverse and Peninsular ranges, on the southeast and east by the Yuma and Colorado deserts, and on the north by the Great Basin. More specifically, the western Mojave Desert is composed of several valleys, including the Antelope Valley, Fremont Valley, Victor Valley, Lucerne Valley, along with the Mojave River and the Barstow area.

Geologically, the Mojave Desert region is a wedge-shaped fault block, which has been termed the "Mojave Block" (Dibblee 1967:4). It is bounded by the San Andreas and Garlock fault zones on the southwest and north, respectively. Rocks within the western Mojave Desert region can be grouped into three main divisions that include crystalline rocks of pre-Tertiary age; sedimentary and volcanic rock of Tertiary age; and sediments and local basalt flows of Quaternary age. Units of the pre-Tertiary crystalline rocks and Quaternary sediments and basalt are widespread with Tertiary volcanic and sedimentary rocks more limited in their areal distribution (Dibblee 1967).

The Mojave Desert is a warm-temperature desert situated between the subtropical Sonoran Desert to the south and the cold-temperature Great Basin to the north. The arid Mojave Desert is characterized by sparse rainfall, generally ranging from 5–25 centimeters (cm) (2–10 inches [in]) per year. Some areas receive as little as 2.5 cm (1 in) of annual precipitation, while others receive more than 25 cm (10 in) (Warren 1984:342). The city of Lancaster receives approximately 8 in of precipitation annually. The present-day climate and native vegetation within the Mojave Desert were substantially different during the so-called Wisconsin Glacial Stage (60,000–10,500 years before present), where the climate was influenced by the massive continental ice sheets that resulted in cooler summer and warmer winter temperatures than at present (Bupp et al. 1998, as cited in Basgall and Overly 2004).

The plant species thriving on the Project site is mostly comprised of ruderal habitat. This vegetation type consists primarily of grayish shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) with scattered thick patches of Mediterranean grass (*Schismus* sp.), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), and scattered rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosus*). Other species observed include annual bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), turkey-mullein (*Croton setiger*), redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*).

The southwestern portion of the Project site and an access road that runs west-east through the northern portion of the Project site was mapped as disturbed. These areas are comprised of bare ground that is lacking vegetation (i.e., less than five percent vegetation cover).

3.2 PRECONTACT SETTING

California's southern desert region, including the Antelope Valley (Western Mojave) has a long history of human occupation, with dates of the earliest evidence of settlement appearing during the early Holocene, circa (ca.) 8,000 years B.C. (Moratto 1984:96–97; Sutton et al. 2007:233–237), and is still home to several tribes—each with their own language and customs. This now arid desert region includes the Colorado and Mojave Deserts, located east of the Sierra Nevada, Peninsular, and Transverse Ranges. Precontact material culture in this region has been categorized according to periods or patterns that define technological, economic, social, and ideological elements. Within these periods, archaeologists have defined cultural patterns or complexes specific to prehistory within the desert region, including the Project area.

Table 1 illustrates the chronological framework developed for the Mojave Desert (after Sutton et al. 2007: 236). This framework is divided into four major periods: Pleistocene period (ca. 10,000 –8000 B.C.), Early Holocene period (8000 B.C.–6000 B.C), Middle Holocene period (7000 B.C.–3000 B.C.), and Late Holocene period (2000 B.C.–Historic Contact). Within these broad temporal periods are variations in the timing and nomenclature of cultural complexes for the desert region. The timescales referenced in the following discussion are presented as calendar dates (years B.C./A.D.), as well as geologic era.

TABLE 1
CULTURAL CHRONOLOGY FOR THE MOJAVE DESERT

Period	Cultural Complex	Years (B.C.–A.D.)
Pleistocene	Clovis Complex	10,000 B.C.–8000 B.C.
Early Holocene	Lake Mojave Complex and Pinto Complex	8000 B.C.–6000 B.C.
Middle Holocene	Pinto Complex, Deadman Complex	7000 B.C.–3000 B.C.
Late Holocene	Gypsum Complex, Rose Springs Complex, and Late Precontact Complex	2000 B.C.–Historic Contact

3.2.1 The Pleistocene (10,000 B.C.–8000 B.C.)

A firm date for the initial human occupation of the Mojave Desert has not yet been established. While several controversial claims of Pleistocene-age (pre-Clovis) finds such as the “Early Man Site” of Calico Hills (Leakey et al. 1968) and the Lake Manix lithic industry (Simpson 1998) have been documented, most archaeologists remain unconvinced by available Mojave Desert data (Warren 1996); however, the growing acceptance of evidence for pre-Clovis occupations elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere (Bradley and Stanford 2004; Erlandson 2012: 28) suggests the possibility that such evidence may yet be found within this region as well. For the moment, the earliest broadly accepted evidence of human presence in the Mojave Desert is the Clovis Complex (Sutton et al. 2007:233).

The Clovis Complex

Clovis populations consisted of small, mobile groups that hunted and gathered near permanent sources of water such as pluvial lakes. Clovis technology included large, lanceolate-shaped bifaces with distinctive fluting, used to thin and flatten the base for hafting. Other tools associated with the Clovis Complex were large side scrapers, blades struck from prepared cores, and a mixture of expedient flaked tools (Justice 2002:73).

California has yielded very few fluted points associated with confirmed Pleistocene radiocarbon dates (Arnold et al. 2004); however, excavations at China Lake during the 1970s uncovered fluted points associated with burned, extinct mega fauna material (Davis 1975). These discoveries are among the more convincing evidence that suggests human occupation occurred during the terminal Pleistocene (Giambastiani and Berg 2008:12). Still, some doubt remains as to whether the Clovis Complex had a temporally or geographically extensive presence in the Mojave Desert. Most of the Clovis finds have been recovered as isolated surface finds, such as the Clovis projectile points. These include points that were recovered from the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains located in the western Mojave Desert (Sutton 1988:29) and the Tiefort Basin located in the central Mojave Desert (Sutton and Wilke 1984).

3.2.2 Early Holocene (8000 B.C.–6000 B.C.)

The communities that lived in the Mojave Desert witnessed and were profoundly affected by great environmental changes during the gradual Pleistocene–Holocene transition. Temperatures at the time became warmer but remained cooler and moister than today. Shallow lakes and marshes that were biologically very productive marked the Mojave Desert. These lakes and marshes were surrounded by desert vegetation typical of later time periods, most prominent being white bur-sage and, later, creosote bush (Grayson 1993:199–200). Some low-elevation locales retained juniper and sagebrush habitats. By the early Holocene, warmer temperatures, reduced precipitation, and the eventual dehydration of the pluvial lakes are believed to have led to irregularities in the distribution and abundance of resources (Sutton et al. 2007: 237). These climatic changes created the first true "desert culture" in the region, which is known as the Lake Mojave Complex.

The Lake Mojave Complex

Named for a Pleistocene lake in Southern California, the Lake Mojave Complex is characterized by the heavy, stemmed projectile points of the Great Basin Stemmed series such as Lake Mojave and Silver Lake projectile point series (Campbell and Campbell 1937). Other tools that are recognized as being part of the Lake Mojave Complex include bifaces, steep-edged unifaces, crescents, the occasional cobble-core tool, and, rarely, ground stone implements (Justice 2002:91). This tool kit represents a generalized adaptation to highly variable terrain. For example, the crescent is thought to have served as a tool with multiple functions, including use as a spear tip to hunt waterfowl (Justice 2002:116).

While the tool kit of the Lake Mojave Complex has been believed to be an adaptation to lacustrine subsistence strategies, this conclusion was based on several sites discovered near extinct shorelines (Moratto 1984:93). Many of the lakes were no longer constant sources of water during the Holocene, and recent studies (Giambastiani and Berg 2008:14) have revealed that the people of the Lake Mojave Complex actually occupied terrain outside the margins of the extinct shorelines. Sutton et al. (2007:237) have noted that the Lake Mojave assemblages included tools that are "consistent with long-term curation and transport." Additionally, it is not uncommon for extralocal materials (e.g., such as stone artifacts and marine shell beads) to be found in Lake Mojave cultural deposits, suggesting that the Lake Mojave people were either highly mobile or interacted with groups over long distances and had large trade networks with them.

The changing climate, distribution of occupational sites, and the all-terrain tool kit suggest that the inhabitants of the Mojave Desert during the early Holocene developed a broad-ranging subsistence strategy based on patterns of "intensive environmental monitoring" (Sutton 2007:237): the people monitored the seasons and moved in the direction of known resource patches.

3.2.3 Middle Holocene (7000 B.C.–3000 B.C.)

The Middle Holocene climate, although more arid than periods before and after, was still highly variable, with multiple oscillations between wetter and drier conditions occurring throughout the period. In addition, although the lakes and marshes of the early Holocene had dried up, streams and springs in the Mojave Desert may have maintained enough water flow from nearby ranges, at various times and places, to provide suitable water sources to sustain human activity, albeit at low densities (Aikens 1978; Basgall 2000; Cleland and Spaulding 1992; Sutton 1996; Warren 1984). Between 7000 B.C. and 5000 B.C., temperatures appear to have risen; and aridity appears to have increased, peaking between 6000 B.C. and 5000 B.C. Consequently, lowland ephemeral lakes and streams began to dry up, and vegetation communities capable of supporting large game animals became limited to a few isolated contexts. Settlement patterns adapted, shifting to upland

settings where sources of water still existed (Sutton 1996). This change in land-use patterns also correlated with adjustments in tool assemblage content and diversity, resulting in the emergence of what is known as the Pinto Complex.

The Pinto Complex

Originally defined by Campbell and Campbell (1935), the Pinto Complex was characterized by shifts in subsistence patterns and adaptations, with greater emphasis placed on the exploitation of plants, as well as a continued focus on artiodactyls and smaller animals. It had a wider distribution throughout the Mojave Desert than the previous complexes. The pan-desert nature of the complex suggests that Pinto people practiced a settlement system with a high degree of residential mobility.

The distinctive characteristics of the Pinto Complex tool kit, as defined by Justice (2002:126) and Zyniecki (2003:12), include indented base and bifurcate base projectile points with robust basal ears and weak shoulders. Other diagnostic artifacts typical of this complex include large and small leaf-shaped bifaces, domed and heavy-keeled scrapers, numerous core/cobble tools, large metates and milling slabs, and shaped and unshaped hand-stones (manos).

Sutton et al. (2007:239) noted the possibility of a distinctively different complex, the Deadman Lake Complex, occupying the Mojave Desert at the same time as the Pinto Complex. As currently known, the Deadman Lake Complex is unique to the Twentynine Palms region and is characterized by "small-to-medium-size contracting-stemmed or lozenge-shaped points, extensive concentrations of battered cobbles and core tools, abundant bifaces, simple flake tools, and milling implements." Sutton et al. (2007) indicate that the complexes coexisted at Twentynine Palms: The Pinto Complex people concentrated at the remnants of the pluvial lakes, while the Deadman Lake Complex occupied higher elevations. The available resources for both ecological niches during the early Middle Holocene could have supported two distinct groups. Another possibility that Sutton et al. (2007) mentioned is that the Deadman Lake Complex findings could reflect a specialized segment of the Pinto Complex tool kit.

Near the end of the Middle Holocene, the climate became hotter and drier, marked by a period of "cultural hiatus" between 3000 B.C. and 2000 B.C.; during this gap, the Mojave Desert region appears to have had little to no human occupation (Sutton et al. 2007:241).

3.2.4 Late Holocene (2000 B.C.–Historic Contact)

The climate of the precontact Late Holocene approximates that of today, with cooler and moister conditions than the middle Holocene, but not as cool and moist as the early Holocene. As with the middle Holocene, the climate of this period was highly variable. Many lakes once again rose to high stands, and plant communities took on their modern distribution patterns; however, these lake levels fluctuated, at times dramatically throughout the period. At least two major droughts are thought to have occurred within the Sierras (Stine 1994), at ca. A.D. 892 to A.D. 1112 and ca. A.D. 1209 to A.D. 1350. These droughts were followed by a cooler and wetter period between 600 and 150 years ago (Cleland and Spaulding 1992:4). People returned to the region; and, compared to previous settlement behavior, human subsistence strategies changed significantly. This subsistence strategy correlated with adjustments in artifact/tool assemblage content and diversity, resulting in the emergence of the Gypsum Complex.

The Gypsum Complex (2000 B.C.–A.D. 200)

The Gypsum Complex was characterized by large (dart-point size) projectile points but also included points with a more refined side notched (Elko), a concave base (Humboldt), and small-stemmed (Gypsum) forms. In addition to diagnostic projectile points, the Gypsum Complex

sites included leaf-shaped points; rectangular-based knives; flake scrapers; T-shaped drills; and, occasionally, large scraper planes, choppers, and hammer stones (Warren 1984:416). Manos and milling stones were common, and the mortar and pestle were also introduced during this period. Other artifacts included split-twig animal figurines, Olivella shell beads, and Haliotis beads and ornaments. The presence of both Olivella and Haliotis shell beads and ornaments and split-twig animal figurines indicates that the California desert inhabitants were in contact with populations from the Southern California coast and the southern Great Basin (Arizona, Nevada, and Utah) where these items were more common. The increased contact with other groups likely provided the local inhabitants with storable food products in exchange for lithic materials (obsidian, chalcedony, and chert).

The Rose Spring Complex (A.D. 200–A.D. 1100)

By A.D. 200, the climate in the region had become slightly cooler. Population size appears to have increased, as evidenced by a higher frequency of archaeological sites. This period in California prehistory is marked as the Rose Spring Complex.

By the onset of the Rose Spring Complex at A.D. 200, dart-size points were replaced with smaller Rose Spring projectile points, signaling the introduction of the bow and arrow (Yohe and Sutton 1998). This innovation may also correspond with the beginning of the Numic expansion, which many researchers believe emanated from southeastern California (Bettinger and Baumhoff 1982; Grayson 1993). Major villages and numerous smaller sites dating to this period have been recorded in eastern California, many containing bedrock milling features in addition to portable milling equipment. In the western Mojave's Antelope Valley near Edwards Air Force Base, cemeteries and deep cultural middens are associated with large pit house village sites. Agricultural influences in the Mojave Desert were apparently limited to the eastern portion of the desert (Sutton et al. 2007:242).

The Late Precontact Complex (A.D. 1100–Historic Contact)

During the Late Precontact period (ca A.D. 1100–A.D. 1770), Rose Spring-style points were replaced with smaller Desert Side-Notched and Cottonwood series projectile points. Resource intensification and specialization are suggested by an increased variety of tool forms; use of new technologies such as the mortar and pestle and ceramics; use of storage facilities; and increased diversity in the locations of archaeological sites. In the central Mojave Desert, the Mojave River became a primary focus of occupation, and trade networks increased along the Mojave River and over the San Gabriel Mountains (Sutton 1996). In the western Mojave's Antelope Valley, evidence suggests obsidian for stone tools was a valuable commodity for this region. The obsidian recovered in this area most likely comes from the Coso Volcanic Fields in the northeast. How it arrived in the Antelope Valley is still a question for debate. Probable trade routes have been reconstructed near the Project area (Sutton 1988: 70). Earlier views on the conveyance of obsidian artifacts in the region typically suggest direct access, and trade/exchange were responsible for the introduction of obsidian in the region; however, different modes of material conveyance may have been employed during California's Late Precontact Period. Archaeologist Michael Moratto notes that "population movements, seasonal mobility, exogamy, intragroup reciprocity, ethnic integration of settlements, gambling, raiding and warfare, payment of reparations, funerals, mourning rites, intertribal social gatherings, and a plethora of subtle relationships by which women exchanged foodstuffs, craft materials, finished products, and services" should also be examined when seeking explanations for the observed distribution of items (Moratto 2011: 248).

3.3 ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

The following section is a brief description of the ethnographic groups with ancestral claim to the land where the Project site is located.

3.3.1 Tataviam

Late Period archaeology is generally better understood because the late 19th and early 20th century descendants of these groups provided additional information to early Anthropologists. However, so few descendants could be identified from the Tataviam or *Alliklik*, whose territory included the Castaic Creek area, that very little of them is known. By the time anthropologists began to collect data about traditional native cultures in California (about 1900), virtually no Tataviam could be found. Decimated by Spanish missionization and absorbed by other groups through inter-marriage, the Tataviam vanished rapidly from the cultural landscape. What is known about their culture has been reconstructed through linguistic and ethnohistoric research, archaeological analysis, and remembrances of individuals from neighboring bands.

Most of what is known about the Tataviam has been gleaned from raw field notes taken by Anthropologists John P. Harrington and Alfred L. Kroeber; from records at Mission San Fernando, where many Tataviam were taken; and from diaries of early Spanish explorers (King and Blackburn 1978:537). More recent work with these materials (Johnson and Earle 1990) has helped considerably in understanding more about Tataviam life. Their territory encompassed a roughly triangular area from the Piru area; eastward along the upper Santa Clara River through the Newhall area to Soledad Pass; and northward across the Sierra Pelona, Sawmill, and Liebre Mountains to the westernmost edge of the Antelope Valley and southernmost slopes of the Tehachapi Mountains (Johnson and Earle 1990:193).

The Tataviam were hunter-gatherers that spoke a variant of the indigenous Takic language (Kroeber 1925:611–614; King and Blackburn 1978). Takic-speakers are believed to have migrated into Southern California from the Great Basin sometime between 1,000 and 3,000 years ago, an event some Archaeologists believe interrupted the long-standing milling stone way of life (McIntyre 1990:4). Tataviam subsistence centered upon the seasonal gathering of plant foods (e.g., yucca, acorns, sage seeds, and juniper berries) and hunting (e.g., rabbit, rodents, deer, and antelope). Acorns, the staple food of most Late Period groups in California, may have been less important to the Tataviam, who utilized yucca more extensively (King and Blackburn 1978:535). The plant was roasted in stone-lined earth ovens, often identified archaeologically (e.g., Hanks 1970; McIntyre 1990:16; Milburn 1998).

With the Santa Clara River Valley and Antelope Valley acting as east-west corridors between the deserts and coast, the Tataviam likely participated in “down the line” long-distance trade. Shell beads found in the western Mojave Desert, for example, were acquired by the Takic-speaking Kitanemuk through a trade network in which the Tataviam may have been linked with Hokan-speaking Chumash on the coast (see Warren and Crabtree 1986:192).

A number of Tataviam villages have been identified through historic registers at Mission San Fernando, including *tsawayung* at the original Newhall Ranch site near Castaic Junction, *naqava’atang* in the Elderberry Canyon area along Castaic Creek, and *pi’ing* at the confluence of Castaic Creek and Elizabeth Lake Canyon (Johnson and Earle 1990:192). The village site of *pi’ing* probably lies under Castaic Lake, which was created when Castaic Creek was dammed in 1972. The Castaic area and Lake Castaic near Lebec, though separated by some 25 miles, are named from the same Native American root: the Chumash *kashtik* (Gudde 1998:69–70).

3.3.2 Serrano

The Project site is located in the region known to have been occupied by the Serrano Indians. The Serrano occupied an area in and around the San Bernardino Mountains between approximately 450 and 3,350 meters (1,500–11,000 feet) above mean sea level. Their territory extended west into the Cajon Pass, east past Twentynine Palms, north past Victorville, and south to Yucaipa Valley. Year-round habitation tended to be located on the desert floor, at the base of the mountains, and up into the foothills, with all habitation areas requiring year-round water sources (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1908b).

The Serrano language is part of the Serran division of a branch of the Takic family of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock (Mithun 2006:539, 543). The two Serran languages, Kitanemuk and Serrano, are closely related. Kitanemuk lands were northwest of Serrano lands. Serrano was originally spoken by a relatively small group located within the San Bernardino and Sierra Madre Mountains, and the term “Serrano” has come to be ethnically defined as the name of the people in the San Bernardino Mountains (Kroeber 1925:611). The Vanyume, who lived along the Mojave River and associated Mojave Desert areas and are also referred to as the Desert Serrano, spoke either a dialect of Serrano or a closely related language (Mithun 2006:543).

Most Serrano lived in small villages located near water sources (Bean and Smith 1978:571). Houses measuring 12 to 14 feet in diameter were domed and constructed of willow branches and tule thatching. The interiors were encircled with tule mats. Each house was occupied by a single extended family, including a husband, wife (or wives), children, grandparents, and perhaps a widowed aunt or uncle and was a family gathering place for sleeping and storage. Much of the daily routine occurred outdoors in the open or under square ramadas constructed of at least four posts, cross-beams, and tule-thatched roofs.

Many of the villages had a ceremonial house, used both as a religious center and the residence of the lineage leaders. When hunting, the men would sometimes construct individual dwellings away from the village. Additional structures within a village might include granaries and a large, circular, subterranean sweathouse. The sweathouses were typically built along streams or pools.

A village was usually composed of at least two lineages, referred to as a lineage set. In each village, one lineage tended to be more dominant than the other. Lineages tended to rise and fall in dominance. A lineage set would intermarry, share ties of economic reciprocity, and share the ceremonial house and ceremonial bundle. Lineage sets together assumed the responsibility of conducting religious ceremonies through the one lineage’s religious leader and his assistant; the assistant was the religious leader of the other lineage of the set. The Serrano were loosely organized along patrilineal lines and associated themselves with one of two exogamous moieties or “clans”—the Wahiyam (coyote) or the Tukum (wildcat) moiety.

Serrano territory was a trade nexus between inland tribes and coastal tribes. Ethnohistory also suggests that the Serrano played a role in the trade of horses from the southwest to the California coast (Bean and Vane 2002). Despite the Serrano’s large geographic extent, as well as their control of significant travel corridors, some anthropologists consider the politically autonomous structure and function of the Serrano village unit and therefore have difficulty considering the Serrano a unified “tribe,” as that word is defined as a unit of people with a common political leadership (Kroeber 1925:617; Strong 1929:14).

The subsistence economy of the Serrano was one of hunting and collecting plant goods, with occasional fishing (Bean and Smith 1978:571). They hunted large and small animals, including mountain sheep, deer, antelope, rabbits, small rodents, and various birds, particularly quail. Plant staples consisted of seeds; acorn nuts of the black oak; piñon nuts; bulbs and tubers; and shoots,

blooms, and roots of various plants, including yucca, berries, barrel cacti, and mesquite. The Serrano used fire as a management tool to increase yields of specific plants, particularly chía.

Trade and exchange were important aspects of the Serrano economy. Those living in the lower elevation, desert floor villages traded foodstuffs with people living in the foothill villages who had access to a different variety of edible resources. In addition to intervillage trade, ritualized communal food procurement events, such as rabbit and deer hunts and piñon, acorn, and mesquite nut-gathering events, integrated the economy and helped distribute resources that were available in different ecozones.

The Serrano used a variety of materials for hunting, gathering, and processing of food, as well as for shelter, clothing, and ceremonial items. Shell, wood, bone, horn, stone, plant materials, animal skins, and feathers were used for making "money," baskets, rabbit skin blankets, mats, nets, and bags. The Serrano made pottery and used it daily to carry and store water or foodstuffs; ceramics were also used as ceremonial objects (Benedict 1924). They also made awls, sinew-backed bows, arrows, arrow straighteners, throwing sticks (for hunting), traps, fire drills, stone pipes, and musical instruments of various types (e.g., rattles, rasps, whistles, bull-roarers, and whistles), yucca fiber cordage for snares, nets and carrying bags, and clothing (Bean and Smith 1978:571; Bean and Vane 2002).

A strong tradition of basket weaving incorporated the use of juncus sedge, deergrass, and yucca fiber (Benedict 1924). They also cooked foods in earth ovens or in watertight baskets using heated cooking rocks and constant stirring, or by parching through use of hot embers and a constant tossing motion of shallow trays containing the grains. Animal bones were boiled and then cracked for access to the marrow. A variety of methods were used in the drying and preserving of foods for later consumption.

Mainly due to the inland location of the territory that Serrano occupied beyond Cajon Pass, contact between Serrano and Europeans was relatively minimal prior to the early 1876s. As early as 1790, however, Serrano began to be drawn into mission life (Bean and Vane 2002). More Serrano were relocated to Mission San Gabriel in 1811 after a failed indigenous attack on that mission. Most of the remaining western Serrano were moved to an *asistencia* built near Redlands in 1819 (Bean and Smith 1978:573). By 1834, most western Serrano had been moved to the missions, with some Serrano possibly moved to the mission at San Fernando Rey (Kroeber 1908a). Only small groups of Serrano remained in the area northeast of the San Gorgonio Pass and were able to preserve some of their native culture.

In the 1860s, a smallpox epidemic killed many indigenous southern Californians, including the Serrano (Bean and Vane 2002). Oral history accounts of a massacre in the 1860s at Twentynine Palms may have been part of a larger American military campaign that lasted 32 days (Bean and Vane 2002:10). Surviving Serrano sought shelter at Morongo with their Cahuilla neighbors; Morongo later became a reservation (Bean and Vane 2002). Other survivors followed the Serrano leader Santos Manuel down from the mountains and toward the valley floors and eventually settled on what later became the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Reservation. This reservation was established in 1891.

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians of the Morongo Reservation, established through presidential executive orders in 1877 and 1889, includes both Cahuilla and Serrano and totaled 1,097 tribal members in 2004. The reservation covers 35,000 acres of land in both consolidated and checkerboard patterns.

Established in 1891, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Reservation included 84 Serrano tribal members in 2004 and covered 900 acres. Both Morongo and San Manuel are federally recognized tribes.

In 2003, most Serrano lived either on the Morongo or San Manuel reservations (California Indian Assistance Program 2004). People of both tribes participate in cultural programs to revitalize traditional languages, knowledge, and practices.

3.4 HISTORIC PERIODS

Post-contact history for the state of California is generally divided into three periods: (1) the Spanish period (1769–1822), (2) Mexican period (1822–1848), and (3) American period (1848–present). Although Spanish, Russian, and British explorers made brief visits from 1529 to 1769, the Spanish period in California began with the establishment of Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first of 21 missions constructed between 1769 and 1823. Independence from Spain marks the beginning of the Mexican period; and the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, ending the Mexican–American War, signals the beginning of the American period, when California became a territory of the United States.

3.4.1 Spanish Period (1769–1822)

The first significant European settlement of California began during the Mission Period (1769–1822), with the founding of the first mission in San Diego, and lasted until 1833–1834 when the Mexican secularization laws effectively opened the area to social and economic growth. The establishment of San Gabriel and San Juan Capistrano Missions in 1771 and 1776, respectively, had a number of impacts on the region. This resulted in the abandonment of some areas and the agricultural and ranching development of other portions. The mission system was dismantled after Mexican governors introduced new secularization acts between 1822 and 1833, thus freeing the Indians from mission control.

3.4.2 Mexican Period (1822–1848)

After secularization, the dominance of the large land grant ranchos became established. In 1810, the Spanish government granted the first rancho to Jose Antonio Yorba and his nephew Juan Pablo Peralta. The Mexican government granted ranchos throughout California to Spanish and Hispanic soldiers and settlers (Castillo 1978). During this period, the entire area was almost constantly involved in political and military revolts. The tense situation ended when, in 1847, California gained independence from Mexico during the “Bear Flag” revolt. One year later, the United States gained control of the area as a result of the Mexican-American War.

3.4.3 American Period (1848–Present)

Although under the control of the United States since 1847, the American Period did not really begin in the study area until 1851, when the Land Act required rancho dons to confirm the ownership of their lands. Many rancho dons lacked funds and legal documents to confirm land ownership. Along with legal problems related to the Land Act and new taxes imposed by the United States, many second-generation dons experienced a disastrous two-year drought (McWilliams 1973:62). The combination of these hardships resulted in many rancho families losing their lands. A steady influx of Euro-Americans was brought in by the railroads. The Euro-Americans expanded commercial and land development primarily in farming and dairy endeavors. In the twentieth century, independent businesses began to dominate the economic strategy, much as they do today.

3.5 LOCAL HISTORY

The city of Lancaster originated as a water stop along the Southern Pacific Railroad. The railroad was completed between Los Angeles and San Francisco in 1876, and the first homes in what would become Lancaster were constructed to house permanent rail employees shortly after. The

townsite was laid out by Moses Wicks in 1884, though the city remained an unincorporated area until 1977. The city was initially occupied by agriculturalists, but region wide drought struck the area in the mid-to-late 1890s, forcing a pivot to other local industries, such as mining to supplement the agricultural industry.

Mining in the Mojave Desert led to increased settlement during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Gold was discovered in the southwestern portion of Antelope Valley in 1842 in what is today known as Placerita Canyon. Gold seekers flocked to the canyon and an estimated $100,000 of gold was mined there. Some of the miners settled permanently in the southwest Antelope Valley in the 1850s and 1860s, while others headed north to continue their search for wealth.

In 1905, following the end of the drought, irrigation systems using pumps powered by gasoline, and later electricity, replaced the previous reliance on artesian wells. This more reliable source of water revived the agricultural industry in the Antelope Valley. Completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct in 1914 (to the west of Lancaster) further prompted development of the Lancaster area. Alfalfa, pears, and apples became staple crops in the area. Agriculture remained the primary industry of the Antelope Valley, with Palmdale (just south of Lancaster) serving as the “trading center of poultry and cattle ranchers and fruit growers” (Workers of the Writers’ Program of the Work Projects Administration in Southern California [Writers’ Program] 1941:397), until World War II. After World War II, Lancaster and Palmdale grew as a center for aerospace and defense industries with the establishment of Edwards Air Force Base in Kern County and U.S. Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale (Palmdale City Library 2006).

Until it was incorporated in 1977, the area was under the political influence of Los Angeles County. Although the aerospace industry remains the area’s largest source of employment, both Palmdale and Lancaster are trying to entice industry and jobs into the area. Increased population in the last decade provides a large labor force available to employers, and is expected to attract more companies, thus broadening the area’s economic base).

3.6 CURRENT SETTING FOR THE PROJECT SITE

The Project site consists of a previously disturbed, undeveloped lot (Figure 2). Evidence of mechanical disturbance is present in the southern half of the Project site where a level terrace appears to have been constructed with heavy equipment. Additionally, large piles of soil are in the northeastern corner of the Project site and scattered trash occurs throughout the Project site (Figure 3).



FIGURE 2: OVERVIEW OF PROJECT SITE



FIGURE 3: MODERN REFUSE

4.0 METHODS

4.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

Psomas Senior Archaeologist Charles Cisneros completed the cultural resources records search and literature review on July 19, 2023, (Attachment A) at the SCCIC at California State University, Fullerton. The SCCIC is a designated branch of the California Historical Resources Information System and houses records regarding archaeological and historic resources in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties. The review consisted of an examination of the USGS's 7.5-minute *Lancaster West* quadrangle to determine if any sites are recorded on or if any cultural resources studies have been conducted on or within a ½-mile radius of the subject property. Data sources consulted at the SCCIC included archaeological records, Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, historic maps, and the Historic Property Data File (HPDF) maintained by the OHP. The HPDF contains listings for the CRHR and/or the NRHP, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest. The results of the SCCIC literature review and record search are presented below in Subsection 5.1

4.2 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Psomas contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a SLF search on July 19, 2023. Correspondence with the NAHC is provided in Attachment B. The City of Lancaster will provide Project notifications required by Assembly Bill (AB) 52 and Senate Bill (SB) 18, if applicable. The results of the SLF are presented below in Subsection 5.2.

4.3 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

Psomas requested a literature and records search from the NHM on July 19, 2023. The NHM houses records regarding paleontological resources recorded in Los Angeles County. The records search included a 1.6-kilometer (1-mile) search radius around the proposed Project site and consisted of a detailed examination of the USGS' 7.5-minute *Lancaster West* Quadrangle. The purpose of the literature search was to identify paleontological resources and/or unique geological units previously recorded within and around the Project site. The results of the NHM record search are presented below in Subsection 5.3

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY

Psomas Senior Archaeologist Charles Cisneros surveyed the 5-acre Project site on July 31, 2023. The entire study area was surveyed by walking east-west linear transects spaced no more than 15 meters (49 feet) apart. The archaeologist examined the ground surface for the presence of precontact artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools), historic artifacts (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics), sediment discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, and depressions and other features indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., post holes, foundations). A field notebook and a digital camera were used to record survey conditions. Copies of the field notes and digital photographs are on file at the Psomas Pasadena Office. The results of the field survey are presented below in Subsection 5.4.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES LITERATURE REVIEW AND RECORDS SEARCH

5.1.1 Previous Studies and Literature Review

The records search at the SCCIC indicated that 11 cultural resource studies have been conducted within ½-mile radius of the Project site. None of the previous studies occurred within the current Project site. The previous studies consisted of pedestrian field surveys and cultural resource evaluations. Table 2 lists the studies that were conducted near the subject property.

TABLE 2
CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN ½-MILE OF THE PROJECT SITE

Report Number	Author(s)	Year	Title	Type of Study	Relative Location to the Project Site
LA-00116	Love, Bruce	1988	Archaeological Report for Amargosa Drainage North of Avenue M in the City of Lancaster, California	Archaeological Field Study	Outside
LA-01833	Romani, Gwendolyn	1989	Cultural Resource Investigation: Hasibi Auto Dealership, City of Lancaster	Archaeological, Field Study	Outside
LA-02593	Norwood, Richard H.	1992	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Amargosa Creek Channelization Project, Avenue L to Avenue K-8 and 10th Street East, Lancaster, Los Angeles County California	Archaeological Field Study	Outside
LA-02619	Norwood, Richard H.	1992	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for the 8th Street West Drainage Channel, Lancaster, Los Angeles County California	Archaeological, Field Study	Outside
LA-02634	Becker, Kenneth M.	1992	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Antelope Valley Courts Facility, City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California	Archaeological, Field Survey	Outside
LA-02779	Norwood, Richard H.	1993	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Vesting Tentative Map, Tract 51078 Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California	Archaeological, Field Survey	Outside
LA-03784	Norwood, Richard H.	1992	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Amargosa Creek Channelization Project, Avenue L to Avenue K-8 and 10th Street West, Lancaster, Los Angeles County California	Archaeological, Field Survey	Outside
LA-05316	Love, Bruce	2000	Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties Antelope Valley Transit Authority Transportation Facility: City of Lancaster Los Angeles County, California	Archaeological, Field Survey	Outside

TABLE 2
CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN ½-MILE OF THE PROJECT SITE

Report Number	Author(s)	Year	Title	Type of Study	Relative Location to the Project Site
LA-08437	McKenna, Jeanette A.	2004	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Assessor Parcel Number 3128-009-065 in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California	Archaeological, Field Survey	Outside
LA-09054	Taniguchi, Christeen and Wayne H. Bonner	2001	Indirect Ape Historic Architectural Assessments for Bechtel Corporation Facility Candidate 950014097d (a & a Tires) 2307 East Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California	Archaeological, Field Survey	Outside
LA-10596	Orfila, Rebecca S.	2010	A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of City of Lancaster - Rule 20A Project Area (1/O 310334) 10th Street West from Ave. K-8 to Ave L-10, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California	Archaeological, Field Survey	Outside

5.1.2 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

The records search at the SCCIC showed that at least four cultural resources have been recorded within a half-mile radius of the Project site. Of those four, none are located within the Project site. Table 3 lists the resources that were recorded near the Project site. All the documented resources are historic period resources and are described in more detail in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3
CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN ½-MILE OF THE PROJECT SITE

Primary Number	Trinomial	Recorder	Year	Resource Type	Attribute	Relative Location to Project Site
P-19-004110	CA-LAN-004110H	Rebecca S. Orfila	2010	Historic: foundation, structure, pad	AH02	Outside of Project Site
P-19-004793	CA-LAN-004793H	Jack Sprague	2015	Historic: privies, dumps, trash scatters	AH04	Outside of Project Site
P-19-100802	–	Rebecca S. Orfila	2010	Historic: isolated piece of steel strapping	AH16	Outside of Project Site
P-19-100803	–	Rebecca S. Orfila	2010	Historic: isolated food can	AH16	Outside of Project Site
Notes: AH02 – Foundation/Structure/Pad AH04 – Privies/Dumps/Trash Scatters AH16 – Other						

5.2 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

In addition to the Native American notification, pursuant to the requirements of AB 52 and SB 18, if applicable, that will be completed by the City of Lancaster, the City requires consultants completing cultural resources studies to contact the NAHC for a SLF search. On July 19, 2023,

Psomas sent a request to the California NAHC for a review of their SLF within or near the Project site. The results of the NAHC SLF are negative. However, it should be noted that the records maintained by the NAHC and the CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. Furthermore, a tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource. The review included a list of tribes affiliated with the Project site. These tribes should be contacted by the City and offered an opportunity to consult on the Project to comply with the requirements of AB 52 and SB 18, if applicable. The SFL search results summary letter and contact information for tribal representatives from the NAHC is presented as Attachment B.

5.3 PALEONTOLGICAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

The NHM paleontological literature review and record searches did not identify paleontological resources within the Project site or the 1-mile search buffer/radius; however, the search did identify fossil localities nearby from the same sedimentary deposits that occur in the proposed Project site, either at the surface or at depth (Table 4). The paleontological search results summary letter from NHM is presented as Attachment C.

TABLE 4
PALEONTOLOGCAL RESOURCES WITHIN 1-MILE OF THE PROJECT SITE

Fossil Locality Number	Location	Geologic Formation	Taxa	Depth
LACM VP 7884	East 3rd Street & East Avenue H-13	Unknown formation (Pleistocene; fluvial brown clayey silt	Camel (*Camelops hesternus*)	4 Feet BGS
LACM VP 7853	Waste Management of North America	Unknow formation (Pleistocene; sandy loess under a dune deposit strand, sandy siltstone, siltstone to clayey siltstone	Rabbit (*Sylvagus*), Antelope Squirrel (*Ammospermophilus*), Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodymus*), Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus*), Pack Rat (*Neotoma*), Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus*), Vole Family (*Microtinae*), Iguana (*Dipsosaurus*), Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys*), Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus*), Side Botched Lizard (*Uta*), Colubrid Snakes (*Trimorphodon Masticophis, Phyllorhynchus*), Night Lizard (*Xantusia*), Western Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria*), Toothy Skinks (*Plestidon*), Whiptail Lizards (*Aspidocelis*), Spiny Lizards (*Phrynosomatidae*), Smelt (*Osmeridae*)	3 to 11 Feet BGS
LACM VP 5946	Avenue S from 90th Street East	Unknown formation (Holocene)	Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis*), Lizard *(Lacertilia*), Leopard Lizard (*Gambelia*), Snake (*Ophidia*), Gopher Snake (*Pituophis*), Rabbit (*Lagomorpha*), Rodent (*Rodentia*), Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys*), Pocket Mouse (*Chaetodippus*), Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys*), Birds (*Aves*)	0 to 9 Feet BGS
LACM VP 0451		Harold Formation	Mastadon (*Mammutidae*), horse (*Equidae*)	Unknown
LACM IP 445	Lake Rogers: Edwards Air Force Base	Unknown formation (upper Pleistocene lacustrine deposits)	Unidentifiable Invertebrates	Unknown
LACM VP 7891	Tehachapi Mountains and the Rosamond Hills	Unknown formation	Camel (*Hemiauchenia*)	21 Feet BGS
Notes: BGS – Below Ground Surface				

5.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

Psomas Senior Archaeologist Charles Cisneros surveyed the 5-acre site on July 31, 2023. Overall, the survey conditions in the Project site were good, with ground visibility documented at 95 percent. The sediments within the 5-acre Project site consist of coarse-grained sands occasionally intermixed with schist and quartz derived from granitic rock. Vegetation within the Project site consists primarily of grayish shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) with scattered thick patches of Mediterranean grass (*Schismus* sp.), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), and scattered rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosus*). Other species observed include annual bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), turkey-mullein (*Croton setiger*), redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*). Evidence of mechanical disturbance is present in the southern half of the Project site where a level terrace appears to have been constructed with heavy equipment (Figure 4). The field survey resulted in negative results for archaeological and paleontological resources.



FIGURE 4: OVERVIEW OF SITE DISTURBANCE

6.0 CONCLUSION

During the summer of 2023, Psomas conducted archaeological and paleontological investigations for the 8th Street Project site and the ½-mile search radius (cultural resources) and 1-mile search radius (paleontology) surrounding the Project site. The work was performed under Psomas' contract with Synergy Consulting. The main goal of the archaeological and paleontological investigation was to gather and analyze information needed to determine if the Project would have a significant impact on properties eligible for the CRHR and significant fossil localities/unique geologic features, and to provide mitigation measures for those resources.

Aerial imagery and a field survey of the Project site revealed evidence of mechanical disturbance is present in the southern half of the Project site where a level terrace appears to have been constructed with heavy equipment. Additionally, large piles of soil are in the northeastern corner of the Project site and scattered trash occurs throughout the Project site. No prior historic structures appear to have been onsite. Vegetation onsite consisted of both native and non-native plant species. Ground visibility was moderate to good throughout the Project site.

The SCCIC records search identified four previously recorded cultural resources within the half-mile search radius of the Project site. The previously recorded resources consisted solely of historic-period cultural resources. The resources included a foundation from a former structure, trash scatters, and an isolated historic can. Of the four previously recorded cultural resources identified in the search radius, none are located within the Project site. The NAHC results of the SLF search for cultural resources considered important to Native Americans is pending.

The NHM paleontological literature review and record searches did not identify paleontological resources within the Project Site or the 1-mile search buffer/radius; however, the search did identify fossil localities nearby from the same sedimentary deposits that occur in the proposed Project site, either at the surface or at depth.

The field survey was negative for archaeological and paleontological resources. Nevertheless, as discussed above in Section 3.0 Contextual Setting, the Mojave Desert, including the Antelope Valley has an extensive history regarding paleontological resource and centuries of human activities; therefore, there is always possibility that archaeological and paleontological materials, such as historic refuse, undisturbed precontact archaeological sites, fossil localities, or other resources, could be discovered during ground disturbing activities on the property.

7.0 RECOMMENDED MITIGATION PROGRAM

Because of the potential to encounter previously unidentified resources during grading activities, Psomas provides the following regulatory requirement (RR) for your reference in addition to making the recommended mitigation measures (MM) for the Project. However, the City may require additional mitigation measures after review of this report.

7.1 REGULATORY REQUIREMENT

RR 1 In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the *California Health and Safety Code*, if human remains are found during ground-disturbing activities, no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. The County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are or are believed to be Native American, s/he shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with Section 5097.98 of the *California Public Resources Code*, the NAHC must immediately notify those person(s) it believes to be the most likely descended from the deceased Native American. The descendants shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The property owner would then determine, in consultation with a designated Native American representative, the final disposition of the human remains (*California Code of Regulations,* Title 14, Section 15064.5[e]).

7.2 MITIGATION MEASURES

MM 1 Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall provide a letter from an Archaeologist stating that the Property Owner/Developer has retained this individual, and that the Archaeologist shall be on call during all grading and other significant ground-disturbing activities in native sediments. The Archaeologist shall attend the pre-grade conference and shall inform construction personnel of the potential for encountering unique cultural resources and how to identify these resources if encountered. This shall include the provision of written materials to familiarize personnel with the range of resources that might be expected, the type of activities that may result in impacts, and the legal framework of cultural resources protection. All construction personnel shall be instructed to stop work in the vicinity of a potential discovery until the Archaeologist assesses the significance of the find and implements appropriate measures to protect or scientifically remove the find. Construction personnel shall also be informed that unauthorized collection of cultural resources is prohibited.

MM 2 In the event that artifacts of Native American origin are discovered, the Property Owner/Developer and Archaeologist shall notify the City of Lancaster Planning Division and the appropriate local Native American tribe identified by the Native American Heritage Commission. The significance of Native American resources shall be evaluated in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and shall consider the religious beliefs, customs, and practices of the tribe. All items found in association with Native American human remains shall be considered grave goods or sacred in origin and subject to special handling. Native American artifacts that cannot be avoided or relocated at the Project site shall be prepared in a manner for curation, and the

Archaeologist shall deliver the materials to an accredited curation facility approved by the City of Lancaster.

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

Once ground-altering activities have ceased or the Archaeologist determines that monitoring activities are no longer necessary, monitoring activities may be discontinued following notification to the City of Lancaster Planning Division.

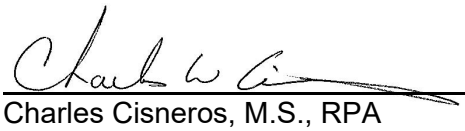
A report of findings, including an itemized inventory of recovered artifacts, shall be prepared upon completion of the steps outlined above. The report shall include a discussion of the significance of all recovered artifacts. The report and inventory, when submitted to the City of Lancaster, shall signify completion of the program to mitigate impacts to archaeological and/or cultural resources. A copy of the report shall also be filed with the South-Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC).

If unknown archaeological resources are present, potentially significant impacts to these resources would be reduced to a level considered less than significant with implementation of the RR and MMs listed above.

MM-3 Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall provide a letter from a Paleontologist stating that the Property Owner/Developer has retained this individual, and that the Paleontologist shall be on call during all grading and other significant ground-disturbing activities in native sediments. The Paleontologist shall attend the pre-grade conference and shall inform construction personnel of the potential for encountering unique paleontological resources and how to identify these resources if encountered. This shall include the provision of written materials to familiarize personnel with the range of resources that might be expected, the type of activities that may result in impacts, and the legal framework of paleontological resources protection. All construction personnel shall be instructed to stop work in the vicinity of a potential discovery until the Paleontologist assesses the significance of the find and implements appropriate measures to protect or scientifically remove the find. Construction personnel shall also be informed that unauthorized collection of cultural resources is prohibited.

8.0 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this cultural resource inventory report and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATE: August 2023 SIGNED: 

Charles Cisneros, M.S., RPA
Senior Archaeologist

9.0 REFERENCES

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ATTACHMENT A

CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

Report List

354N010100

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
LA-00116		1988	Love, Bruce	Archaeology Report for Amargosa Drainage North of Avenue M in the City of Lancaster, California	Pyramid Archaeology	
LA-01833		1989	Romani, Gwendolyn R.	Cultural Resource Investigation: Hasibi Auto Dealership, City of Lancaster	Greenwood and Associates	
LA-02593		1992	Norwood, Richard H.	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Amagosa Creek Channelization Project, Avenue L to Avenue K-8 and 10th Street East, Lancaster, Los Angeles County California	RT Factfinders	
LA-02619		1992	Norwood, Richard H.	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for the 8th Street West Drainage Channel, Lancaster, Los Angeles County California	RT Factfinders	
LA-02634	Paleo -	1992	Becker, Kenneth M.	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Antelope Valley Courts Facility, City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California	RMW Paleo Associates, Inc.	
LA-02779		1993	Norwood, Richard H.	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Vesting Tentative Map, Tract 51078 Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California	Consulting Archaeologist	19-000419, 19-000486, 19-001422, 19-001990
LA-03784		1992	Norwood, Richard H.	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Amargosa Creek Channelization Project, Avenue L to Avenue K-8 and 10th Street West, Lancaster, Los Angeles County California		
LA-05316		2000	Love, Bruce	Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties Antelope Valley Transit Authority Transportation Facility: City of Lancaster Los Angeles County, California	CRM Tech	
LA-08437		2004	McKenna, Jeanette A.	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Assessor Parcel Number 3128-009-065 in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California	McKenna et al.	
LA-09054		2001	Taniguchi, Christeen and Wayne H. Bonner	Indirect Ape Historic Architectural Assessments for Bechtel Corporation Facility Candidate 950014097d (a & a Tires) 2307 East Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California	Michael Brandman Associates	

Report List

354N010100

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
LA-10596		2010	Orfila, Rebecca S.	A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of City of Lancaster - Rule 20A Project Area (1/O 310334) 10th Street West from Ave. K-8 to Ave L-10, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California	RSO Consulting	19-001692, 19-004110, 19-100802, 19-100803

Resource List

354N010100

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-19-004110	CA-LAN-004110H	Resource Name - Wood and Concrete Structure Footings (200907-28-3)	Structure, Site, Other	Historic	AH02	2010 (Rebecca S. Orfila, RSO Consulting)	LA-10596, LA-11453, LA-12093
P-19-004793	CA-LAN-004793H	Resource Name - HSR BP-JS-5	Site	Historic	AH04	2015 (Jack Sprague, LSA)	
P-19-100802		Resource Name - Forged Iron Strapping (200907-28-2)	Other	Historic	AH04	2010 (Rebecca S. Orfila, RSO Consulting)	LA-10596, LA-11453
P-19-100803		Resource Name - Old Vegetable Can Isolate (200907-28-1)	Other	Historic	AH16	2010 (Rebecca S. Orfila, RSO Consulting)	LA-10596, LA-11453, LA-12093

ATTACHMENT B

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH RESULTS

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

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

August 21, 2023

Charles Cisneros
Psomas

Via Email to: Charles.Cisneros@psomas.com

Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, 3SYN010100 Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Cisneros:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

    - Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

      All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew Green

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
8/21/2023

Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians	N	Sarah Brunzell, CRM Manager	1019 Second Street San Fernando, CA, 91340	(818) 837-0794		CRM@tataviam-nsn.us	Tataviam	Kern,Los Angeles,Ventura	5/25/2023
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Robert Martin, Chairperson	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5110	(951) 755-5177	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Ann Brierty, THPO	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5259	(951) 572-6004	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 261-0254		historicpreservation@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	5/16/2023
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman - Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 210-8739		culturalcommittee@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	5/16/2023
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jordan Joaquin, President, Quechan Tribal Council	P.O.Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(760) 919-3600		executivesecretary@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	5/16/2023
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians	N	Donna Yocum, Chairperson	P.O. Box 221838 Newhall, CA, 91322	(503) 539-0933	(503) 574-3308	dyocum@sfbmi.org	Kitanemuk Vanyume Tataviam	Kern,Los Angeles,San Bernardino,Ventura	5/8/2023
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	F	Alexandra McCleary, Cultural Lands Manager	26569 Community Center Drive Highland, CA, 92346	(909) 633-0054		alexandra.mccleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov	Serrano	Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	3/27/2023
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(253) 370-0167		serranonation1@gmail.com	Serrano	Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	4/29/2019
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(909) 528-9032		serranonation1@gmail.com	Serrano	Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	

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 Resources Code and section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed 3SYN010100 Project, Los Angeles County.

Record: PROJ-2023-004154
Report Type: AB52 GIS
Counties: Los Angeles
NAHC Group: All

ATTACHMENT C

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

tel 213.763.DINO
www.nhm.org

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Research & Collections

e-mail: paleorecords@nhm.org

August 13, 2023

Psomas

Attn: Charles Cisneros

re: Paleontological resources for the 8th Street Lancaster Project (3SYN010100)

Dear Charles:

I have conducted a thorough search of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for proposed development at the 8th Street Lancaster project area as outlined on the portion of the Lancaster West USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on August 1, 2023. We do not have any fossil localities that lie directly within the proposed project area, but we do have fossil localities nearby from the same sedimentary deposits that occur in the proposed project area, either at the surface or at depth.

The following table shows the closest known localities in the collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLA).

Locality Number	Location	Formation	Taxa	Depth
LACM VP 7884	E of the SE corner of the intersection of East 3rd Street & East Avenue H-13; Lancaster	Unknown formation (Pleistocene; fluvial brown clayey silt)	Camel (*Camelops hesternus*)	4 feet bgs
LACM VP 7853	Waste Management of North America Lancaster Landfill	Unknown formation (Pleistocene; sandy loess under a dune deposit strand, sandy siltstone, siltstone to clayey siltstone)	Rabbit (*Sylvagus*), camel family (Camelidae), antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus*), kangaroo rat (*Dipodymus*), pocket mouse (*Perognathus*), pack rat (*Neotoma*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus*), vole family (Microtinae), iguana (*Dipsosaurus*), pocket gopher (*Thomomys*), spiny lizard (*Sceloporus*), side blotched lizard (*Uta*), colubrid snakes (*Trimorphodon, Masticophis, Phyllorhynchus*), night lizard (*Xantusia*), western alligator	3-11 feet bgs

			lizard (*Elgaria*), toothy skinks (*Plestiodon*), whiptail lizard (*Aspidocelis*), spiny lizards (Phrynosomatidae), smelt (Osmeridae)	
LACM VP 5946…	Along Avenue S from 90th St East in Palmdale to Lake Los Angeles	Unknown formation (Holocene)	Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis*), Lizard (Lacertilia), leopard lizard (*Gambelia*); snake (Ophidia), gopher snake (*Pituophis*); rabbit (*Lagomorpha*), rodent (Rodentia), Pocket gopher (*Thomomys*), pocket mouse (*Chaetodippus*), kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys*); birds (Aves)	0-9 feet bgs
LACM VP CIT451	Near intersection of E Barrel Springs Rd & 47th St E (Palmdale Quad)	Harold Formation	Mastodon (Mammutidae), horse family (Equidae)	Unknown
LACM IP 445	Lake Rogers; Edwards Air Force Base	unknown formation (upper Pleistocene lacustrine deposits)	Invertebrates (unspecified)	Unknown
LACM VP 7891	near the California Aqueduct between the Tehachapi Mountains & the Rosamond Hills north of Willow Springs	Unknown formation (Pleistocene)	Camel (*Hemiauchenia*)	21 feet bgs

VP, Vertebrate Paleontology; IP, Invertebrate Paleontology; bgs, below ground surface

This records search covers only the records of the NHMLA. It is not intended as a paleontological assessment of the project area for the purposes of CEQA or NEPA. Potentially fossil-bearing units are present in the project area, either at the surface or in the subsurface. As such, NHMLA recommends that a full paleontological assessment of the project area be conducted by a paleontologist meeting Bureau of Land Management or Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards.

Sincerely,



Alyssa Bell, Ph.D.
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

enclosure: invoice