

APPENDIX B

HABITAT ASSESSMENT



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Project Number: 20-10214

Chuck Cleeves

Project Manager

WSP Global Inc.

444 Flower Street, Suite 800

Los Angeles, California 90071

Via email: Chuck.Cleeves@wsp.com

Subject: Habitat Assessment for a Solar Project Adjacent to 45100 60th Street West, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Cleeves:

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) prepared this Habitat Assessment letter report for the proposed site of a solar panel array located adjacent to 45100 60th Street West in the City of Lancaster, California, herein referred to as the "project." The purpose of this report is to provide WSP Global Inc. (WSP) with documentation of the habitat present on site, and the site's potential to support sensitive biological resources. This report maps habitat and potential jurisdictional waters on the project site and assesses the potential for special-status wildlife and plant species to occur on the site. Potential jurisdictional waters includes waters of the United States (U.S.) subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; waters of the State subject to the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act; and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdictional streambeds subject to the jurisdiction of CDFW pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (CFG) Section 1600 *et seq.* This habitat assessment is intended to inform decision-making regarding property development and provide recommendations for follow-on studies and other actions that can avoid or minimize potential impacts to sensitive biological resources at the time the project is implemented. This report is not intended to support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review.

Project Study Area and Location

The project site is adjacent to 45100 60th Street West in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1, Attachment 1). The proposed project activities will occur directly east of the Mira Loma Detention Center. The defined Study Area consists of the project site boundary and an approximate 100-foot buffer (Figure 2, Attachment 1). The Study Area is depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) *Lancaster West, California* 6.5-minute topographic quadrangle map, and within Township, Range 13W, Section 14, San Bernardino meridian (USGS 2020). The approximate center of the Study Area is located at latitude 34.698672° and longitude -118.227000° (Figure 1 and Figure 2, Attachment 1).



Methodology

Habitat that can support regulated or sensitive resources, including special-status plant and wildlife species, nesting birds and raptors, sensitive plant communities, and jurisdictional waters, including wetlands.

For the purposes of this report, special-status species include:

- Species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA); species that are under review may be included if there is a reasonable expectation of listing within the near future
- Species listed as candidate, threatened, endangered, or rare by the CDFW under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or Native Plant Protection Act
- Plants occurring on lists 1 and 2 of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) system
 - ⁿ **CRPR 1A** = Plants presumed extinct in California
 - ^D **CRPR 1B.1** = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
 - ^D **CRPR 1B.2** = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
 - ^D **CRPR 1B.3** = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere, not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)
 - ^D **CRPR 2** = Rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
- Species designated as Fully Protected, Species of Special Concern (SSC), or Watch List (WL) by the CFGCorCDFW

Within the limits of the project site, waters and wetlands potentially subject to USACE jurisdiction were delineated in accordance with the following:

- *Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987);
- Guidelines for Jurisdictional Determinations for Waters of the United States in the Arid Southwest (USACE 2001);
- Regulatory Guidance Letter No. 05-05: Ordinary High Water Mark Identification (United States Army Corps of Engineers 2005);
- Distribution of Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) Indicators and Their Reliability in Identifying the Limits of "Waters of the United States" in Arid Southwestern Channels (USACE 2006);
- Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0) (USACE 2008);
- A Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States (USACE 2008)
- Updated Datasheet for the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States (USACE 2010); and
- Code of Federal Regulations sections that pertain to factors constituting the OHWM for non-wetland waters ("other waters") (33 CFR 328.3 and 33 CFR 328.4).

RWQCB jurisdiction was determined in accordance with the previously listed methodologies to identify waters of the U.S. and thus, mirrors the jurisdictional limits of federal jurisdiction pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA. The determination of RWQCB jurisdiction will follow such methods until the State Water Resources Control Board's Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy is fully developed and officially implemented. CDFW jurisdiction was delineated in accordance with Section 1602(a) of the California Fish and Game Code. Attachment 3 presents a discussion of pertinent regulations and definitions pertaining the delineation of waters/wetlands.

Prior to visiting the Study Area, recent aerial imagery of the Study Area and surrounding region (Google Earth 2021) was reviewed. The CNPS *Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* (CNPS 2021) was reviewed for records of CRPR List 1 and 2 plants within a nine-quadrangle query including the following USGS quadrangles: *Lancaster West, Lancaster East, Del Sur, Little Buttes, Rosamond, Rosamond Lake, Palmdale, Ritter Ridge, and Sleepy Valley, California*. Additionally, the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFW 2021) was searched for records of special-status species within the same nine-quadrangle query. The Critical Habitat Portal (USFWS 2021b) was reviewed for designated critical habitat areas for listed species. The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Wetlands Mapper (USFWS 2021a) and USGS National Hydrography Dataset (USGS NHD 2021) were utilized to assist the jurisdictional delineation in the analysis of waters, wetlands, and streambed resources in the Study Area.

A reconnaissance field survey was conducted between 0900 and 1130 on April 7, 2021 by Rincon Senior Biologist Thea Benson and Associate Biologist Sarah Toback, to verify and map land cover types, vegetation communities and habitat at the Study Area, and to document the condition of site and level of existing disturbance. All portions of the Study Area were surveyed on foot. Photographs were taken to document site conditions (Attachment 2). Observations or sign (e.g., scat, tracks, burrows/dens) of special-status wildlife species were also noted. Plant species were documented, and vegetation communities were defined using *The Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (MCV2; Sawyer et al. 2009). The Study Area was inspected for drainage features exhibiting stream characteristics such as a defined bed, banks, or channel; ordinary high water mark (OHWM); or potential wetland indicators. Current federal and state methods and guidelines were used to identify and delineate aquatic features. Refer to Attachment 3 for additional details on methods used in determining jurisdictional limits of water/wetland resources in the Study Area.

Existing Setting

A description of the existing setting, including land use, hydrology, vegetation, and soil types in the Study Area is presented below.

Topography, Climate, and Land Use

Topography within the Study Area is relatively flat. Elevations range from approximately 2,339 to 2,348 feet above mean sea level (Google Earth 2021). Regional land uses in the vicinity of the Study Area include Mira Loma Detention Center, California State Prison Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Challenger Memorial Youth Camps, various businesses, and undeveloped land. Climate in the City of Lancaster is characterized by mild winters and hot summers. Temperature is characterized by average highs at 77°F and average lows at 47°F, with an average annual precipitation of 7.38 inches (US Climate Data 2021).



Hydrology

The project is located within the Railroad Canyon watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 180902061406) within the Amargosa Creek watershed (HUC 1809020614). The Railroad Canyon watershed encompasses approximately 34,610 acres and is bounded by Portal Ridge to the southeast. The National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) did not identify any water features within the Study Area. The desktop analysis and data collected in the field identified three hydrology features in the Study Area, discussed in detail below.

Three drainage features were identified within the Study Area during the field survey, one to the north (drainage A), one to the southwest (drainage B), and one to the east (drainage C), identified in Figure 3 (Attachment 1). Each of the drainages are man-made and regularly maintained to create a V-ditch shape and to clear out vegetation and debris.

The northern drainage (A) and the southwestern drainage (B) were both dry during the field survey; however, during rain events, the drainages likely temporarily collect surface stormwater runoff from the facility. The drainages are isolated and do not provide flow to downstream features. The drainages have also been cleared of vegetation and debris and graded to preserve the v-ditch shape. Non-native grasses occur along the upper banks of the drainages. No wetland vegetation or other hydrology indicators (i.e., standing water, OHWM) were observed. Soils were compacted or recently graded.

The eastern drainage (C) is also a maintained v-ditch that was dry during the time of the survey. The drainage originates from the property to the northeast and continues to the east where it eventually connects with a basin to the east of the Study Area, discussed below. In addition, there is a water pipe that drains water from the facilities to the south of the Study Area and empties into this drainage, indicated in Figure 3 as "drainage pipe". This drainage supports a small cluster of trees consisting of red willow (*Salix laevigata*), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), juniper (*Juniperus* sp.), and other unknown ornamental trees (dead and alive), identified as "red willow thickets" discussed below. Rushes (*Juncus* sp.) were also observed in small patch along the southern bank of the drainage. No clear OHWM or other hydrology indicators, were observed.

A maintained basin is present just outside the eastern extent of the Study Area, into which drainage C drains. The basin is identified as Palustrine wetland habitat (PUSJx¹) by the NWI (USFWS 2021a). During the field survey, this basin feature was dry, but appeared to be created to collect rainfall from the surrounding landscape during the winter months. The basin occurs outside the Study Area; therefore, this feature was not further examined for other wetland characteristics. This feature is identified as "basin" in Figure 3 (Attachment 1).

Soils

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA, NRCS) Web Soil Survey identified four soil types within the Study Area: Pond loam, Pond silty clay loam, Tray sandy loam saline-alkali, and Tray loam saline-alkali. Refer to Figure 4 in Attachment 1.

Pond loam is a moderately well-drained soil that consists of alluvium derived from granite. These soils are typically found on the toeslope of basin floors at elevations between 40 and 2,600 feet above mean sea level. A typical soil profile consists of loam from depths of 0 to 4 inches, clay loam from 4 to 24

¹ PUSJx: Palustrine, Unconsolidated Shore, Intermittently Flooded, Excavated by humans (USFWS 2021).



inches, and silt loam from 24 to 72 inches. This soil map unit is not included on the National Hydric Soils List (USDA, NRCS 2021).

Pond silty loam is a moderately well-drained soil that consists of alluvium derived from granite. These soils are typically found on the toeslope of basin floors at elevations between 40 and 2,600 feet above mean sea level. A typical soil profile consists of silty clay loam from depths of 0 to 4 inches, clay loam from 4 to 24 inches, and silt loam from 24 to 72 inches. This soil map unit is not included on the National Hydric Soils List (USDA, NRCS 2021).

Tray sandy loam, saline-alkali is a moderately well-drained soil that consists of alluvium derived from granite. These soils are typically found on the toeslope of basin floors at elevations between 2,300 and 2,400 feet above mean sea level. A typical soil profile consists of sandy loam from depths of 0 to 32 inches, and sandy loam/coarse sandy loam from 32 to 70 inches. This soil map unit is included on the National Hydric Soils List (USDA, NRCS 2021).

Tray loam, saline alkali is a moderately well-drained soil that consists of alluvium derived from granite. These soils are typically found on the toeslope of basin floors at elevations between 2,300 and 2,400 feet above mean sea level. A typical soil profile consists of loam from depths of 0 to 8 inches, sandy loam from 8 to 32 inches, and sandy loam/coarse sandy loam from 32 to 70 inches. This soil map unit is not included on the National Hydric Soils List (USDA, NRCS 2021).

Vegetation Communities and Land Covers

Vegetation communities and land cover types are illustrated in Figure 3 (Attachment 1), and further detailed in Table 1 and the discussion below. Refer to Attachment 4 for a complete species compendium.

Table 1 Vegetation Communities and Land Covers within the Project Site

1 Vegetation Communities and Land Covers	Acres within Project Site	1
Ruderal/Developed	1.79	
Mediterranean Grass Grassland	68.71	
Big Sagebrush Scrub	12.82	
Red Willow Thickets	0.22	

Ruderal/Developed

Within the project site, ruderal/developed areas generally consist of paved roads, graded dirt roads, previously disturbed natural areas where vegetation has been removed due to maintenance, and disturbed natural areas that consist of non-native pioneering species of vegetation ("weeds") among developed areas. Species identified in these areas are non-native and include short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), wild oat (*Avena barbata*), and foxtail brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*).

In addition to these vegetation communities, within the project site, there is a section of developed land consisting of solar panels contained within a fenced area (refer to Figure 3, Attachment 1).

Mediterranean Grass Grasslands (*Schismus arabicus*) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands

Mediterranean grass grassland is dominated by the non-native Mediterranean grass (*Schismus arabicus*) with other non-natives in the herbaceous layer and occurs in all topography settings and soil textures. Mediterranean grass is non-native and has a California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) rank of "Limited." Other non-native species identified in this community include common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia intermedia*), foxtail brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), downy chess (*Bromus tectorum*), yellow-star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), coastal heron's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). There are also occurrences of big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.). This community occurs throughout the majority of the project site and is degraded by a matrix of dirt and paved maintenance roads, ditches, and appears to be mowed down regularly for fire control. Many of the dirt roads within this community can be classified as ruderal. This community is dominated by non-native species and not considered a sensitive community.

Big Sagebrush Scrub (*Artemisia tridentata* Shrubland Alliance)

Big sagebrush scrub is typically found within plains, alluvial fans, bajadas, pediments, lower slopes, valley bottoms, hills, ridges, seasonal and perennial stream channels, and dry washes between 984 to 9,840 feet in elevation. Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) constitutes at least 2% absolute cover in the shrub layer, with no other single species with greater cover. Big sagebrush is native to the region; however, this vegetation community is ranked as G5S5 by the CDFW, which is not considered sensitive (CDFW 2020).

This vegetation community is found along the southwestern portion of the project site. Soils consist of coarse sand. Big sagebrush is dominant in the open shrub layer, with occurrences of saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.) and an herbaceous layer consisting primarily of Mediterranean grass, bull thistle, downy chess, foxtail brome, yellow star-thistle, coastal heron's bill, and common fiddleneck. This community appears to be regularly mowed for fire control and degraded by several dirt roads.

Red Willow Thickets (*Salix laevigata* Woodland Alliance)

This community is co-dominated by red willow (*Salix laevigata*), juniper (*Juniperus* sp.), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and other ornamental species. This community typically occurs in ditches, floodplains, lake edges, and low-gradient depositions along streams. Red willow thickets are ranked by the CDFW as G3S3, indicating a sensitive community (CDFW 2020). This community occurs along the eastern drainage C in a small patch near where a water pipe discharges water coming from the southern property. Several of the trees were dead at the time of the survey. There was no shrub layer and the herbaceous layer was sparse and dominated by non-native grasses. A small patch of rushes (unknown species) were also observed near the discharge of the water pipe.

Wildlife

The Study Area contains native and non-native vegetation and provides suitable habitat for many common wildlife species. Common wildlife observed or detected during the survey include sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia*

decaocto), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), and common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*). Refer to Attachment 4 for a complete species compendium.

Wildlife Movement

Wildlife corridors are generally defined as connections between habitat patches that allow for physical and genetic exchange between otherwise isolated wildlife populations. Such linkages may serve a local purpose, such as between foraging and denning areas, or they may be regional in nature, allowing movement across the landscape. Some habitat linkages may serve as migration corridors, wherein wildlife periodically move away from an area and then subsequently return. Examples of barriers or impediments to movement include housing and other urban development, roads, fencing, unsuitable habitat, or open areas with little vegetative cover. Regional and local wildlife movements are expected to be concentrated near topographic features that allow convenient passage, including roads, drainages, and ridgelines.

The Study Area is not located in any essential connectivity areas or natural landscape blocks (Spencer et al. 2010). Because the Study Area is mostly surrounded by undeveloped land, and wildlife typically use washes and access roads for movement, the Study Area is relatively permeable to wildlife movement and it is likely some wildlife will traverse through the area.

Sensitive Biological Resources

This section identifies special-status species that have potentially suitable habitat within the Study Area/

Special-Status Species

Below is a discussion of three special-status plant and wildlife species with a moderate or high potential to occur in the Study Area (within 5-miles of the Study Area).

Alkali Mariposa Lily

Alkali mariposa lily (*Calochortus striatus*) has a CRPR ranking of IB.2 and is found in chaparral, chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, meadows, and seeps at elevations between 70 and 1,595 meters. Alkali mariposa lily was not observed during the field survey, but suitable scrub habitat is present within the Study Area. The nearest CNDDDB occurrence was recorded in 1988 (Occurrence No. 39) and is located approximately 0.2 miles south of the Study Area. Based on the presence of suitable habitat and a nearby CNDDDB occurrence, alkali mariposa lily has a moderate potential to occur within the Study Area.

Northern California Legless Lizard

Northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*) is a CDFW SSC that is found in sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. They require soils with a high moisture content. Suitable loamy and sandy soils are present within the Study Area. The nearest CNDDDB occurrence was recorded in 1988 (Occurrence No. 94) and is located within the Study Area. Based on the presence of suitable habitat and an overlapping CNDDDB occurrence, northern California legless lizard has a high potential to occur within the Study Area.

Coast Horned Lizard

Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) is a CDFW SSC that inhabits lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. They require open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and an abundant supply of ants and other insects. Suitable habitat requirements, including open areas, sandy soils, and shrubs for cover, are present within the Study Area. The nearest CNDDDB occurrence was recorded in 1991 (Occurrence No. 580) and is located approximately 4.2 miles south of the Study Area. Based on the presence of suitable habitat and a nearby CNDDDB occurrence, coast horned lizard has a high potential to occur within the Study Area.

Nesting Birds

The Study Area contains habitat that can support nesting birds, including raptors, protected under the CFGC Section 3503 and the MBTA (16 United States Code §§ 703-712). Potential nesting locations can occur in the vegetation on the ground, in the shrubs, in the adjacent facilities/structures, and in trees located within the Study Area. No active or inactive nests were observed during the reconnaissance survey, which was conducted within the nesting bird season (February 1 to August 31).

Sensitive Plant Communities

Plant communities are considered sensitive biological resources if they have limited distributions, have high wildlife value, support special-status species, or are particularly susceptible to disturbance. The CDFW ranks natural and sensitive communities using NatureServe's Heritage Methodology (CDFW 2021), the same system used to assign global and state rarity ranks for plant and wildlife species in the CNDDDB. Within the nine-quadrangle search around the Study Area, six sensitive natural communities have been documented: Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Southern Riparian Scrub, Southern Willow Scrub, Valley Needlegrass Grassland, and Wildflower Fields. None of these communities have been previously documented in the Study Area, nor observed within the Study Area during the April 2021 field visit.

In addition, according to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal (USFWS 2021b), no critical habitat exists within the Study Area.

Summary of Jurisdictional Areas

Based upon the findings of Rincon's jurisdictional delineation, one potentially jurisdictional ephemeral drainage feature (drainage "C" illustrated in Figure 3, Attachment 1) is present along the eastern boundary of the Study Area. This drainage is within CDFW and RWQCB jurisdiction, due to the presence of a bed and bank by the break in slope. No OWHM was observed during the field visit, the drainage is ephemeral, and isolated; therefore, is not within the jurisdiction of the USACE.

The northern drainage A and the southwestern drainage B drain rainwater from the facilities to the north of the Study Area; however, these drainages are heavily cleared of vegetation, graded, and do not provide connection to the adjacent ephemeral drainage to the east (drainage C). No wetland indicators, including saturated or hydric soils, wetland vegetation, or other signs of hydrology were present. There were no signs of an OWHM or break in slope. Drainages A and B are not considered to be under the jurisdiction of the regulatory agencies (USACE, CDFW, RWQCB).



Conclusion

This report is intended to document and assess the habitat present on the project site and identify sensitive biological resources that may occur in these habitats, and which could represent potential constraints to future development of the project site. It is not intended to provide analysis suitable for compliance with CEQA, federal or state Endangered Species Acts, MBTA, CFGC, or any of the other statutes referenced in Attachment 3.

Rincon determined that one special-status plant species and three special-status wildlife species have a moderate or high potential to occur within the Study Area. One potentially jurisdictional feature (Drainage "C") is present within the Study Area and may be subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW and RWQCB. The Drainage C feature is not under USACE jurisdiction. One sensitive vegetation community, red willow thickets, is present within Drainage C, and comprises a portion of the jurisdictional area.

Should future development propose potential impacts to sensitive biological resources, additional pre-construction studies such as protocol rare plant surveys, a formal jurisdictional delineation, and focused wildlife surveys are recommended. Development concentrated in previously developed areas and areas with non-native vegetation communities (e.g., Arabian grass grassland) would have the lowest potential impact to sensitive resources. Development that results in impacts to the jurisdictional feature, the red willow thickets, or native vegetation would have a higher risk of impacts, likely require greater levels of mitigation, and may have permitting requirements by resource agencies, resulting in potentially longer and more expensive processing time.

During the construction phase, pre-construction surveys for nesting birds would likely be required if construction occurs during the nesting season, typically between February 1 and August 31. Nesting birds are protected under the MBTA and CFGC (§§ 3503 and 3503.5).

The findings and conclusions presented in this report, including the location and extent of areas subject to regulatory jurisdiction and potential for occurrence of special-status species, represent the professional opinion of the consultant biologists. These findings and conclusions should be considered preliminary and at final discretion of the applicable resource agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this habitat assessment. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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Attachments

- Attachment 1 Figures
- Attachment 2 Representative Site Photographs
- Attachment 3 Regulatory Framework
- Attachment 4 Species Compendium



References

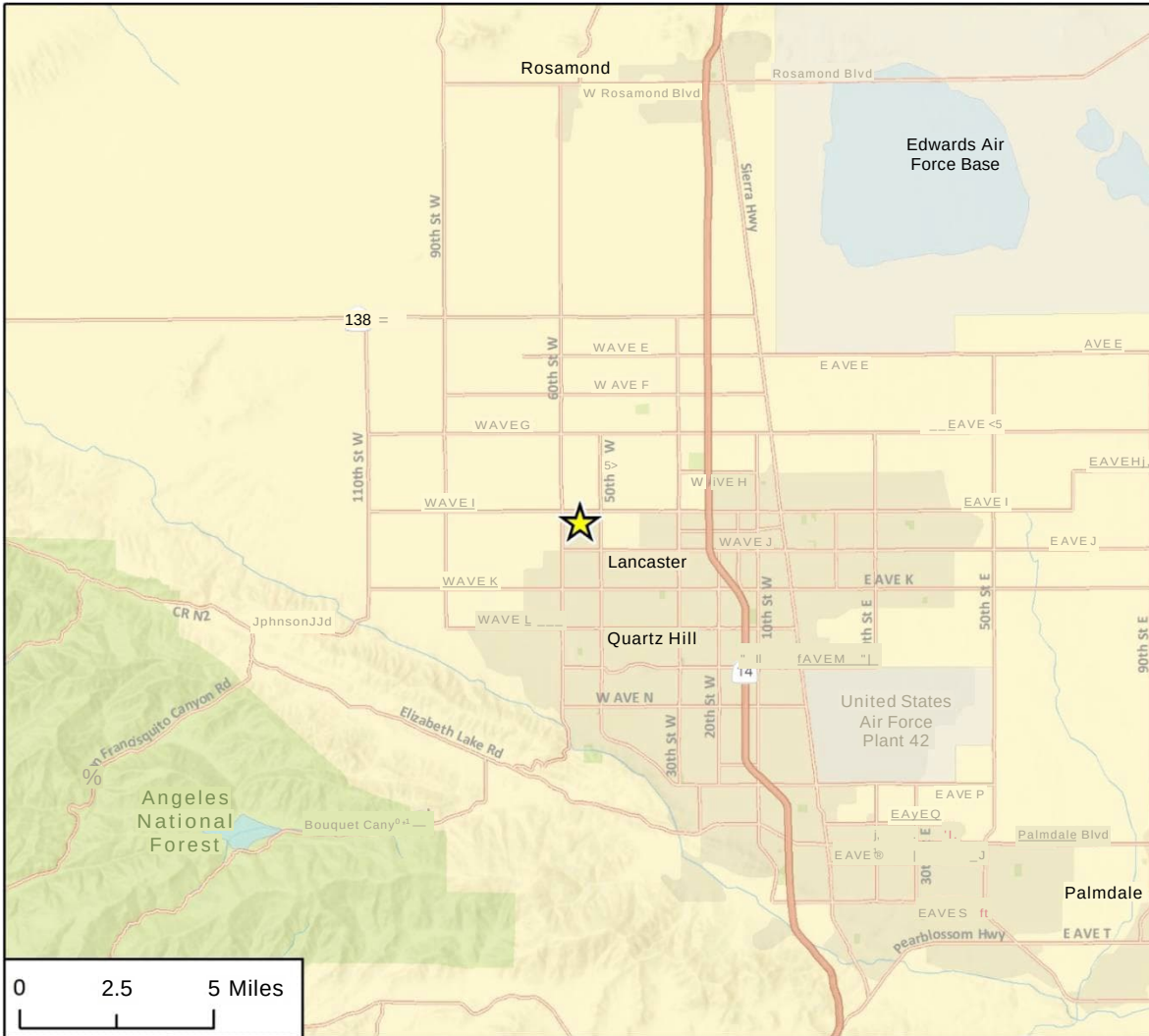
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Attachment 1

Figures

Figure 1 Regional Location



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★ Project Location

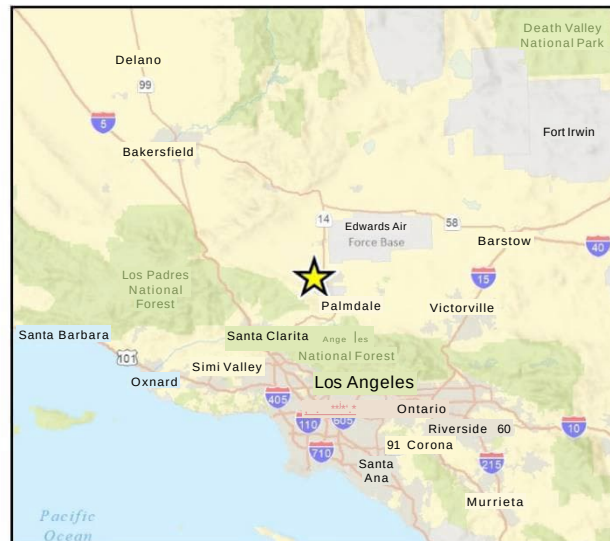


Fig. 1 Regional Location

Figure 2 Study Area

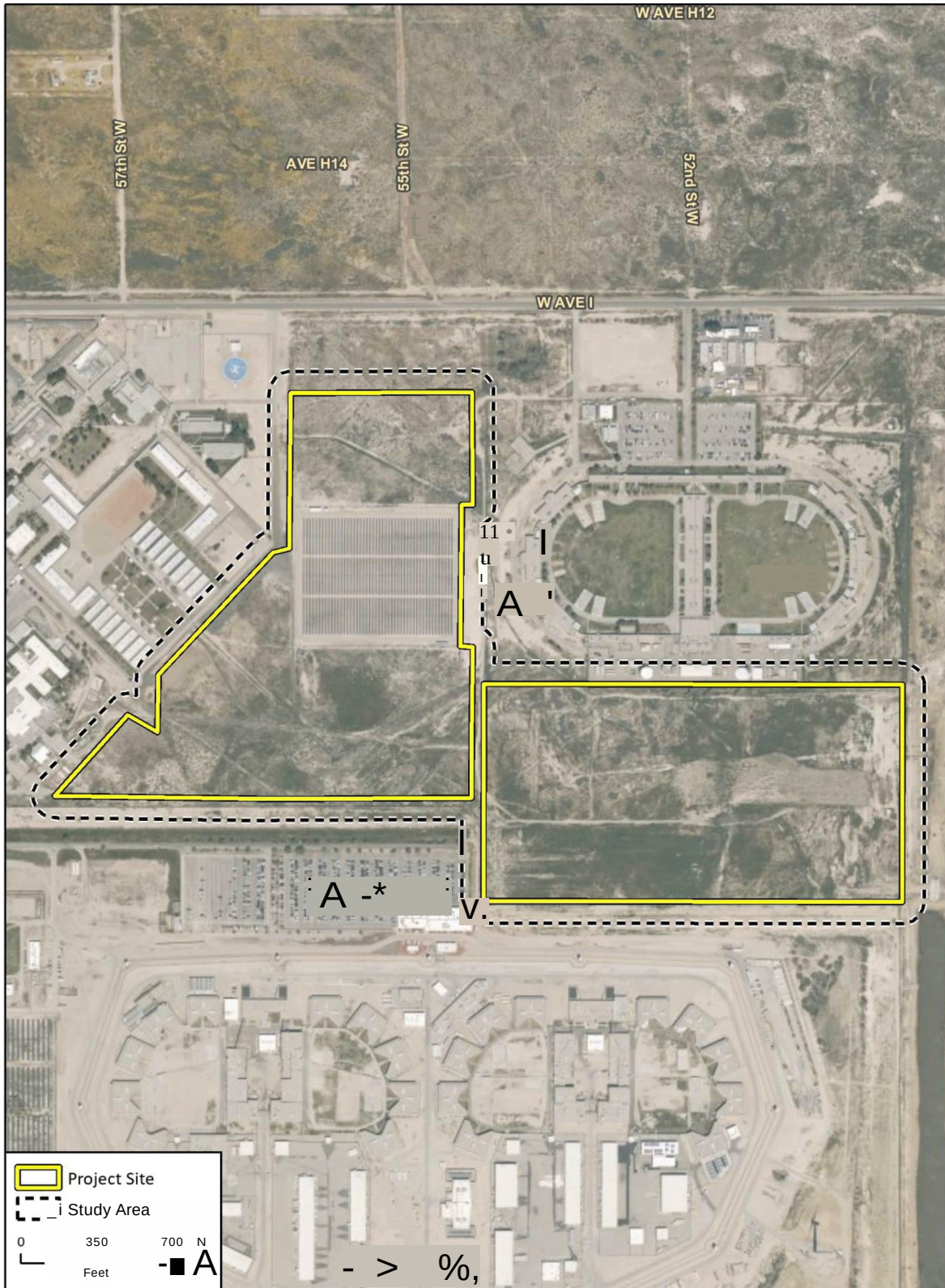
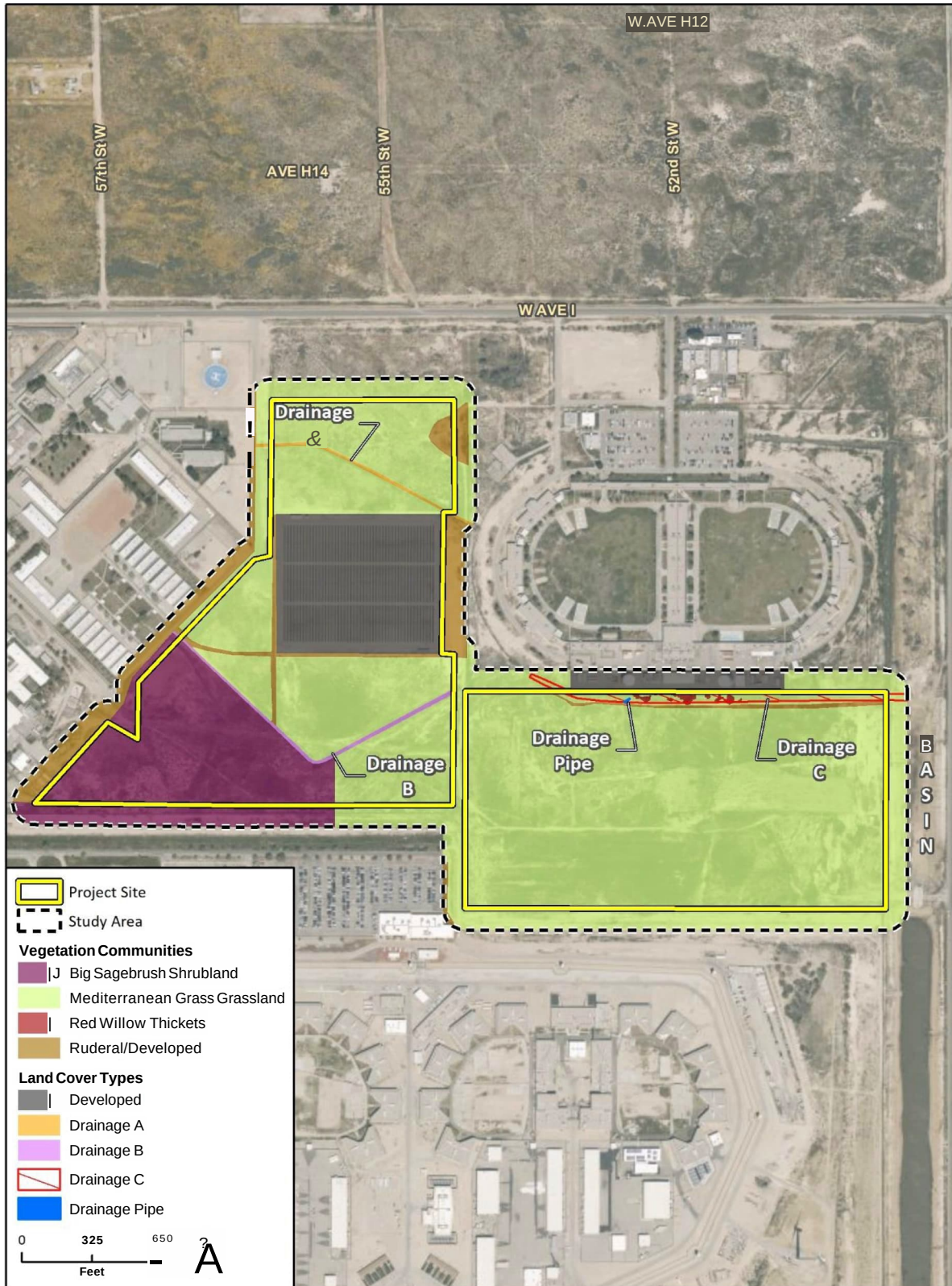


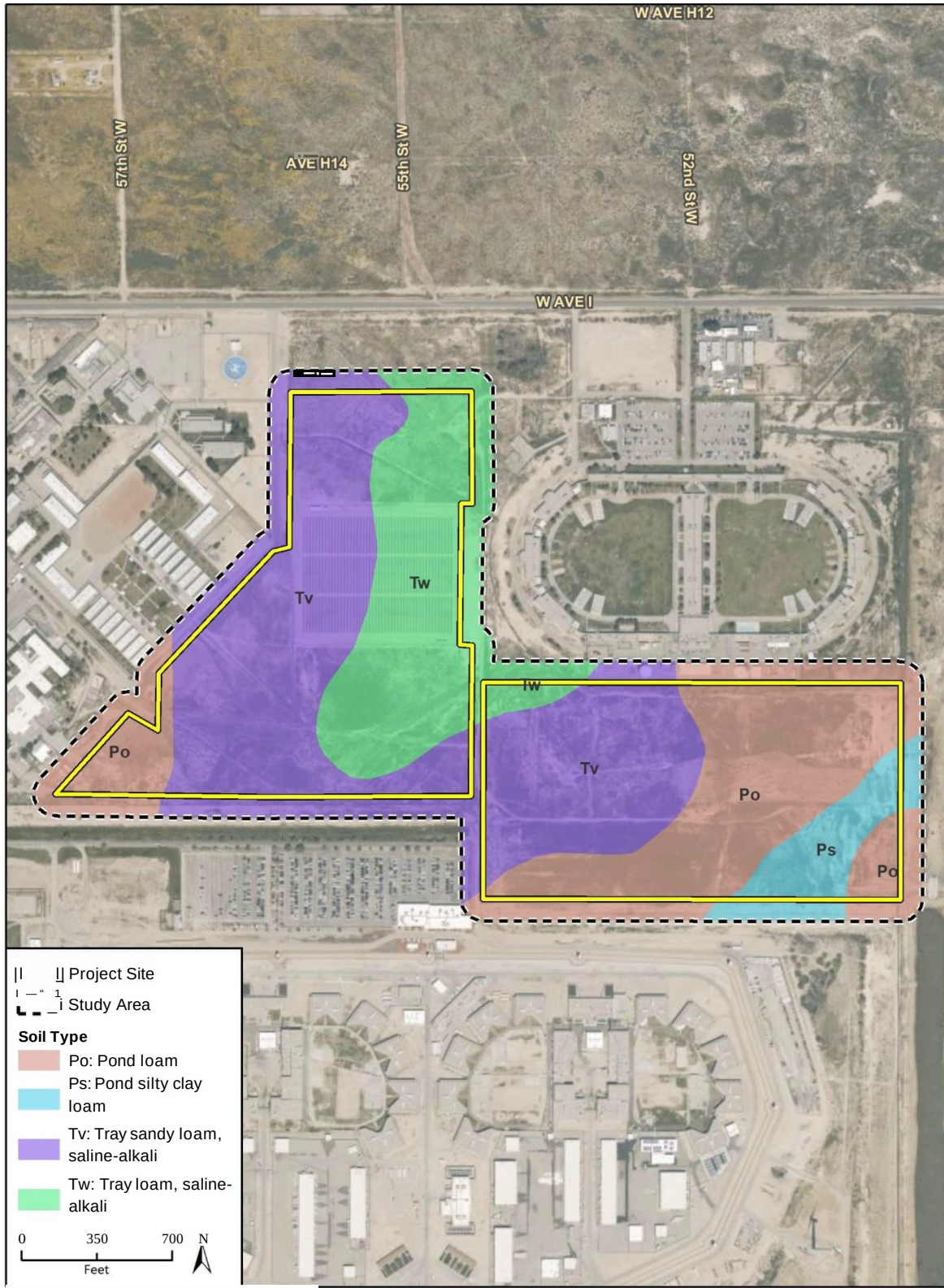
Figure 3 Vegetation Communities, Land Cover Types, and Potentially Jurisdictional Features



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2021.

Fig. 3 Vegetation Communities

Figure 4 Soils Map



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2021.
Additional data from SSURGO, 2019.

Fig 4 Soils

Attachment 2

Representative Site Photographs



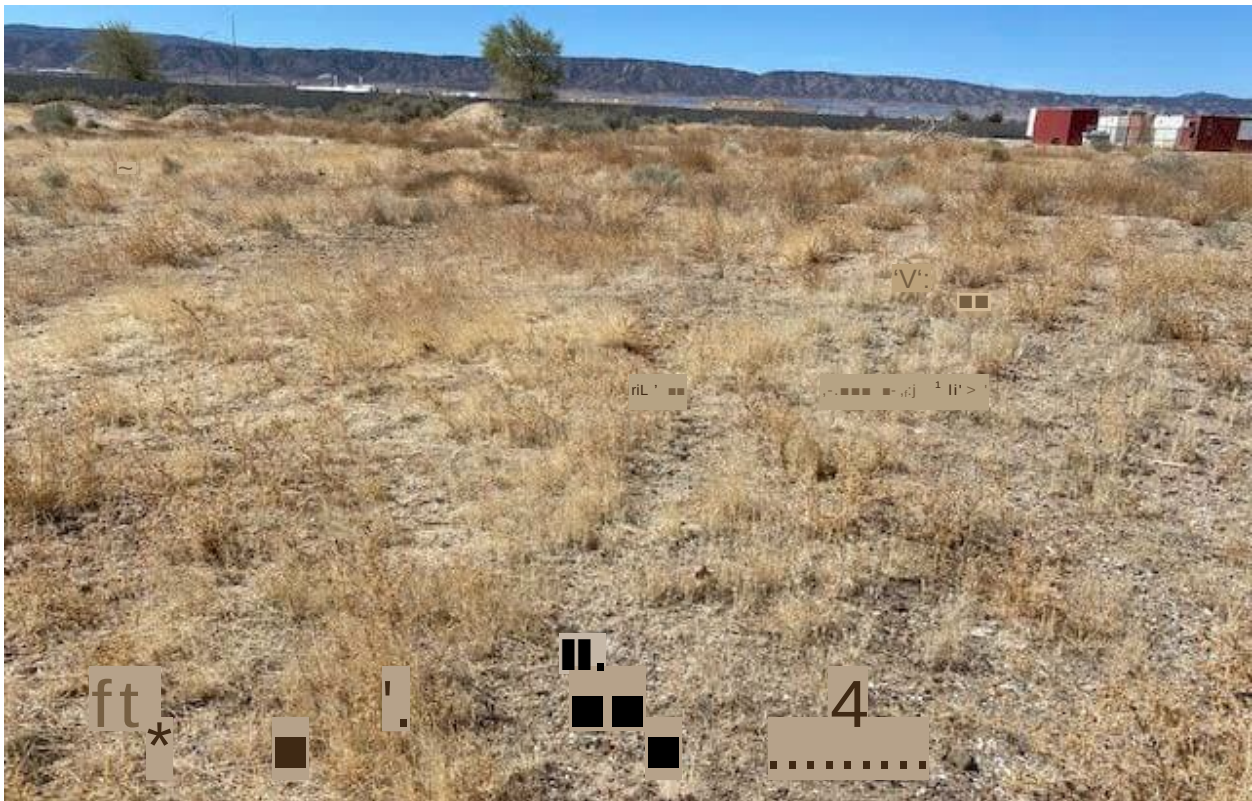
Photograph 1. Southeast view of drainage B within Study Area.



Photograph 2. West view of adjacent facility, north of the Study Area, along western extent of drainage B.



Photograph 3. Southeast view of Big Sagebrush Shrubland habitat within Study Area.



Photograph 4. South view of Mediterranean Grass Grassland habitat within Study Area.



Photograph 5. Representative view of dirt access roads located throughout the Study Area.



Photograph 6. Northeast view of drainage pipe leading to drainage C within Study Area.



Photograph 7. Southeast view of Mediterranean Grass Grassland habitat within Study Area.



Photograph 8. West view of drainage A leading from facility adjacent to Study Area.



Photograph 9. West view (upstream) of drainage C within Study Area.

Attachment 3

Regulatory Framework

Regulatory Framework

The following is a brief summary of the regulatory context under which biological resources are managed at the federal, State, and local levels. A number of federal and State statutes provide a regulatory structure which guide the protection of jurisdictional features. Agencies with the responsibility for protection of jurisdictional features within the project site include:

- United States Army Corps of Engineers (non-wetland waters and wetlands of the United States)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (waters of the State)
- California Department Fish and Wildlife (riparian areas, streambeds, and lakes)
- California Coastal Commission (coastal wetlands)

United States Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdiction

The United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), under provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and USACE implementing regulations, has jurisdiction over the placement of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States." Congress enacted the CWA "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." In practice, the boundaries of certain waters subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 404 have not been fully defined. Previous regulations codified in 1986 defined "waters of the United States" as traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, all other waters that could affect interstate or foreign commerce, impoundments of waters of the United States, tributaries, the territorial seas, and adjacent wetlands.

On April 21, 2020, the USACE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published the *Navigable Waters Protection Rule* to define "Waters of the United States." This rule, effective on June 22, 2020, defines four categories of jurisdictional features, documents certain types of waters that are excluded from jurisdiction, and clarifies some regulatory terms. Under the *Navigable Waters Protection Rule*, "waters of the United States" include:

- (1) Territorial seas and traditional navigable waters;
- (2) Perennial and intermittent tributaries that contribute surface flow to those waters;
- (3) Certain Lakes and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters, and;
- (4) Wetlands adjacent to jurisdictional waters.

Tributaries are defined as "a river, stream, or similar naturally occurring surface water channel that contributes surface water flow to the territorial seas or traditional navigable waters in a typical year either directly or through one or more tributaries, jurisdictional lakes, ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters, or adjacent wetlands." The tributary category also includes a ditch that "either relocates a tributary, is constructed in a tributary, or is constructed in an adjacent wetland as long as the ditch is perennial or intermittent and contributes surface water flow to a traditional navigable water or territorial sea in a typical year."

Adjacent wetlands are defined as wetlands that:

- (i) Abut, meaning to touch at least at one point or side of, a defined Water of the U.S.;
- (ii) Are inundated by flooding from a defined Water of the U.S. in a typical year;

- (iii) Are physically separated from a defined Water of the U.S. by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural features or by artificial dike, barrier or similar artificial structures as long as direct hydrological surface connection to defined Waters of the U.S. are allowed; or,
- (iv) Are impounded of Waters of the U.S. in a typical year through a culvert, flood or tide gate, pump or similar artificial structure.

The Navigable Waters Protection Rule states that the following areas not considered to be jurisdictional features even where they otherwise meet the definitions described above:

- (1) Groundwater, including groundwater drained through subsurface drainage systems;
- (2) Ephemeral features that flow only in direct response to precipitation including ephemeral streams, swales, gullies, rills and pools;
- (3) Diffuse stormwater runoff and directional sheet flow over uplands;
- (4) Ditches that are not defined Waters of the U.S. and not constructed in adjacent wetlands subject to certain limitations;
- (5) Prior converted cropland;
- (6) Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to upland if artificial irrigation ceases;
- (7) Artificial lakes and ponds that are not jurisdictional impoundments and that are constructed or excavated in upland or non-jurisdictional waters;
- (8) Water-filled depressions constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel;
- (9) Stormwater control features constructed or excavated in uplands or in non-jurisdictional water to convey, treat, infiltrate, or stormwater run-off;
- (10) Groundwater recharge, water reuse, and wastewater recycling structures constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters; and,
- (11) Waste treatment systems.

USACE jurisdictional limits are typically identified by the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) or the landward edge of adjacent wetlands (where present). The OHWM is the "line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding area" (33 CFR 328.3).

Wetland Waters of the U.S.

The USACE defines wetlands as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 CFR 328.3). The USACE's delineation procedures identify wetlands in the field based on indicators of three wetland parameters: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. The following is a discussion of each of these parameters.

Hydrophytic Vegetation

Hydrophytic vegetation dominates areas where frequency and duration of inundation or soil saturation exerts a controlling influence on the plant species present. Plant species are assigned wetland indicator status according to the probability of their occurring in wetlands. More than fifty percent of the dominant plant species must have a wetland indicator status to meet the hydrophytic vegetation criterion. The USACE published the National Wetland Plant List (USACE 2018), which separates vascular plants into the following four basic categories based on plant species frequency of occurrence in wetlands:

- **Obligate Wetland (OBL).** Almost always occur in wetlands
- **Facultative Wetland (FACW).** Usually occur in wetlands, but occasionally found in non-wetlands
- **Facultative (FAC).** Occur in wetlands or non-wetlands
- **Facultative Upland (FACU).** Usually occur in non-wetlands, but may occur in wetlands
- **Obligate Upland (UPL).** Almost never occur in wetlands

The USACE considers OBL, FACW and FAC species to be indicators of wetlands. An area is considered to have hydrophytic vegetation when greater than 50 percent of the dominant species in each vegetative stratum (tree, shrub, and herb) fall within these categories. Any species not appearing on the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's list is assumed to be an upland species, almost never occurring in wetlands. In addition, an area needs to contain at least 5% vegetative cover to be considered as a vegetated wetland.

Hydric Soils

Hydric soils are saturated or inundated for a sufficient duration during the growing season to develop anaerobic or reducing conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation. Field indicators of wetland soils include observations of ponding, inundation, saturation, dark (low chroma) soil colors, bright mottles (concentrations of oxidized minerals such as iron), gleying (indicates reducing conditions by a blue-grey color), or accumulation of organic material. Additional supporting information includes documentation of soil as hydric or reference to wet conditions in the local soils survey, both of which must be verified in the field.

Wetland Hydrology

Wetland hydrology is inundation or soil saturation with a frequency and duration long enough to cause the development of hydric soils and plant communities dominated by hydrophytic vegetation. If direct observation of wetland hydrology is not possible (as in seasonal wetlands), or records of wetland hydrology are not available (such as stream gauges), assessment of wetland hydrology is frequently supported by field indicators, such as water marks, drift lines, sediment deposits, or drainage patterns in wetlands.

Regional Water Quality Control Board Jurisdiction

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have jurisdiction over "waters of the State," which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state.

The SWRCB or local RWQCB have not established regulations for field determinations of waters of the state except for wetlands currently. The RWQCB are affected by or shares USACE jurisdiction unless isolated conditions or ephemeral waters are present. Each local RWQCB may delineate their jurisdictions of waters of the state differently based on current interpretations of jurisdiction.

Procedures for defining RWQCB jurisdiction pursuant to the SWRCB's *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State* went into effect May 28, 2020. The SWRCB define an area as wetland if, under normal circumstances:

- (i) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both;
- (ii) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and
- (iii) the area's vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation.

The SWRCB's *Implementation Guidance for the Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredge and Fill Material to Waters of the State* (2020), states that waters of the U.S. and waters of the State should be delineated using the standard USACE delineation procedures, taking into consideration that the methods shall be modified only to allow for the fact that a lack of vegetation does not preclude an area from meeting the definition of a wetland.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Act is the principal law governing water quality regulation in California. It establishes a comprehensive program to protect water quality and the beneficial uses of water. The Porter-Cologne Act applies to surface waters, wetlands, and ground water and to both point and nonpoint sources of pollution. Pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Act (California Water Code section 13000 et seq.), the policy of the State is as follows:

- The quality of all the waters of the State shall be protected
- All activities and factors affecting the quality of water shall be regulated to attain the highest water quality within reason
- The State must be prepared to exercise its full power and jurisdiction to protect the quality of water in the State from degradation

The Porter-Cologne Act established nine RWQCB (based on hydrogeologic barriers) and the SWRCB, which are charged with implementing its provisions and which have primary responsibility for protecting water quality in California. The SWRCB provides program guidance and oversight, allocates funds, and reviews RWQCB decisions. In addition, the SWRCB allocates rights to the use of surface water. The RWQCBs have primary responsibility for individual permitting, inspection, and enforcement actions within each of nine hydrologic regions. The SWRCB and RWQCB have numerous nonpoint source related responsibilities, including monitoring and assessment, planning, financial assistance, and management.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Jurisdiction

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has not defined the term "stream" for the purposes of implementing its regulatory program under Section 1602, and the agency has not promulgated regulations directing how jurisdictional streambeds may be identified, or how their limits should be delineated. Considering this, four sources of information were reviewed and considered in determining the appropriate limits of CDFW jurisdiction within the site, as discussed below. The principles presented in these materials were used to guide the delineation of on-site streams, with consideration given to the relevance (i.e., jurisdiction, applicability) of each source to the project and resources at hand.

- **The plain language of Section 1602 of CFGC** establishes the following general concepts:
 - References "river," "stream," and "lake"
 - References "natural flow"
 - References "bed," "bank," and "channel"
- **Applicable court decisions**, in particular *Rutherford v. State of California* (188 Cal App. 3d 1276 (1987)), which interpreted Section 1602's use of "stream" to be as defined in common law. The Court indicated that a "stream" is commonly understood to:
 - Have a source and a terminus
 - Have banks and a channel
 - Convey flow at least periodically, but need not flow continuously and may at times appear outwardly dry
 - Represent the depression between the banks worn by the regular and usual flow of the water
 - Include the area between the opposing banks measured from the foot of the banks from the top of the water at its ordinary stage, including intervening sand bars
 - Include the land that is covered by the water in its ordinary low stage
 - Include lands below the OHWM
- **CDFW regulations** defining "stream" for other purposes, including sport fishing (14 CCR 1.72) and streambed alterations associated with cannabis production (14 CCR 722(c)(21)), which indicate that a stream:
 - Flows at least periodically or intermittently
 - Flows through a bed or channel having banks
 - Supports fish or aquatic life
 - Can be dry for a period of time
 - Includes watercourses where surface or subsurface flow supports or has supported riparian vegetation
- **Guidance documents**, including A Field Guide to Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements (CDFG 1994) and Methods to Describe and Delineate Episodic Stream Processes on Arid Landscapes for Permitting Utility-Scale Solar Power Plants (Brady and Vyverberg 2013), which suggest the following:
 - A stream may flow perennially or episodically
 - A stream is defined by the course in which water currently flows, or has flowed during the historic hydrologic course regime (approximately the last 200 years)

- ⁿ Width of a stream course can reasonably be identified by physical or biological indicators
- ⁿ A stream may have one or more channels (single thread vs. compound form)
- ⁿ Features such as braided channels, low-flow channels, active channels, banks associated with secondary channels, floodplains, islands, and stream-associated vegetation, are interconnected parts of the watercourse
- ⁿ Canals, aqueducts, irrigation ditches, and other means of water conveyance can be considered streams if they support aquatic life, riparian vegetation, or stream-dependent terrestrial wildlife
- ⁿ Biologic components of a stream may include aquatic and riparian vegetation, all aquatic animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, and terrestrial species which derive benefits from the stream system
- ⁿ The lateral extent of a stream can be measured in different ways depending on the particular situation and the type of fish or wildlife resource at risk

The tenets listed above, among others, are applied in desert environments. Coastal drainages are delineated predominately based on the following factors:

- Areas that exhibited evidence of hydrologic activity, such as scour, formation of banks, and/or deposition of sediment or material
- Areas where the vegetation community was adapted to the presence of elevated soil moisture levels (i.e., contained mostly hydrophytic species)

Attachment 4

Species Compendium

Plant Species Observed Within the Study Area in April 2021

Scientific Name ¹	Common Name	Status ²	Native or Introduced ³
Plants			
<i>Amsinckia intermedia</i>	Common fiddleneck	UPL	Native
<i>Schismus arabicus</i>	Mediterranean grass	UPL; Cal-IPC Limited	Introduced
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	Big sagebrush	UPL	Native
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	Saltbush	UPL	Native
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i>	Foxtail brome	UPL; Cal-IPC High	Introduced
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Downy chess	UPL; Cal-IPC High	Introduced
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow star-thistle	UPL; Cal-IPC High	Introduced
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bullthistle	UPL; Cal-IPC Moderate	Introduced
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Coastal heron's bill	UPL; Cal-IPC Limited	Introduced
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Shortpod mustard	UPL; Cal-IPC Moderate	Introduced
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	Rush	UPL	Native
<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	Juniper	UPL	Introduced
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Mesquite	UPL	Native
<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Red willow	UPL	Native

Jepson Flora Project (eds.) 2021

²The USAGE Arid West 2016 Regional Wetland Plant List was used to determine the indicator status of the examined vegetation by the following indicator status categories: Upland (UPL), Facultative Upland (FACU), Facultative (FAC), Facultative Wetland (FACW), and Obligate Wetland (OBL) (Lichvar et al. 2016).

³ Cal-IPC 2021.

Cal-IPC - Limited; these species are invasive with ecological amplitude and distribution being generally limited, but these species may be locally persistent and problematic.

Cal-IPC - Moderate; these species have substantial and apparent-but generally not severe-ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal.

Cal-IPC - High; These species have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment. Most are widely distributed ecologically.

Wildlife Species Observed Within the Study Area in April 2021

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native or Introduced
Birds		
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	sharp-shinned hawk	Native
<i>Callipepla californica</i>	California quail	Native
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	lark sparrow	Native
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven	Native
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch	Native
<i>Larus californicus</i>	California gull	Native
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird	Native
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	house sparrow	Introduced
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	savannah sparrow	Native
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe	Native
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian collared dove	Introduced
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European starling	Introduced
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove	Native
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	white-crowned sparrow	Native
Reptiles		
<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>	gopher snake	Native
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	common side-blotched lizard	Native
Mammals		
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	desert cottontail (scat)	Native
<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel	Native

APPENDIX C
CULTURAL RESOURCES DESKTOP ANALYSIS
AND RECORDS SEARCH



MEMO

DATE: May 6, 2021
TO: Charles Cleeves, CEQA Project Manager
FROM: Marlis M. Muschal, Archaeologist, and Andrew Wilkins, Archaeologist
SUBJECT: **Confidential: Cultural Resource Desktop Analysis and Records Check for the Proposed SunPower High Desert Expansion Project, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California**

WSP USA Inc. (WSP) completed a cultural resource desktop analysis and records check for the proposed SunPower High Desert Expansion Project (project) in Lancaster, Los Angeles County. The project area is identified as a 40.76-hectare (100.73-acre) solar energy facility expansion located in Section 14 of Township 7 North, Range 13 West (figure 1). The desktop analysis and records check were completed to understand what cultural resources may be affected by the proposed project. Desktop analysis included examination of historical maps and aerial views.

The records check was conducted to determine the presence of any known archaeological resources in the study area, which was defined as the area within a 1.6-kilometer (1-mile) radius of the project area. WSP submitted a Data Request to the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) on February 23, 2021. The request was fulfilled on April 7, 2021, and included CHRIS database records, archaeological reports and site records, and custom maps of the study area showing the location of previous archaeological investigations and documented sites (see Appendix A). WSP also consulted the Built Environment Directory (BERD) for Los Angeles County (OHP 2021).

WSP submitted a Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Land File search request in February 2021. The request was fulfilled on March 3, 2021 (see Appendix B).

Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 prohibits public disclosure of archaeological sites. Information contained in this document relating to the nature and location of archaeological sites is considered private and confidential and not for public disclosure.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Three previous cultural resource investigations have been conducted in the project area. One of the previous investigations surveyed the western third of the project area, and the other two investigations surveyed the entire project area (see Figure 1; Table 1). These were surveys for the state prison (Gerry 1988), the City of Lancaster general plan (Tang et al. 2006), and a solar farm (Maxon 2011). According to the CHRIS search results data, all three investigations involved archaeological fieldwork. Gerry (1988) conducted pedestrian survey at intervals of 30 to 40 meters of all areas not occupied by structures. Tang et al. (2006) conducted a limited windshield survey. The nature and extent of archaeological fieldwork conducted by Maxon (2011) is unknown because the digitized report is not on file at CHRIS. No archaeological sites were identified in the project area as a result of these investigations.

Seventeen previous archaeological investigations have been conducted in the study area (see Table 1). The majority of the investigations involved archaeological field study. The investigations were conducted for a variety of projects, including land management studies (Stickel and Weinman-Roberts 1979), residential development (Brunzell 2017; Sanka 2006), electrical grid infrastructure (DeGiovine and Wilson 2008; Parr 2011), and civic infrastructure (Mason 2012; Underbrink and Ross-Hauer 2007).

TABLE 1: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN STUDY AREA

REPORT NO.	AUTHOR/DATE	TYPE	ACRES	DIGITIZED REPORT AVAILABLE (Y/N)	SURVEY OVERLAPPED PROJECT BOUNDARY (Y/N)
LA-00131	Gerry 1988	Archaeological, Field study	1,240	Y	Y
LA-07991	Tang et al. 2006	Archaeological, Field study	approx. 171,200	Y	Y
LA-11588	Maxon 2011	Archaeological, Field study	N/A	N	Y
LA-01917	Singer and Atwood 1989	Archaeological, Field study	255	N	N
LA-03894	Stickel and Weinman-Roberts 1979	Literature search	2.35 million	Y	N
LA-07966	Hudlow 2006	Archaeological, Field study	37.50	N	N
LA-08022	Hudlow 2005	Archaeological, Field study	40	N	N
LA-08142	Underbrink and Ross-Hauer 2007	Archaeological, Field study	27	N	N
LA-08342	McKenna. 2005	Archaeological, Field study	approx. 5	N	N
LA-08345	Hudlow 2004a	Archaeological, Field study	approx. 55	N	N
LA-08350	Slawson 2001	Field study, Other research	640	N	N
LA-08435	McKenna 2004a	Archaeological, Field study	30	N	N
LA-08438	McKenna 2004b	Archaeological, Field study	20	N	N
LA-08456	Hudlow 2004b	Archaeological, Field study	25	N	N
LA-08940	Sanka 2006	Archaeological, Field study	190	Y	N
LA-10144	DeGiovine and Wilson 2008	Archaeological, Field study	N/A	Y	N
LA-10372	Wlodarski 2009	Archaeological, Field study	N/A	N	N
LA-11168	Parr 2011	Archaeological, Field study	N/A	N	N
LA-12237	Mason 2012	Archaeological, Field study, Other research	N/A	N	N
LA-13271	Brunzell 2017	Archaeological, Architectural/Historical, Field study	N/A	Y	N

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

No archaeological sites have been documented in the project area. A total of 13 archaeological resources have been documented in the study area, all within Los Angeles County (see Figure 1; Table 2). The majority of the sites are historic and date from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Sites P-19-000764, P-19-001412, and P-19-002954 are prehistoric sites

with camp features and/or stone tools. None of the 13 sites in the study area has been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

TABLE 2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES LOCATED IN STUDY AREA

PRIMARY NO.	TRINOMIAL	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	CULTURAL AFFILIATION	NRHP STATUS
p_19-000764	CA-LAN-000764	AVC-30	Food processing	Prehistoric	Unevaluated
P-19-001412	CA-LAN-001412	PA-88-10	Camp	Prehistoric	Unevaluated
P-19-002886	CA-LAN-002886H	172-3	Refuse concentration	Historic	Unevaluated
P-19-002887	CA-LAN-002887H	172-4	Residence, Farm	Historic	Unevaluated
P-19-002888	CA-LAN-002888H	172-5	Refuse concentration	Historic	Unevaluated
P-19-002954	CA-LAN-002954	Site 147-3	Camp	Prehistoric	Unevaluated
P-19-003381	CA-LAN-003381H	R-2	Residence	Historic	Unevaluated
P-19-003382	CA-LAN-003382H	R-1	Refuse scatter	Historic	Unevaluated
P-19-003658	CA-LAN-003658H	T-111-001	Refuse scatter	Historic	Unevaluated
P-19-004722	CA-LAN-004722H	MD-01	Farm, Ranch	Historic	Unevaluated
P-19-120068	N/A	Site 147-1; Site 4	Refuse concentration	Historic	Unevaluated
P-19-120069	N/A	Site 147-2	Refuse scatter	Historic	Unevaluated
P-19-120070	N/A	Site 147-4	Refuse scatter	Historic	Unevaluated

ANALYSIS: HISTORICAL MAP AND AERIAL VIEWS

Sources of historical maps and aerial views included General Land Office records (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2021a, 2021b), the Online Archive of California (2021), online historical map and aerial imagery databases (Historic Map Works 2021; Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC [NETR] 2021), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps. Using these sources, WSP gathered preliminary information on the earliest documented land ownership and types of land use in the project area and vicinity.

The first BLM survey of the project area was documented in 1856. No survey notes are available for the 1856 survey of Township 7 North, Range 13 West (BLM 2021a). The earliest land patents in the project area were filed in 1897 (BLM 2021b). An 1888 map depicts no development in Section 14 of Township 7 North, Range 13 West, which is situated in Antelope Valley (Rowan 1888). Similarly, no development is shown in Section 14 in 1903 (Henry Rueger 1903).

The next available map of the project area, from 1931, shows an undeveloped area of land immediately southwest of the intersections of State Highway 35/West Avenue L and West 50th Street (NETR 2021). War Eagle Airfield is depicted in the northwest corner of Section 14, outside the project area, in 1951 (NETR 2021). According to Gerry (1988:4), War Eagle Field was in operation during World War II and later used as a hospital by Los Angeles County. The facility became a minimum-security detention center in 1955 (Gerry 1988).

The Mira Loma Detention Facility is shown adjacent to the project area by 1959 (NETR 2021; USGS 1958, 1974). Roads and structures, including a sewage disposal facility, are depicted in the northern and western portions of Section 14, but little development is evident in the project area itself. Aerial imagery from 1994 shows that the project area and vicinity in Section 14 had much of the development that exists today (NETR 2021). No previously recorded aboveground buildings and/or structures were identified in the project area (OHP 2021).

SUMMARY

The initial background review shows that the project area has been surveyed for archaeological resources three times since 1988 (Gerry 1988; Maxon 2011; Tang et al. 2006). Maxon (2011) surveyed the western third of the project area, and Gerry (1988) and Tang et al. (2006) surveyed the entire project area. Based on the data available from CHRIS, however, WSP can confirm that only the 1988 investigation involved systematic pedestrian survey. It is possible that the project area has not been subject to systematic archaeological survey for over 30 years. California OHP does not have published guidelines regarding the standards for the frequency or type of archaeological surveys.

No known archaeological sites are located in the proposed project area. Thirteen archaeological sites have been recorded in the study area. None of the archaeological sites has been evaluated with respect to NRHP criteria.

Historic landownership in the project area and vicinity began around the turn of the twentieth century. Historical maps show relatively little development between 1888 and 1931. War Eagle Airfield was present northwest of the project area by 1951, and the Mira Loma Detention Facility was present by 1959. The project area remained largely undeveloped until the 1990s.

The results of the records check and historical map and aerial imagery review indicate that the proposed project area has low archaeological resource potential. Previous archaeological surveys have not identified any cultural resources in the project area. The project area has been in use as an airfield, county hospital, and detention center since the 1940s. Any resources would likely include late nineteenth-century to mid-twentieth-century historic sites. Prehistoric sites may also be present, although the probability is low because so few previously known prehistoric resources are located in the study area.

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- 2005 *A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for Property at 50th Street West and Avenue J-8, City of Lancaster, California.* On file, California Historical Resources Information System, South Central Coastal Information Center, Fullerton.
- 2006 *A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for APNs 3156-001-021, -022, -023, -024, and -025 and 3153-002-001, -019, -020, -021, and -022, Property at 50th Street West and Jackman Street, City of Lancaster, California.* On file, California Historical Resources Information System, South Central Coastal Information Center, Fullerton.

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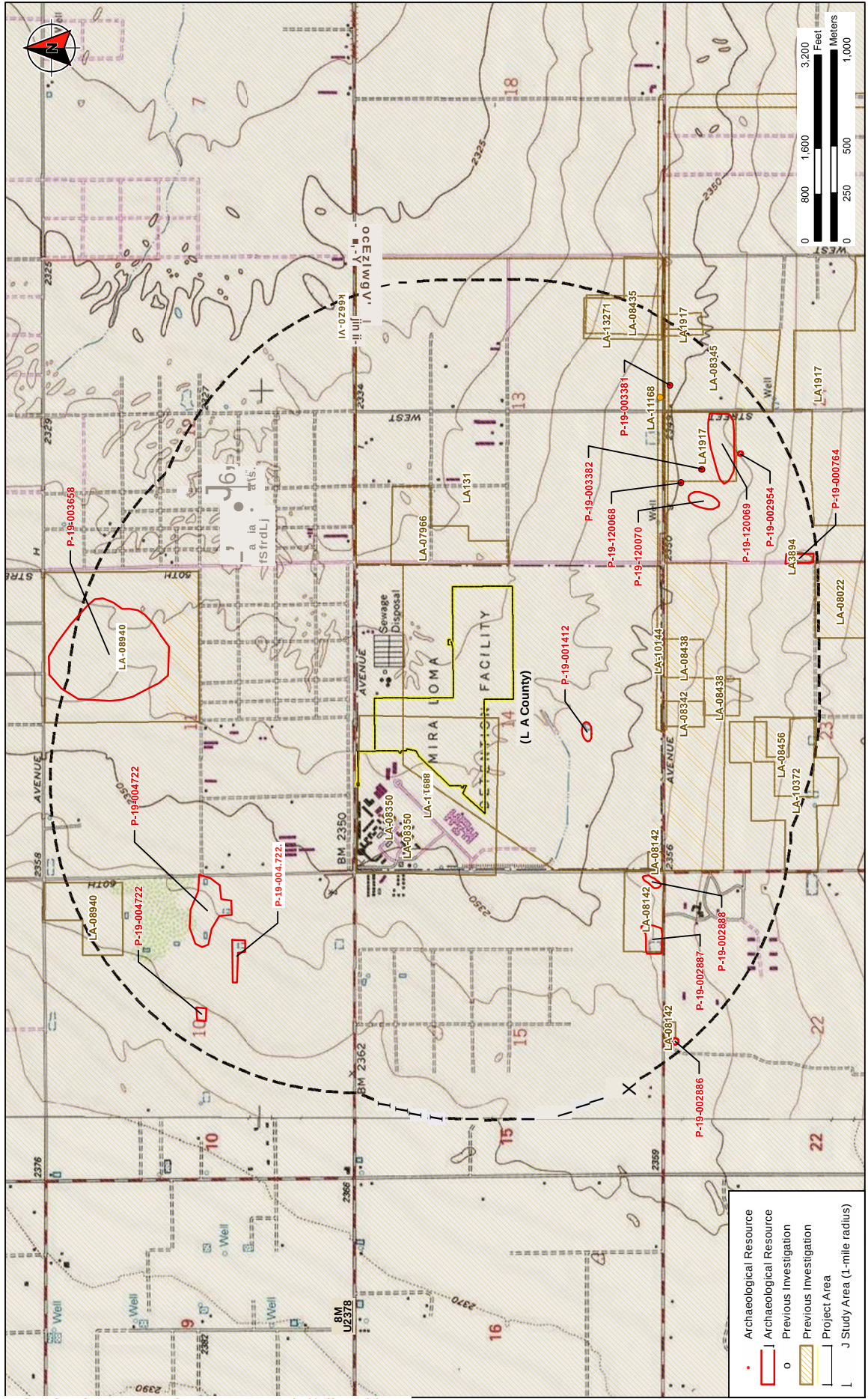


FIGURE 1: Proposed Project in Los Angeles County, California (ESRI USATopo Maps 2019)

**APPENDIX A: CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM
(CHRIS) DATA REQUEST RESULTS**

South Central Coastal Information Center

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

sccic@fullerton.edu

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

4/7/2021

Records Search File No.: 22194.8359

Kathryn Wilkins
WSP USA
300 Wyandott Street
Kansas City, MO 64105

Re: Record Search Results for the Sunpower High Desert Expansion

The South Central Coastal Information Center received your records search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Lancaster West, CA USGS 7.5' quadrangle(s). Due to the COVID-19 emergency, we have implemented new records search protocols, which limits the deliverables available to you at this time. **WE ARE ONLY PROVIDING DATA THAT IS ALREADY DIGITAL AT THIS TIME.** Please see the attached document on COVID-19 Emergency Protocols for what data is available and for future instructions on how to submit a records search request during the course of this crisis. If your selections on your data request form are in conflict with this document, we reserve the right to default to emergency protocols and provide you with what we stated on this document. You may receive more than you asked for or less than you wanted. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a 1-mile radius:

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

Archaeological resources within project area: 0	None
Archaeological resources within 1-mile radius: 13	SEE ATTACHED MAP or LIST
Reports within project area: 3	LA-00131, LA-07991, LA-11588
Reports within 1-mile radius: 17	SEE ATTACHED MAP or LIST

Resource Database Printout (list):

☐ enclosed ☐ K not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Database Printout (details):

☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Digital Database (spreadsheet):

☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (list):

☐ enclosed ☐ K not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (details):

☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Digital Database (spreadsheet):

☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Record Copies:

☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Copies:

☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

OHP Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) 2019: IX| available online; please go to https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/7page_id=30338

Archaeo Determinations of Eligibility 2012: ☐ enclosed ☐ not requested K nothing listed

Historical Maps: K not available at SCCIC; please go to <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#4/39.98/-100.02>

Ethnographic Information: K not available at SCCIC

Historical Literature: K not available at SCCIC

GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps: K not available at SCCIC

Caltrans Bridge Survey: K not available at SCCIC; please go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm>

Shipwreck Inventory: K not available at SCCIC; please go to http://shipwrecks.slc.ca.gov/ShipwrecksDatabase/Shipwrecks_Database.asp

Soil Survey Maps: (see below) K not available at SCCIC; please go to <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

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

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

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

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

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System,

Isabela Kott
GIS Technician/Staff Researcher

Enclosures:

(X) Covid-19 Emergency Protocols for San Bernardino County Records Searches - 2 pages

(X) Custom Maps - 2 pages

(X) Resource Database Printout (details) - 15 pages

(X) Resource Digital Database (spreadsheet) - 13 lines

(X) Report Database Printout (details) - 21 pages

(X) Report Digital Database (spreadsheet) - 20 lines

(X) Resource Record Copies - (all) 73 pages

(X) Report Copies - (all -scanned only) 529 pages

Emergency Protocols for San Bernardino County Records Searches

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

WE ARE ONLY PROVIDING DATA THAT IS ALREADY DIGITAL AT THIS TIME. WE ARE NOT PROVIDING SHAPEFILE DATA FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY; YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE A CUSTOM DIGITAL MAP.

We can only provide you information that is already in digital format; therefore, your record search may or may not be complete. Some records are only available in paper formats and so may not be available at this time. This also means that there may be data missing from the database bibliographies; locations of resource and report boundaries may be missing or mis-mapped on our digital maps; and that no pdf of a resource or report is available or may be incomplete.

As for the GIS mapped data, bibliographic databases, and pdfs of records and reports; not all the data in our digital archive for San Bernardino County was processed by SCCIC, therefore, we cannot vouch for its accuracy. Accuracy checking and back-filling of missing information is an on-going process under normal working conditions and cannot be conducted under the emergency protocols.

This is an extraordinary and unprecedented situation. Your options will be limited so that we can help as many of you as possible in the shortest amount of time. You may not get everything you want and/or you may get more than you want. We appreciate your patience and resilience.

Please send in your request via email using the data request form along with the associated shape files and pdf map of the project area. If you have multiple SBCO jobs for processing, you may not get them all back at the same time. Use this data request form:

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

Please make your selections on the data request form based on the following instructions.

1. Keep your search radius as tight as possible, but we understand if you have a requirement. The wider the search radius, the higher the cost. You are welcome to request a Project area only search, but please make it clear on the request form that that is what you are seeking.

2. You will get custom maps of resource locations for the project area and the radius that you choose. We will only be providing maps of report locations for the project area and up to a %-mile radius. If you need bibliographic information for more than %-mile radius - you will be charged for all report map features within your selected search radius. You can opt out of having us create custom maps but you still pay for the map features in the project area or the selected search radius if you want the associated bibliographic information or pdfs of resources or reports.
3. You can request copies of site records and reports if they are digitally available.
4. You will also get the bibliographies (List, Details, Spreadsheet) that you choose for resources and reports. Because the bibliographic database is not yet complete, you will only get what is available at the time of your records search.
5. If you request more than what we are offering here, we may provide it if it is available or we reserve the right to default to these instructions. If you want copies of resources and reports that are not available digitally at the time of the search, you can send us a separate request for processing when we are allowed to return to the office. Fees will apply.
6. **You will need to search the OHP BERD yourself for your project area and your search radius.** This replaces the old OHP HPD. It is available online at the OHP website.
7. You can go online to find historic maps, so we are not providing them at this time.
8. Your packet will be sent to you electronically via Dropbox. We use 7-zip to password protect the files so you will need both on your computers. We email you the password. If you can't use Dropbox for some reason, then you will need to provide us with your Fed ex account number and we will ship you a disc with the results. As a last resort, we will ship on a disc via the USPS. You may be billed for our shipping and handling costs.
9. We will be billing you at the staff rate of \$150 per hour and you will be charged for all resources and reports according to the "custom map charges", even if you don't get a custom or hand-drawn map. You will also be billed 0.15 per pdf page, as usual. Quad fees will apply if your research includes more than 2 quads. The fee structure for custom maps was designed to mimic the cost of doing the search by hand so the fees are comparable.
10. **A copy of the digital fee structure is available on the Office of Historic Preservation website under the CHRIS tab. If the digital fee structure is new to you or you don't understand it; please ask questions before we process your request, not after. Thank you.**

**APPENDIX B: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LAND FILE
SEARCH RESULTS**

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
3/3/2021**

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

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

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

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

Kern Valley Indian Community

Brandy Kendricks,
30741 Foxridge Court Kawaiisu
Tehachapi, CA, 93561 Tubatulabal
Phone: (661) 821 - 1733 Koso
krazykendricks@hotmail.com

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman
Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1899 Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
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scottmanfred@yahoo.com

Kern Valley Indian Community

Julie Turner, Secretary
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San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Donna Yocum, Chairperson
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Phone: (503) 539 - 0933 Tataviam
Fax: (503) 574-3308
ddyocum@comcast.net

Kern Valley Indian Community

Robert Robinson, Chairperson
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bbutterbredt@gmail.com

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Jessica Mauck, Director of Cultural Resources
26569 Community Center Drive Serrano
Highland, CA, 92346
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Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Denisa Torres, Cultural Resources Manager
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 Serrano
Phone: (951) 849 - 8807
Fax: (951) 922-8146
dtorres@morongo-nsn.gov

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

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Morongo Band of Mission Indians

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

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Sunpower High Desert Expansion Project, Los Angeles County.

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
3/3/2021**

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

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serranonation1@gmail.com

Tubatulabals of Kern Valley

Robert Gomez, Chairperson
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Fax: (760) 379-4592

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

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Sunpower High Desert Expansion Project, Los Angeles County.