

CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY FOR THE REXFORD EXPANSION PROJECT

**CITY OF NORWALK,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

APN 8069-002-085

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February 9, 2024



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Report Date:	February 9, 2024
Report Title:	Cultural Resources Study for the Rexford Expansion Project, City of Norwalk, Los Angeles County, California
Type of Study:	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey
USGS Quadrangle:	Section 21, Township 3 South, Range 11 West of the <i>Whittier</i> , <i>California</i> (7.5-minute) USGS Quadrangle
Acreage:	7.03 acres
Key Words:	Survey; two industrial buildings at 14830 Carmenita Road over 50 years old; evaluation for eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR recommended; notification of a qualified archaeologist in the event of a discovery recommended.

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

In response to a request from the project applicant, a cultural resources study was conducted by BFSA Environmental Services, a Perennial Company (BFSa), for the proposed Rexford Expansion Project located at 14830 Carmenita Road within the city of Norwalk, Los Angeles County, California. The proposed project includes Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 8069-002-085 and is situated within Section 21, Township 3 South, Range 11 West of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (7.5-minute) *Whittier, California* topographic quadrangle map. The subject property is fully developed and contains two existing industrial warehouses along with associated hardscape and landscaping. A review of aerial imagery indicates this development was constructed between 1968 and 1974. As designed, the applicant proposes to clear the property for construction of a new industrial warehouse with landscaping, parking and associated infrastructure within the 7.03-acre property.

The purpose of this investigation was to locate and record cultural resources present within the project, and subsequently evaluate any resources that could be impacted by the development as part of the City of Norwalk's environmental review process conducted in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The cultural resources investigation included review of an archaeological records search conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton (CSU Fullerton), in order to assess previous archaeological studies and identify any recorded archaeological sites within the project. The search did not identify any recorded resources within the subject property. However, 29 previously recorded resources, all historic, are documented within one mile of the proposed project. The search also identified 21 previous studies which have been conducted within one mile of the proposed property, none of which include the subject property. A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was also requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The SLF search results have not yet been received.

BFSa archaeologist Allison Reynolds conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the property on January 19, 2024. The survey did not locate any archaeological resources within the project. However, the two industrial warehouse buildings within the property are over 50 years old and may be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). As such, it is recommended the buildings be studied, documented on the necessary Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms, and evaluated for CRHR eligibility in accordance CEQA. The applicant has indicated an additional study of the potentially historic buildings is currently being prepared.

Given current development found within the property, the potential for intact subsurface archaeological resources is low. However, due to restricted visibility of the natural ground surface during the survey, it is recommended the grading permit include a condition requiring the applicant to contact a qualified archaeologist in the event archaeological discoveries are inadvertently unearthed during grading. A copy of this report will be permanently filed with the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton. All notes, photographs, and other materials related to this project will be curated at the BFSa archaeological laboratory in Poway, California.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

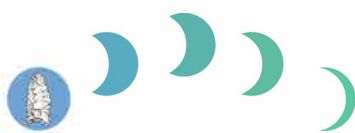
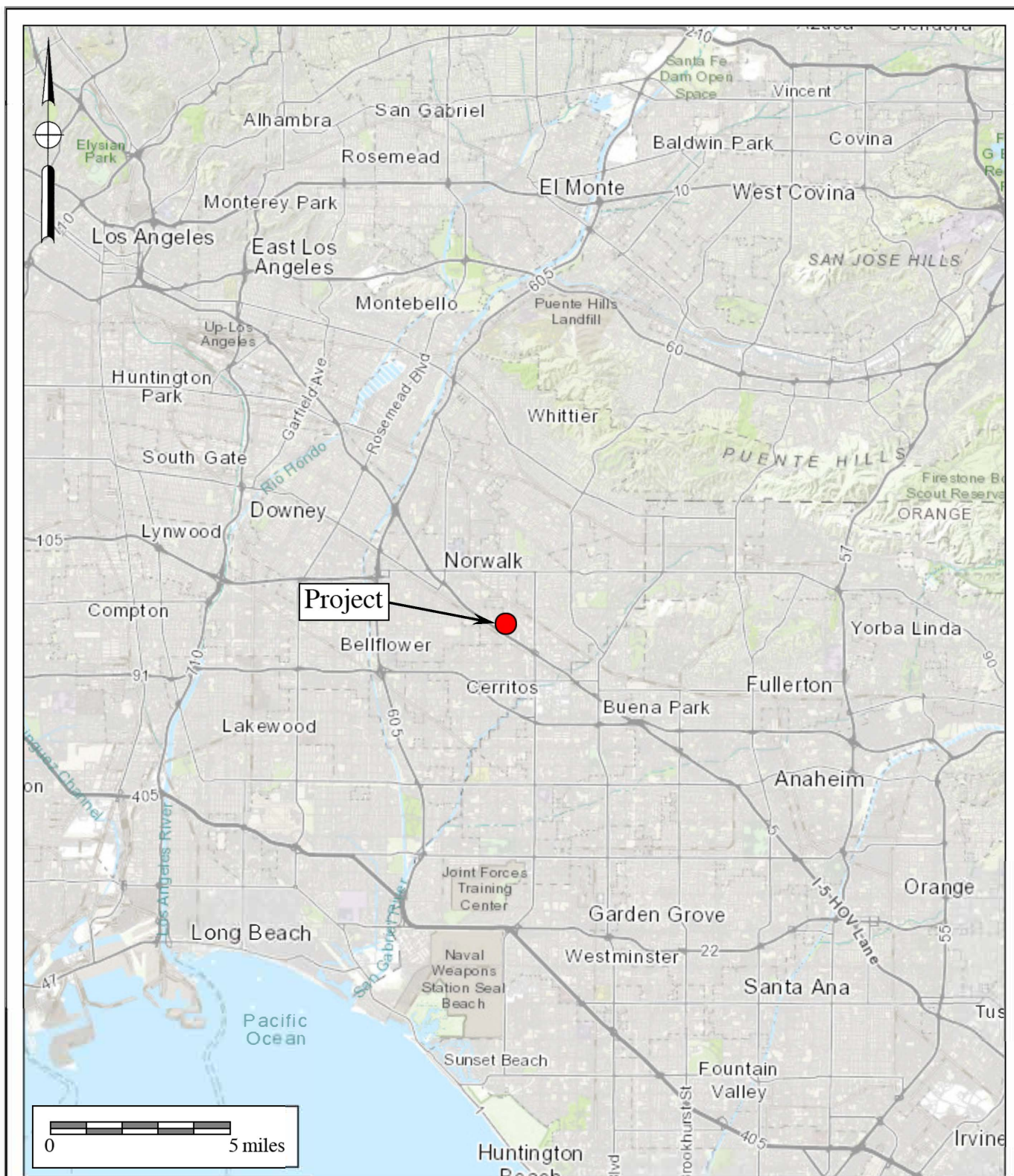
The cultural resources study program for the Rexford Expansion Project was conducted in order to comply with CEQA and City of Norwalk environmental compliance procedures. The proposed project is located at 14830 Carmenita Road within the city of Norwalk, Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1.1–1, attached). The proposed project (APN 8069-002-085) is located within Section 21, Township 3 South, Range 11 West, of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian on the USGS 7.5-minute *Whittier, California* topographic quadrangle (Figure 1.1–2, attached). The subject property currently contains two industrial warehouse structures within the 7.03-acre property. The project proposes to redevelop the parcel by removing all existing industrial buildings for the construction of a new industrial warehouse with landscaping, parking, and associated infrastructure (Figure 1.1–3, attached).

The decision to request this investigation was based upon cultural resource sensitivity of the locality as suggested by known site density and predictive modeling. Sensitivity for cultural resources in a given area is usually indicated by known settlement patterns, which in Los Angeles County were focused around freshwater resources and a food supply.

1.2 Environmental Setting

The Rexford Expansion Project is generally located in southeastern Los Angeles County in the city of Norwalk. Geologically, the project is located within the Central Basin of the larger Los Angeles Basin, a large structural sedimentary basin bounded and cut through by several active fault systems in the Los Angeles metropolitan area (Hillhouse et al. 2002). As mapped by Saucedo (1999), the project is underlain by undivided sandy, Holocene-aged younger alluvial fan and valley deposits. Similarly, Yerkes (1972) also assigns a Holocene age for these alluvial deposits, describing them as unconsolidated gravels, sands, and silts. Pleistocene alluvial deposits are mapped to the northeast, about one-half mile distant. The specific soil types found within the property are characterized as Urban land-Hueneme, drained-San Emigdio complex (NRCS 2019).

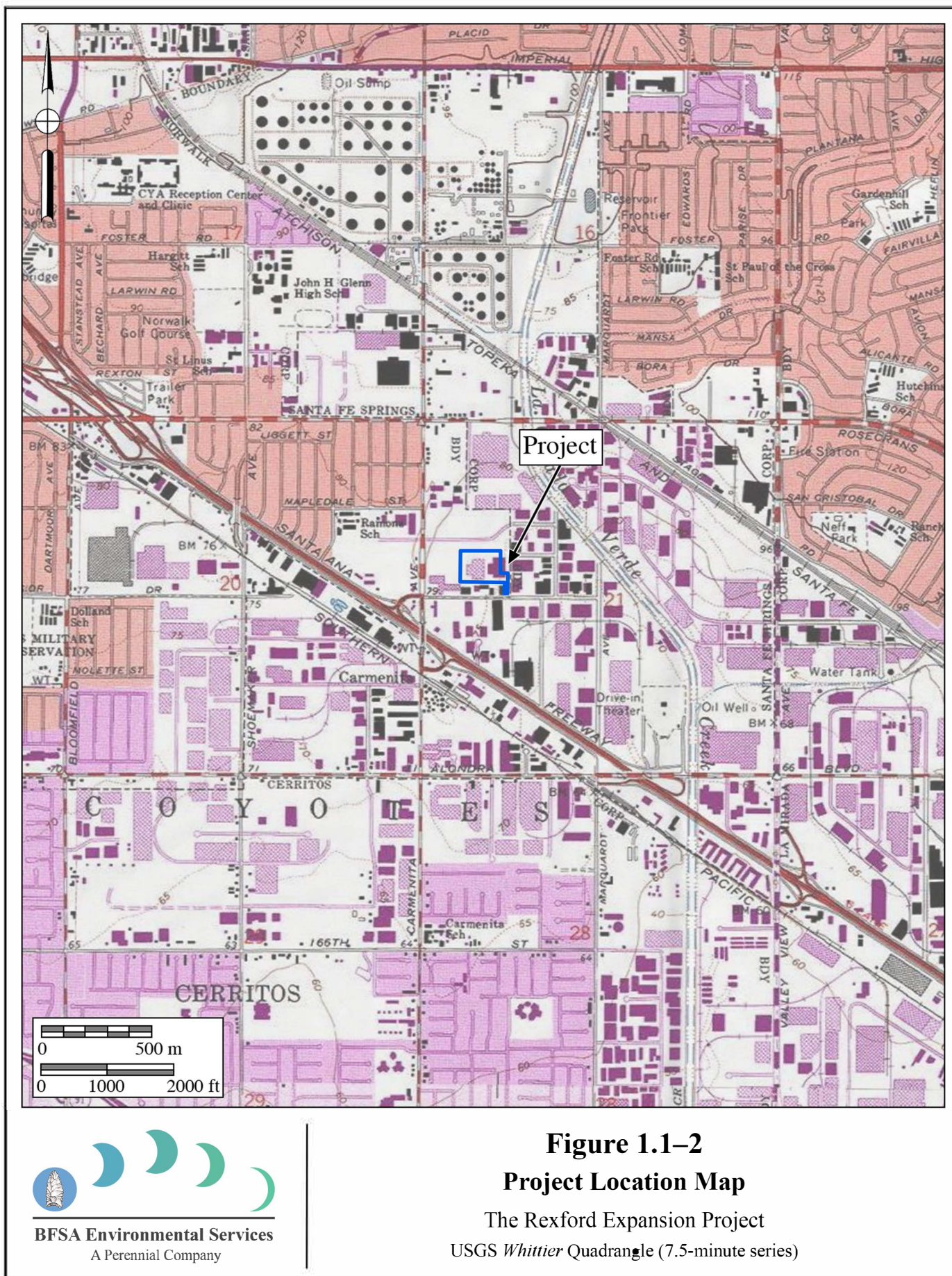
Currently, the subject property is fully developed containing two industrial warehouse buildings, hardscape, and landscaping. Based on aerial photographs, the property was developed between 1968 and 1974. The property was vacant in 1968; however, one warehouse building is present on the property by 1972 with the second visible by 1974. Historically, many of the water sources in this area have been channelized. The nearest natural sources of water are characterized as seasonal drainages, such as La Canada Verde Creek, La Mirada Creek, and Coyote Creek, all located east of the subject property. In addition, the San Gabriel River is located approximately 3.6 miles west of the subject property.



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Figure 1.1-1 General Location Map

The Rexford Expansion Project
ESRI (1:250,000 series)



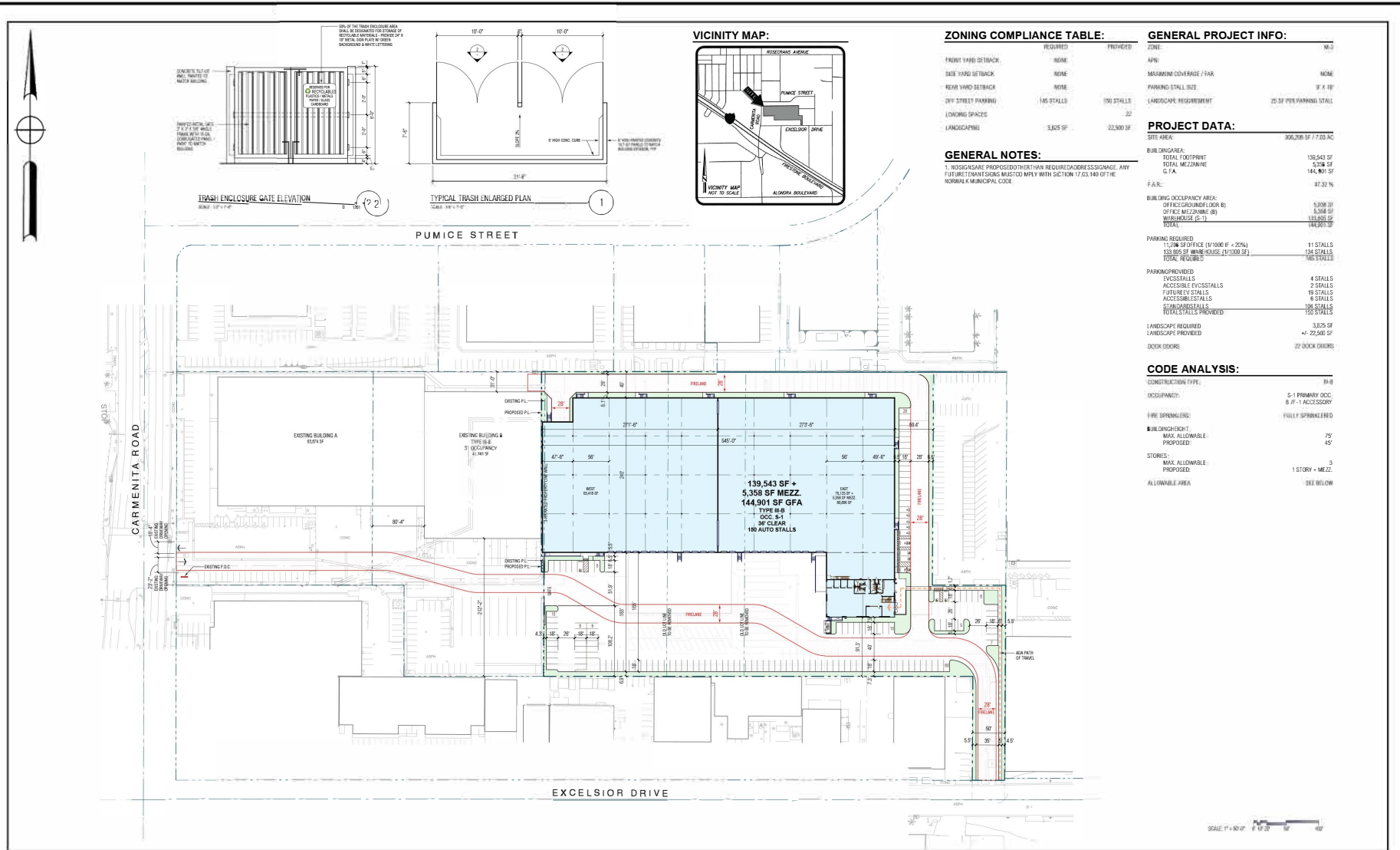


Figure 1.1-3
Site Plan

The Rexford Expansion Project



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1.3 Cultural Setting

The oldest directly dated human remains from coastal southern California are those of the “Los Angeles Man.” These remains were dated to 26,000 years before the present (YBP) using amino acid racemization and radiocarbon techniques; however, later dates using the more reliable accelerator mass spectrometry method determined that that date was exaggerated (Altschul and Grenda 2002). Evidence of early Holocene occupation along the southern California coast and islands has been increasing, including the Arlington Springs Site on Santa Rosa Island, the Arlington Springs and Daisy Cave Site on San Miguel Island, and Eel Point on San Clemente Island (Altschul and Grenda 2002). These sites appear to suggest an early Holocene migration southward along the coast. The fact that these early sites are present on the islands, but have yet to be found on the coast, lends support for the view that rising sea levels have probably destroyed early Holocene coastal sites. This period covers Wallace’s Period I or Early Man cultural sequences (Moratto 1984).

Due to a rapid and prolonged rise in sea level during the early Holocene, between 10,000 and 6,000 YBP, many archaeological sites associated with this early period along coastal southern California were probably destroyed or obscured by sea level advancement or sedimentation (Carbone 1991). The increase in sea levels probably forced a shift from rocky shore resources (shellfish) to estuarine and lagoon resources with a more varied economy, including marine, avian, and terrestrial species (Carbone 1991). The natural history of the Ballona Wetlands has been constructed based upon stratigraphic analysis (Altschul and Grenda 2002). The results suggest that after sea levels stabilized around 7,000 YBP, a variety of depositional environments were created that reshaped the landscape on which inhabitants were living. By 6,200 YBP, a spit of sand migrated across the mouth of the coastal inlet, creating a shallow lagoon; this area appears to have been visited by Native Americans at about this time (Altschul and Grenda 2002). As sedimentation increased, the lagoon gradually decreased in size. Because tidal waters were blocked, the lagoon shifted from marine to fresh water. As the lagoon gradually turned into tidal marshes and estuarine environments became well established, habitation along the edges of the water source increased. Based upon archaeological evidence, permanent occupation in the area appears to have occurred by 3,000 years ago and lasted until the Protohistoric Period (Altschul and Grenda 2002).

Human adaptations during the middle Holocene (circa 8,000 to 5,000 YBP) in the Los Angeles Basin are characterized by an abundance of grinding implements (specifically manos and metates). Rising sea levels began to stabilize and temperatures reached a thermal optimum at about 6,800 YBP (Altschul and Grenda 2002). Archaeological sites dating to this period tend to be located in grasslands and sagebrush communities on elevated landforms some distance from the shore (Altschul and Grenda 2002). Other characteristics of this period include stone ornaments, large projectile points, and charm stones, while bone and shell tools, ornamentation, and trade items are rare. Sites from this period appear to have consisted of semisedentary settlements with populations ranging from 15 to 100 people, primarily located in the coastal zone

and along interior drainages. During this time, the Ballona region was first occupied (Altschul and Grenda 2002). This period covers Warren's Encinitas Tradition and Wallace's Period II (or Milling Stone Horizon) cultural sequences (Moratto 1984). The later date given for the Milling Stone Horizon varies to as late as 3,000 YBP. The lack of trade items such as obsidian and steatite are often used to attribute a site to this period.

A shift appears to have occurred in the later part of the middle Holocene, between 5,000 and 3,350 YBP (Altschul and Grenda 2002). Mortars and pestles were more common, which suggests that acorns were being exploited as an important part of the prehistoric diet in southern California. Other characteristics of this period include variations of large stemmed, leaf-shaped, and side-notched points, basket-hopper mortars, a variety of stone tools, bone tools, and shell ornamentation. This period corresponds to Warren's (1968) Campbell Tradition and Wallace's (1955, 1978) Period III, or Intermediate Horizon; however, the ending date for these periods varies to as late as approximately 1,000 YBP (Moratto 1984). There appears to have been a general shift from a plant-based economy to one that was more diversified, being a generalized hunting/fishing/gathering adaptation, possibly in response to Altitheal conditions (8,000 to 3,000 YBP) (Altschul and Grenda 2002). Evidence suggests that coastal populations placed an understandable emphasis upon marine resources, while the focus of inland occupation was upon hunting land mammals. Trade goods became more common during this period, suggesting intensified regional economic exchange and interaction. Finally, villages appear to have been more permanent during the Intermediate Horizon, closely resembling the later settlement pattern of the region (Altschul and Grenda 2002). By 3,000 YBP, the Ballona region to the north was intensively and relatively permanently occupied. Some researchers suggest that the increasing population density during the late to middle Holocene did not necessarily grow out of the local population, but was a result of a desert migration, perhaps as early as 3,000 YBP (Altschul and Grenda 2002).

During the late Holocene, population size and density increased dramatically, calling for an even more diversified economy (Altschul and Grenda 2002). This period is Wallace's Period IV, or Late Horizon. Ethnographic data, the first of which was from Spanish explorers and missionaries, indicates that the Gabrielino (Tongva) were the major tribe established in the project area. The Spanish attributed this name to the Native Americans in the area served by the San Gabriel Mission. Gabrielino territory included the watersheds of the San Gabriel, Santa Ana, and Los Angeles rivers, portions of the Santa Monica and Santa Ana mountains, the Los Angeles basin, the coast from Aliso Creek to Topanga Creek, and the San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Catalina islands (Moratto 1984). The Gabrielino spoke a Cupan language that was part of the Shoshonean or Takic family of Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock; these linguistic ties united a disperse ethnic group occupying 1,500 square miles in the Los Angeles basin region (Altschul and Grenda 2002). Interestingly, this language stock was different from that of the Chumash to the north in the Santa Barbara region, as well as from the Kumeyaay (Tipai and Ipai) in the San Diego region, both of which spoke languages of the Hokan stock (although using different dialects).

Ethnographic data states that the Gabrielino were hunters and gatherers whose food sources included acorns, seeds, marine mollusks, fish, and mammals; archaeological sites support this data, with evidence of hunting, gathering, processing, and storage implements including arrow points, fishhooks, scrapers, grinding stones, and basketry awls (Altschul and Grenda 2002). Santa Catalina Island provided a valuable source of steatite for the Gabrielino, which they quarried and traded to other groups (Heizer and Treganza 1972; Moratto 1984). About 50 to 100 permanent villages are estimated to have been in existence at the time of European contact, most of which were located along lowland rivers and streams and along sheltered areas of the coast (Moratto 1984). Smaller satellite villages and resource extraction sites were located between larger villages. Village sites contained varying types of structures, including houses, sweatshops, and ceremonial huts (Bean and Smith 1978). Artistic items included shells set in asphaltum, carvings, painting, steatite, and baskets (Moratto 1984). Settlements were often located at the intersection of two or more ecozones, thus increasing the variety of resources that were immediately accessible (Moratto 1984). Offshore fishing and hunting were accomplished with the use of plank boats, while shellfish and birds were collected along the coast. At the time of European contact, the Gabrielino, second only to the Chumash, were the wealthiest, most populous, and most powerful ethnic group in southern California (Bean and Smith 1978; Moratto 1984).

As with other Native American populations in southern California, the arrival of the Spanish drastically changed life for the Gabrielino. Incorporation into the mission system disrupted their culture and changed their subsistence practices (Altschul and Grenda 2002). Ranchos were established throughout the area, often in major drainages where Native American villages tended to be located. By the early 1800s, Mission San Gabriel had expanded its holdings for grazing to include much of the former Gabrielino territory (Altschul and Grenda 2002). Eventually, widespread relocation of Native American groups occurred, resulting in further disruption of the native lifeways. With the introduction of Euro-American diseases, the Gabrielino and other groups of southern California experienced drastic population declines. In the early 1860s, a smallpox epidemic nearly wiped out the remaining Gabrielino population (Moratto 1984). While people of Gabrielino descent still live in the Los Angeles area, the Gabrielino were no longer listed as a culturally identifiable group in the 1900 Federal Census (Bean and Smith 1978; Moratto 1984).

General History of the Los Angeles Area

The historic background of the project area began with the Spanish colonization of Alta California. The first Spanish colonizing expedition reached southern California in 1769 with the intention of converting and civilizing the indigenous populations, as well as expanding the knowledge of and access to new resources in the region (Brigandi 1998). As a result, by the late eighteenth century, a large portion of southern California was overseen by Mission San Luis Rey (San Diego County), Mission San Juan Capistrano (Orange County), and Mission San Gabriel (Los Angeles County), who began colonizing the region and surrounding areas (Chapman 1921).

Up until this time, the only known way to feasibly travel from Sonora to Alta California was by sea. In 1774, Juan Bautista de Anza, an army captain at Tubac, requested and was given permission by the governor of the Mexican State of Sonora to establish an overland route from Sonora to Monterey (Chapman 1921). In doing so, Juan Bautista de Anza passed through Riverside County and described the area in writing for the first time (Caughey 1970; Chapman 1921). In 1797, Father Presidente Lausen (of Mission San Diego de Alcalá), Father Norberto de Santiago, and Corporal Pedro Lisalde (of Mission San Juan Capistrano) led an expedition through southwestern Riverside County in search of a new mission site to establish a presence between San Diego and San Juan Capistrano (Engelhardt 1921). Their efforts ultimately resulted in the establishment of Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, California.

On September 8, 1771, Father Pedro Cambón and Father Angel Somera established the Mission San Gabriel de Arcángel near the present-day city of Montebello. In 1775, the mission was moved to its current location in San Gabriel due to better agricultural lands. This mission marked the first sustained European occupation of the Los Angeles County area. Mission San Gabriel, despite a slow start which was partially due to misconduct by Spanish soldiers, eventually became so prosperous that it was known as “The Queen of the Missions” (Johnson et al. 1972).

Each mission gained power through the support of a large, subjugated Native American workforce. As the missions grew, livestock holdings increased and became increasingly vulnerable to theft. In order to protect their interests, the southern California missions began expanding inland to try and provide additional security (Beattie and Beattie 1939; Caughey 1970). In order to meet their needs, the Spaniards embarked on a formal expedition in 1806 to find potential locations within what is now the San Bernardino Valley. As a result, by 1810, Father Francisco Dumetz of Mission San Gabriel had succeeded in establishing a religious site, or capilla, at a Cahuilla rancheria called Guachama (Beattie and Beattie 1939). San Bernardino Valley received its name from this site, which was dedicated to San Bernardino de Siena by Father Dumetz. The Guachama rancheria was located in present-day Bryn Mawr in San Bernardino County.

These early colonization efforts were followed by establishment of estancias at Puente (circa 1816) and San Bernardino (circa 1819) near Guachama (Beattie and Beattie 1939). These efforts were soon mirrored by Spaniards from Mission San Luis Rey, who in turn established a presence in what is now Lake Elsinore, Temecula, and Murrieta (Chapman 1921). The indigenous groups who occupied these lands were recruited by missionaries, converted, and put to work in the missions (Pourade 1964). Throughout this period, the Native American populations were decimated by introduced diseases, a drastic shift in diet resulting in poor nutrition, and social conflicts due to the introduction of an entirely new social order (Cook 1976).

The pueblo that eventually became the city of Los Angeles was established in 1781. During this period, Spain also deeded ranchos to prominent citizens and soldiers (though very few in comparison to the later Mexican Period). One such rancho, Rancho San Pedro, was deeded to soldier Juan Jose Dominguez in 1784 and comprised 75,000 acres, encompassing the modern

South Bay region from the Los Angeles River on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west.

The area that became Los Angeles County saw an increase in European settlement during the Mexican Period, largely due to the many land grants (ranchos) to Mexican citizens by various governors. The period ended in early January of 1847, when Mexican forces fought the combined United States Army and Navy forces in the Battle of the San Gabriel River on January 8, 1847 and the Battle of La Mesa on January 9, 1847 (Nevin 1978). On January 10, 1847, leaders of the pueblo of Los Angeles surrendered peacefully after Mexican General Jose Maria Flores withdrew his forces. Shortly thereafter, newly appointed Mexican Military Commander of California, Andrés Pico, surrendered all of Alta California to United States Army Lieutenant Colonel John C. Fremont in the Treaty of Cahuenga (Nevin 1978).

Treatment of Native Americans grew worse during the Rancho Period. Most were forced off their land or put to work on the now privately-owned ranchos, most often as slave labor. In light of the brutal ranchos, the degree to which Native Americans had become dependent upon the mission system is evident when, in 1838, a group of Native Americans from Mission San Luis Rey petitioned government officials in San Diego to relieve suffering at the hands of the rancheros:

We have suffered incalculable losses, for some of which we are in part to be blamed for because many of us have abandoned the Mission ... We plead and beseech you ... to grant us a Rev. Father for this place. We have been accustomed to the Rev. Fathers and to their manner of managing the duties. We labored under their intelligent directions, and we were obedient to the Fathers according to the regulations, because we considered it as good for us. (Brigandi 1998:21)

Native American culture had been disrupted to the point where they could no longer rely upon prehistoric subsistence and social patterns. Not only does this illustrate how dependent the Native Americans had become upon the missionaries, but also indicates a marked contrast in the way the Spanish treated the Native Americans compared to the Mexican and United States ranchers. Spanish colonialism (missions) is based upon utilizing human resources while integrating them into their society. The Mexican and American ranchers did not accept Native Americans into their social order and used them specifically for the extraction of labor, resources, and profit. Rather than being incorporated, they were either subjugated or exterminated (Cook 1976).

Settlement of the Los Angeles region accelerated during the early American Period. The county was established on February 18, 1850. It was one of 27 counties established in the months prior to California becoming a state. Many ranchos in the county were sold or otherwise acquired by Americans, and most were subdivided into agricultural parcels or towns. Nonetheless, ranching retained its importance, and by the late 1860s, Los Angeles was one of the top dairy production centers in the country (Rolle 1963). In 1854, the United States Congress agreed to let San Pedro become an official port of entry, and by the 1880s, the railroads had established networks

throughout the county, resulting in fast and affordable shipment of goods, as well as a means to transport new residents to the booming region (Dumke 1944). New residents included many health-seekers drawn to the area by the fabled climate in the 1870s to the 1880s (Baur 1959). In 1876, the county had a population of 30,000 (Dumke 1944:7); by 1900, it had reached 100,000.

In the early to mid-1900s, population growth accelerated due to industry associated with both world wars, as well as emigration from the Midwest “dust bowl” states during the Great Depression. The county became one of the most densely occupied areas in the United States. The county’s mild climate and successful economy continued to draw new residents in the late 1900s, and much of the county transformed from ranches and farms into residential subdivisions surrounding commercial and industrial centers. Hollywood’s development into the entertainment capital of the world and southern California’s booming aerospace industry were key factors in the county’s growth.

Brief History of Norwalk

The general history of the city of Norwalk is presented within the City’s General Plan, Draft 2013-2021 Housing Element:

The Rancho and mining days in California ended around the 1860’s and the land was subdivided once again and made available for sale. Word of this land development reached the Sproul Brothers in Oregon. They recalled the fertile land and huge sycamore trees they saw during an earlier visit to the Southern California area. In 1869, Atwood Sproul, on behalf of his brother, Gilbert, purchased 463 acres of land at \$11 an acre in an area known as Corazon de los Valles, or "Heart of the Valleys."

By 1873, news of a railroad service coming through the area was committed. The Sprouls deeded 23 acres and stipulated a "passenger stop" clause in the deed. Three days after the Anaheim Branch Railroad crossed the "North-walk" for the first time, Gilbert Sproul surveyed a town site. In 1874, the name was recorded officially as Norwalk.

While a majority of the Norwalk countryside remained undeveloped during the 1880’s, the Norwalk Station allowed potential residents the opportunity to visit the "country" from across the nation. This pre-1900 era also brought the "first families" to Norwalk, including the Sprouls, the Dewitts, the Settles, the Orrs, and many others. They grouped together to shape the future of this community.

In 1880, D.D. Johnston pioneered the first school system in Norwalk. Johnston was also responsible for the first real industry in town, a cheese factory, by furnishing Tom Lumbard with the money in 1882.

Norwalk – in the 1890s - experienced the construction of a number of fine homes that were located in the middle of orchards, farms and dairies. One of those residential landmarks was built in 1891 by the D. D. Johnston family, and it subsequently became known as the Hargitt House, an 1891 Victorian Eastlake. The Hargitt House Museum, located at 12426 Mapledale, was donated to the people of Norwalk by Charles ("Chun") and Ida Hargitt.

At the turn of the century, Norwalk had become established as the dairy "Heart of the Valleys." Of the 50 local families reported in the 1900 census, most were associated with farming or with the dairy industry. Norwalk was also the home of some of the largest sugar beet farms in all of Southern California during this era. As the years passed, the community continued to grow. Permanent educational facilities were constructed; electricity and telephone service installed, and railroads and highways linked Norwalk to statewide markets.

The need for local control over local affairs soon became so great that a special incorporation election was called. On August 26, 1957, Norwalk was certified by the Secretary of State as California's 15th largest city and became the County's 66th city. With cityhood came startling improvements in services to local residents. Progressive health and building standards were adopted, law enforcement increased, storm drainage improved, and citywide street lighting districts formed. (City of Norwalk 2014)

1.3.1 Results of the Archaeological Records Search

An archaeological records search for the project and the surrounding area within a one-mile radius was conducted by BFSA at the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton. According to the records search results, 29 cultural resources have been identified within a one-mile radius of the subject property, none of which are within the proposed project. The resources identified within one mile of the project are all historic and primarily built environment resources.

Table 1.3–1**Cultural Resources Located Within One Mile of the Rexford Expansion Project**

Site	Description
P-19-004860	Historic trash scatter
P-19-180616	Historic Valley View Farms
P-19-180617	Historic Neff Park (contains three historic buildings)
P-19-180618	Historic barn (located within P-19-180617)
P-19-180619	Historic residence (located within P-19-180617)
P-19-180620	Historic residence (located within P-19-180617)
P-19-180623	Historic fire station
P-19-180626 and P-19-186801	Historic commercial property
P-19-186110 and P-19-186804	Historic railroad alignment
P-19-186784, P-19-186785, P-19-186786, P-19-186787, P-19-186788, P-19-186789, P-19-186790, P-19-186791, P-19-186792, P-19-186793, P-19-186794, P-19-186795, P-19-186796, P-19-186797, P-19-186798, P-19-186799, P-19-186800 and P-19-186801	Historic residence
P-19-187284	Historic industrial property

The SCCIC results also identified 21 studies conducted within a one-mile radius of the current project, none of which include the subject property. The full records search results can be found in Appendix B.

BFSa reviewed the following sources to help facilitate a better understanding of the historic use of the property:

- The National Register of Historic Places index
- Historic USGS maps (1896 and 1942 15' *Downey* topographic; 1923 and 1945 *Artesia* 7.5' topographic maps; and the 1951 *Whittier* 7.5' topographic map)
- Aerial photographs (1952 through 2020)

None of these resources identified any known or potential archaeological resources within the Project. Aerial photographs show the property was vacant land through 1968. By 1972 the property was developed, with one warehouse building present on photographs. By 1974, a second warehouse, built in the same style as the first, appears on the property. Subsequent photographs do not show any additional significant improvements to the property.

BFSA also requested a SLF search from the NAHC to search for the presence of any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance within one mile of the project. The NAHC results have not yet been received. All correspondence can be found in Appendix C.

1.4 Applicable Regulations

Resource importance is assigned to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality illustrating or interpreting the heritage of Los Angeles County in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. A number of criteria are used in demonstrating resource importance. Specifically, the criteria outlined in CEQA provide the guidance for making such a determination, as provided below.

1.4.1 California Environmental Quality Act

According to CEQA (§15064.5a), the term “historical resource” includes the following:

- 1) A resource listed in or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing in the CRHR (Public Resources Code [PRC] SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR. Section 4850 et seq.).
- 2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
- 3) Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript, which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency’s determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be “historically significant” if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR (PRC SS5024.1, Title 14, Section 4852) including the following:
 - a) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage;
 - b) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
 - c) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or

- d) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
- 4) The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR, not included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to Section 5020.1[k] of the PRC), or identified in a historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in Section 5024.1[g] of the PRC) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be a historical resource as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

According to CEQA (§15064.5b), a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect upon the environment. CEQA defines a substantial adverse change as:

- 1) Substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired.
- 2) The significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project:
 - a) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the CRHR; or
 - b) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or its identification in a historical resources survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or,
 - c) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

Section 15064.5(c) of CEQA applies to effects upon archaeological sites and contains the following additional provisions regarding archaeological sites:

- 1. When a project will impact an archaeological site, a lead agency shall first determine whether the site is a historical resource, as defined in subsection (a).

2. If a lead agency determines that the archaeological site is a historical resource, it shall refer to the provisions of Section 21084.1 of the PRC, Section 15126.4 of the guidelines, and the limits contained in Section 21083.2 of the PRC do not apply.
3. If an archaeological site does not meet the criteria defined in subsection (a), but does meet the definition of a unique archaeological resource in Section 21083.2 of the PRC, the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2. The time and cost limitations described in PRC Section 21083.2 (c to f) do not apply to surveys and site evaluation activities intended to determine whether the project location contains unique archaeological resources.
4. If an archaeological resource is neither a unique archaeological nor historical resource, the effects of the project upon those resources shall not be considered a significant effect upon the environment. It shall be sufficient that both the resource and the effect upon it are noted in the Initial Study (IS) or Environmental Impact Report, if one is prepared to address impacts on other resources, but they need not be considered further in the CEQA process.

Section 15064.5 (d and e) contains additional provisions regarding human remains. Regarding Native American human remains, paragraph (d) provides:

- (d) When an IS identifies the existence of, or the probable likelihood of, Native American human remains within the project, a lead agency shall work with the appropriate Native Americans as identified by the NAHC, as provided in PRC SS5097.98. The applicant may develop an agreement for treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any items associated with Native American burials with the appropriate Native Americans as identified by the NAHC. Action implementing such an agreement is exempt from:
 - 1) The general prohibition on disinterring, disturbing, or removing human remains from any location other than a dedicated cemetery (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5).
 - 2) The requirements of CEQA and the Coastal Act.

2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

The primary goal of research design is to attempt to understand the way in which humans have used land and resources within a project area through time, as well as to aid in determining resource significance. For the current project, the study area under investigation is in the city of Norwalk, located in the southern portion of Los Angeles County. The scope of work for the cultural resources study conducted for the Rexford Expansion Project included surveying a 7.03-acre area. Given the area involved, the research design for this project was focused upon realistic study options. Since the main objective of the investigation was to identify the presence of and potential impacts to cultural resources, the goal here is not necessarily to answer wide-reaching theories regarding the development of early southern California, but to investigate the role and importance of identified resources. Nevertheless, any assessment of the significance of a resource must take into consideration a variety of characteristics, as well as the ability of a resource to address regional research topics and issues.

Although elementary resource evaluation programs are limited in terms of the amount of information available, several specific research questions were developed that could be used to guide initial investigations of any observed cultural resources. The following research questions take into account size and location of the project discussed above.

Research Questions:

- Can located cultural resources be associated with a specific time period, population, or individual?
- Do the types of any located cultural resources allow a site activity/function to be determined from a preliminary investigation? What are the site activities? What is the site function? What resources were exploited?
- How do located sites compare to others reported from different surveys conducted in the area?
- How do located sites fit existing models of settlement and subsistence for valley environments of the region?

Data Needs

At the survey level, the principal research objective is a generalized investigation of changing settlement patterns in both the prehistoric and historic periods within the study area. The overall goal is to understand settlement and resource procurement patterns of the project area occupants. Therefore, adequate information on site function, context, and chronology from an archaeological perspective is essential for the investigation. The fieldwork and archival research were undertaken with the following primary research goals in mind:

- 1) To identify cultural resources occurring within the project;
- 2) To determine, if possible, site type and function, context of the resource(s), and chronological placement of each cultural resource identified;
- 3) To place each cultural resource identified within a regional perspective; and
- 4) To provide recommendations for the treatment of each cultural resource identified.

3.0 FIELD SURVEY

The cultural resources study of the project consisted of an institutional records search and an intensive cultural resource survey of the entire 7.03-acre project. This study was conducted in conformance with Section 21083.2 of the California PRC and CEQA. Statutory requirements of CEQA (Section 15064.5) were followed for the identification and evaluation of resources. Specific definitions for archaeological resource type(s) used in this report are those established by the State Historic Preservation Office (1995).

3.1 Survey Methods

The survey methodology employed during the current investigation followed standard archaeological field procedures and was sufficient to accomplish a thorough assessment of the project. The field methodology employed for the project included walking evenly spaced survey transects set approximately 20 meters apart when not obstructed by the current development within the property. Photographs documenting survey areas and overall survey conditions were taken frequently.

3.2 Results

BFSA archaeologist Allison Reynolds conducted the archaeological survey for the Rexford Expansion Project on January 19, 2024. Vegetation within the property consists exclusively of maintained commercial landscaping. Given the current development within the project, almost no exposed ground was visible. No archaeological resources were identified during the survey. Rather, the survey confirmed that the property is entirely developed. The property contains two industrial warehouse buildings along with associated hardscape and landscaping, and is currently being utilized as a storage yard for large and recreational vehicles (Plates 3.2–1 through 3.2–4). Although no archaeological resources were located during the survey, both industrial warehouse buildings within the property were present within the parcel by 1974. As such, they are over 50 years old and meet the minimum age threshold to require an assessment of potential eligibility to the CRHR.



Plate 3.2-1: Overview of the project from the southeast corner, facing northwest.



Plate 3.2-2: Overview of the project from the center of the southern boundary, facing north.



Plate 3.2-3: Overview of the industrial warehouse buildings from the southeast corner, facing northwest.



Plate 3.2-4: Overview of the industrial warehouse buildings from the southwest corner, facing northeast.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The cultural resources survey of the project identified two industrial warehouse buildings over 50 years old. No other cultural resources were identified as a consequence of the records research or field survey. In order to determine if the proposed development will represent a source of significant adverse impacts to the potentially historic warehouse buildings, it is recommended they be evaluated for CRHR eligibility in accordance CEQA. The CRHR eligibility study of the industrial warehouse buildings shall occur prior to redeveloping the property. The applicant has indicated an additional study of the potentially historic buildings is being prepared independent of this current cultural resources review.

Given the current development of the property, the potential for intact subsurface archaeological resources is low. However, due to restricted visibility of the natural ground surface during the survey, it is recommended the grading permit include a condition requiring the applicant to contact a qualified archaeologist in the event archaeological discoveries are inadvertently unearthed during grading. Any archaeological discovery will also be reported to the City of Norwalk and the SCCIC. The archaeologist shall be provided the opportunity to record and evaluate any discovery in accordance with CEQA.

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED

The archaeological survey program for the Rexford Expansion Project was directed by Principal Investigator Tracy A. Stropes. The archaeological fieldwork was conducted by BFSA staff archaeologist Allison Reynolds. The report text was prepared by Andrew J. Garrison. Emily T. Soong conducted the records search at SCCIC at CSU Fullerton and prepared the report graphics. Technical editing and report production were conducted by Jessica Brodtkin Webb.

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U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 420-C, 63 p.

APPENDIX A

Resumes of Key Personnel

Andrew J. Garrison, M.A., RPA

Project Archaeologist

BFSA Environmental Services, a Perennial Company

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Phone: (858) 679-8218 • Fax: (858) 679-9896 • E-Mail: agarrison@bfsa.perennialenv.com



Education

Master of Arts, Public History, University of California, Riverside	2009
Bachelor of Science, Anthropology, University of California, Riverside	2005
Bachelor of Arts, History, University of California, Riverside	2005

Professional Memberships

Register of Professional Archaeologists	Society of Primitive Technology
Society for California Archaeology	Lithic Studies Society
Society for American Archaeology	California Preservation Foundation
California Council for the Promotion of History	Pacific Coast Archaeological Society

Experience

Project Archaeologist	June 2017–Present
BFSA Environmental Services, A Perennial Company	Poway, California

Project management of all phases of archaeological investigations for local, state, and federal agencies including National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) level projects interacting with clients, sub-consultants, and lead agencies. Supervise and perform fieldwork including archaeological survey, monitoring, site testing, comprehensive site records checks, and historic building assessments. Perform and oversee technological analysis of prehistoric lithic assemblages. Author or co-author cultural resource management reports submitted to private clients and lead agencies.

Senior Archaeologist and GIS Specialist	2009–2017
Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.	Orange, California

Served as Project Archaeologist or Principal Investigator on multiple projects, including archaeological monitoring, cultural resource surveys, test excavations, and historic building assessments. Directed projects from start to finish, including budget and personnel hours proposals, field and laboratory direction, report writing, technical editing, Native American consultation, and final report submittal. Oversaw all GIS projects including data collection, spatial analysis, and map creation.

Preservation Researcher	2009
City of Riverside Modernism Survey	Riverside, California

Completed DPR Primary, District, and Building, Structure and Object Forms for five sites for a grant-funded project to survey designated modern architectural resources within the City of Riverside.

Information Officer
Eastern Information Center (EIC), University of California, Riverside

2005, 2008–2009
Riverside, California

Processed and catalogued restricted and unrestricted archaeological and historical site record forms. Conducted research projects and records searches for government agencies and private cultural resource firms.

Reports/Papers

- 2019 A Class III Archaeological Study for the Tuscany Valley (TM 33725) Project National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance, Lake Elsinore, Riverside County, California. Contributing author. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2019 A Phase I and II Cultural Resources Assessment for the Jack Rabbit Trail Logistics Center Project, City of Beaumont, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2019 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the 10575 Foothill Boulevard Project, Rancho Cucamonga, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2019 Cultural Resources Study for the County Road and East End Avenue Project, City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2019 Phase II Cultural Resource Study for the McElwain Project, City of Murrieta, California. Contributing author. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2019 A Section 106 (NHPA) Historic Resources Study for the McElwain Project, City of Murrieta, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2018 Cultural Resource Monitoring Report for the Sewer Group 818 Project, City of San Diego. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2018 Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for the Stone Residence Project, 1525 Buckingham Drive, La Jolla, California 92037. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2018 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Seaton Commerce Center Project, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2017 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Marbella Villa Project, City of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2017 Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for TTM 37109, City of Jurupa Valley, County of Riverside. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2017 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Winchester Dollar General Store Project, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.
- 2016 John Wayne Airport Jet Fuel Pipeline and Tank Farm Archaeological Monitoring Plan. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. On file at the County of Orange, California.
- 2016 Historic Resource Assessment for 220 South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 Assessor's Parcel Number 041-064-4. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. Submitted to the City of Orange as part of Mills Act application.

- 2015 Historic Resource Report: 807-813 Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. On file at the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.
- 2015 Exploring a Traditional Rock Cairn: Test Excavation at CA-SDI-13/RBLI-26: The Rincon Indian Reservation, San Diego County, California. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.
- 2014 Archaeological Monitoring Results: The New Los Angeles Federal Courthouse. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. On file at the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.
- 2012 Bolsa Chica Archaeological Project Volume 7, Technological Analysis of Stone Tools, Lithic Technology at Bolsa Chica: Reduction Maintenance and Experimentation. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.

Presentations

- 2017 "Repair and Replace: Lithic Production Behavior as Indicated by the Debitage Assemblage from CA-MRP-283 the Hackney Site." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Fish Camp, California.
- 2016 "Bones, Stones, and Shell at Bolsa Chica: A Ceremonial Relationship?" Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Ontario, California.
- 2016 "Markers of Time: Exploring Transitions in the Bolsa Chica Assemblage." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Ontario, California.
- 2016 "Dating Duress: Understanding Prehistoric Climate Change at Bolsa Chica." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Ontario, California.
- 2014 "New Discoveries from an Old Collection: Comparing Recently Identified OGR Beads to Those Previously Analyzed from the Encino Village Site." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Visalia, California.
- 2012 Bolsa Chica Archaeology: Part Seven: Culture and Chronology. Lithic demonstration of experimental manufacturing techniques at the April meeting of The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society, Irvine, California.

APPENDIX B

Archaeological Records Search Results

(Deleted for Public Review; Bound Separately)

APPENDIX C

NAHC Sacred Lands File Search Results

(Deleted for Public Review; Bound Separately)