

June 21, 2023

Raul Flore, PE, Engineering Manager  
City of Whittier, Public Works Department  
13230 Penn Street  
Whittier, CA 90602

**RE: CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE PARNELL PARK RENOVATION PROJECT, CITY OF WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA**

Dear Mr. Cason:

Michael Baker International completed a cultural and paleontological resources identification study to support the Parnell Park Renovation Project (project) in the City of Whittier, California. This report includes the results of a California Historical Resources Information System records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search, archaeological and built environment survey, literature and historical map review, Whittier Historical Society outreach, buried archaeological site sensitivity analysis, California Register of Historical Resources evaluation of Parnell Park, and management recommendations. Additionally, a Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) paleontological records search and search of online and published databases was completed to identify paleontological localities. The intent of this study was to identify if historical resources, as defined by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15064.5(a), will be impacted by the project. The City of Whittier (City) is the lead agency responsible for compliance with CEQA.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes renovating the 11.9-acre park at 15390 Lambert Road in Whittier. Project improvements would include constructing new sports fields and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant playground with a splash pad, updated restrooms, new fitness equipment, picnic pavilions, lawns, upgraded pedestrian paths, lighting, landscaping and irrigation, and parking and circulation improvements. The existing on-site Community and Senior Center would remain as is. The proposed renovation would revitalize the park, meeting current ADA and safety standards, and advance the City's General Plan goals and policies of providing urban recreation, open spaces, and facilities that encourage active living, health, and wellness for all residents.

## PROJECT AREA

Regionally, the project area is located within the southern portion of the City in the County of Los Angeles (**Attachment 1: Figure 1**). Regional access to the site is provided via the Santa Ana Freeway (Interstate 5 [I-5]), located approximately 3.75 miles southwest of the project area, and the San Gabriel River Freeway (Interstate 605 [I-605]), approximately 5 miles west of the project area. The project area is located at 15390 Lambert Road. Local access to the site is provided via Scott Avenue, Lambert Road, and Mulberry Drive. The project is mapped within *Whittier, California*, USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map Township 3 South, Range 11 West, Section 2 (**Attachment 1: Figure 2**).

## CULTURAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION METHODS AND RESULTS

The methods and results of the SCCIC records search, literature and historical map search, historical society consultation, the built environment and archaeological field surveys, California Register evaluation, and buried archaeological site sensitivity analysis are presented below.

### South Central Coastal Information Center

Michael Baker International conducted a records search of the project area and half-mile search radius on April 26, 2023, at the SCCIC (**Attachment 2**). The SCCIC, as part of the California Historical Resources Information System, an affiliate of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), is the official State repository of cultural resources records and reports for Los Angeles County. As part of the records search, the following federal and California inventories were reviewed:

- Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility (OHP 2023e). The directory includes determinations for eligibility for archaeological resources in Los Angeles County.
- California Register of Historical Resources (OHP 2023a).
- California Points of Historical Interest (OHP 2023b).
- California Historical Landmarks (OHP 2023c).
- Built Environment Resource Directory (OHP 2023d). The directory includes resources evaluated for listing and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks, California Register, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest in Los Angeles County.

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*Previous Studies*

The records search results indicated that three cultural resources studies had been conducted within a half-mile radius of the project area. See Table 1 for a brief summary of each report.

**TABLE 1. PREVIOUS STUDIES WITHIN PROJECT AREA AND A HALF-MILE SEARCH RADIUS**

| <b>Report No.</b> | <b>Author(s)</b>        | <b>Date</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>In Project Area?</b> | <b>Resources in Project Area?</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| LA-03066          | Maki, Mary K.           | 1994        | A Phase 1 Cultural Resources Survey of 0.98 Acres at 11237 Gladhill Road Los Angeles County, California     | No                      | No                                |
| LA-03071          | Maki, Mary K.           | 1994        | A Phase 1 Cultural Resources Survey of 2.04 Acres at 15315 Leffing Well Road Los Angeles County, California | No                      | No                                |
| LA-12489          | Zalarvis-Chase, Dimitra | 2012        | Verizon Wireless Terry Knoll, 15055 Mulberry Drive, Whittier, CA  | No                      | No                                |

*Previous Resources*

No previously recorded resources were identified within the project area or the half-mile search radius.

*Literature and Historical Map Review*

Michael Baker International staff reviewed literature and historical maps for information about the project area and the vicinity. Below is a list of resources reviewed, followed by a narrative description of the results.

*Historical Maps*

- Downey, CA 1:62,500 topographic map (USGS 1896)
- Downey, CA 1:62,500 topographic map (USGS 1899)
- Downey, CA 1:62,500 topographic map (USGS 1902)
- Whittier, CA 1:24,000 topographic map (USGS 1923)
- Downey, CA 1:62,500 topographic map (USGS 1942)
- Whittier, CA 1:24,000 topographic map (USGS 1949)
- Whittier, CA 1:24,000 topographic map (USGS 1965)

*Historical Aerial Images*

- University of California, Santa Barbara Library (UCSB) Geospatial Collection (2023)

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- [Historicaerials.com](https://historicaerials.com/) (2023)

## *Historical Databases*

- [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com/) (2023)
- [Newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com/) (2023)
- [California Digital Newspaper Collection](https://www.californiahistory.org/) (2023)
- [Calisphere](https://calisphere.org/) (2023)
- [Internet Archive](https://www.archive.org/) (2023)
- [HathiTrust](https://www.hathiitrust.org/) (2023)

## *Literature*

- *Handbook of the Indians of California* (Kroeber 1925)
- "Gabrielino" (Bean and Smith 1978)
- "One If by Land, Two If by Sea: Who Were the First Californians?" (Erlandson et al. 2007)
- *Kirkman-Harriman Pictorial and Historic Map of Los Angeles County, A.D. 1860* (Kirkman 1937)
- *The First Angelinos: The Gabrielino Indians of Los Angeles* (McCawley 1996)
- *California Archaeology* (Moratto 1984)
- "The Del Rey Tradition and Its Place in the Prehistory of Southern California" (Sutton 2010)
- "Reconceptualizing the Encinitas Tradition of Southern California" (Sutton and Gardener 2010)
- "A Suggested Chronology for Southern California Coastal Archaeology" (Wallace 1955)
- "Cultural Tradition and Ecological Adaptation on the Southern California Coast" (Warren 1968)
- "Ethnohistoric South Gate?" (Beherec 2020)

## *Results*

### *Prehistoric Context*

The division of prehistory into temporal periods provides a framework for understanding cultural change in years before present (BP). The earliest inhabitants of the Los Angeles Basin and Santa Ana River watershed occurred in the Paleocoastal or Paleoindian Period, generally dated between about 13,000 and 8,500 BP (Moratto 1984; Erlandson et al. 2007). These earliest inhabitants were highly mobile hunter-gatherers.

After a period of material culture change came what was once known as the Milling Stone Horizon, which Warren (1968) and others (e.g., Sutton and Gardner 2010) redefined as the Encinitas Tradition. This period dates to between about 8,500 BP and 3,500 BP. Encinitas is a widespread cultural phenomenon distinguished by an abundance of manos and metates, as well as vertebrate faunal remains, projectile points, and mortar and pestle groundstone tools.



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Most aspects of the material culture continued beyond 3,500 BP. However, increasing population pressures resulted in intensified exploitation of existing terrestrial and marine resources. The intensified resource procurement was enabled by technological innovations such as the circular fishhook on the coast, the mortar and pestle to exploit acorns more efficiently, and the use of the dart and atlatl to diversify hunting (Erlandson 1994). The period between 3,500 BP and 1,500 BP is known as the Intermediate Period.

The Late Prehistoric, which began approximately 1,500 BP and continued until European intrusion, is the period of the flowering of the Native American cultures encountered by the first Europeans.

### Ethnographic Context

The project area is understood to be within the ancestral territory of the Gabrielino. The Gabrielino are named for their association with the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, located approximately 11.5 miles north. Generally, their territory included the Los Angeles Basin, parts of the Santa Ana and Santa Monica Mountains, and the San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Catalina Islands. The Gabrielino spoke a dialect of the Cupan group of the Takic language family (Bean and Smith 1978: 538-549).

Gabrielino villages were particularly dense along the coast and major rivers. But over time, the beds of these rivers have frequently moved. Old riverbeds were abandoned, and new beds were created during storm events. This condition continued until the US Army Corps of Engineers channelized the region's major rivers and streams in the twentieth century (Gumprecht 1999). Today, the project area is located between the channelized beds of the Los Angeles River (approximately 1 mile west) and the San Gabriel River (approximately 0.85 miles east).

Gabrielino villages near the project area include Chokiishnga and Huutnga, located on the west bank of the San Gabriel River, probably to the northwest of the project area (Beherec 2020; McCawley 1996: 58).

### Historic Context

Unless otherwise noted, the following context was adapted from the City of Whittier's General Plan, Historic Resources Element (Whittier 2021).

After the Mexican-American War in 1868, German immigrant Jacob F. Gerkens paid \$234 to the U.S. government to acquire 160 acres of land under the Homestead Act. Gerkens built a small cabin (known today as "the Jonathan Bailey House"). By 1879, Gerkens sold his property to John Thomas, who established a 1,259-acre ranch in present-day Whittier. The Thomas Ranch was subsequently sold in 1887 to the Pickering Land and Water Company, which subdivided the ranch

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and sold lots to establish a “Quaker Colony” under the stewardship of Johnathan Bailey, John Painter, Hervey Lindley, Aquila Pickering, and T. E. Newlin. The City of Whittier was incorporated in 1898 with 585 residents and soon became known as a thriving citrus ranching region with “Quaker Brand” fruit shipped across the country. Beginning in 1887, Whittier became a major walnut and pampas grass producer.

Whittier College and Whittier’s State School for Juvenile Offenders both opened in 1891, and intended to help spur economic development after the 1890 depression. By 1904, the community became desirable for residential and commercial development after the Los Angeles-Whittier trolley line opened. Commercial development included canneries, lumber mill, grist mill, and oil drilling.

As Whittier’s population steadily grew to 14,822 by 1930, so did the diversity of goods and services provided within Whittier, along with the rise of substantial new public and private buildings like the Murphy Memorial Hospital (1921), First National Bank (1923), and the Hoover Hotel (1930). During this period, most of Whittier’s new development remained concentrated in the greater Uptown area, with residential development becoming increasingly dense around Whittier’s commercial core.

Like other communities, Whittier’s growth slowed during the Great Depression (1929-1941), and the agriculture and oil industries declined after World War II. However, Whittier’s growth accelerated as distribution and manufacturing became important industries in the community because of its proximity to Los Angeles, major road networks, and a large worker population. New construction also flourished during the post-World War II period.

Between 1940 and 1960, Whittier’s population more than doubled from 16,115 to 33,663 residents. Vast new tracts of residential homes and apartment buildings were developed in conjunction with commercial, industrial, medical, and institutional uses, which replaced the former agricultural land and oil fields that were once the backbone of Whittier’s economy.

By 1970, the City’s population had climbed to 72,863. Several annexations of unincorporated areas into Whittier during the 1950s and 1960s were partially responsible for this large population increase. Whittier was also experiencing the same kind of rapid growth that was occurring throughout Southern California after World War II. This growth was induced, in part, by an influx of returning soldiers, new families moving into California, and rising birth rates. Whittier was now a firmly established bedroom community with a well-developed infrastructure and the ability to provide its residents with numerous goods and services. However, to maintain the aesthetic appeal and to entice additional growth and development, rehabilitation and redevelopment would play a major role in the future of the City as the 1970s dawned.

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## Project Area Development History

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, the park property had been developed for residential and agricultural uses as depicted on area topographic maps. A large orchard and residential and agricultural buildings are first depicted in aerials in 1928, and by 1949, Parnell Girls School had been added to the property. The school sold part of its acreage (6.4 acres) to the County of Los Angeles in 1962 in anticipation of a move to the Chino area in 1963. Additionally, the school and adjacent landowners requested the City of Whittier to consider annexing and purchasing another approximately 12.6 acres of land for use as a park. (USGS 1896, 1899, 1902, 1923, 1942, 1949, 1965; UCSB 1928, 1936; *Daily News* 1962)

The 6.4 acres of land sold to the County was approved for park use, and the County moved forward with design plans for approximately \$133,000, with construction beginning in the next fiscal year, presumably the summer of 1963. In early 1963, news articles began discussing potential names for the park, and ultimately decided on Parnell Park in March 1963. At the same time, the City purchased the adjacent 12.6 acres for park use, and area residents began petitioning the City to purchase the County-owned park. The City ultimately purchased the County-owned land in 1963 and the land was annexed to the City in March 1964. (*Whittier Star Review* 1963; *East Review* 1963a, 1963b, 1964)

The County's original plans for the park included a 1,500-square-foot community building, hard court play area, play structure, picnic area, off-street parking, and landscaping. Those plans were carried forward with a restroom building, petting zoo, and pool remodeling (the school originally constructed the pool). Grading for the park started in July 1964 and was partially completed in the summer of 1965, allowing some of the recreational areas to be used. It was fully operational by August 1966. An opening ceremony was held August 20, 1966. Since then, the park has hosted many community events (*East Review* 1963b, 1966; *Whittier Star Review* 1964a, 1964b, 1964c, 1965a, 1965b). Aerial imagery from 1960 shows the property associated with Parnell Park with agricultural operations and residential buildings, and aerial imagery from 1976 shows the park's original elements (**Photo 1**).

The park underwent minimal change until circa 2006, when the pool was removed and replaced with the current community and senior center and enlarged storybook zoo. The original community building was demolished circa 2006 (Google Earth 2023; **Photo 2**).

Park development is not identified as a significant theme in the City's Historic Resources Element, and Parnell Park was developed after the area's first park, Penn Park, which was developed as part of the Works Progress Administration project in 1939-1940. (Whittier 2021; Whittier Public Library 2023)

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## Architect

Architect Raymond Walter Johnson designed the park. He self-reported personal and business information to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) throughout the 1950s-1970s. According to AIA records, Johnson was born in Langdon, North Dakota, on January 6, 1920. He graduated from the Pacific Coast University School of Engineering and the University of Southern California School of Architecture. From 1939 to 1941, he worked as a draftsman for architect Leo F. Bachman. From 1945 to 1950, he was a draftsman for Francis J. Heusel. He owned his own firm called Ray W. Johnson, AIA, Architect by 1950. Projects he identified as notable included Berry's Flower Shop in Altadena (1951), Bath House Building for the Whittier City Parks Department (1953), Fluid Packed Pump Co in Los Nietos (year not identified), Vaupel's Men's Furnishings in Whittier (1954), Oilfields National Bank in Brea (1954), Ellenwood Homes in West Covina (1955), Harvey Machine Co (1952-1955), McDonnells Restaurants (1950-1952), Leffingwell Chemical Corporate Building (1968), Macrodyne Corporate Building (1969), Kyro Corporate Building (1969), S.C.M. Walton Printing Corporate Building (1970), and Pasadena Hydraulics, Inc. Building (1970). Johnson did not identify Parnell Park as a noteworthy project for his firm. His early commissions were diverse, including commercial, bank, and residential projects, whereas his later commissions appear to have focused on commercial and corporate buildings. He operated his business at 726 S. Painter in Whittier. (*Whittier Star Review* 1964b, 1965a; AIA 1956, 1962, 1970)

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PHOTO 1. LEFT: 1960 AERIAL VIEW OF THE PARK PROPERTY DEPICTING AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (UCSB 1960). RIGHT: 1976 AERIAL OF THE PARK DEPICTING THE ORIGINAL ELEMENTS OF THE PARK (UCSB 1976).

Johnson is not identified in the Pacific Coast Architecture Database as a notable architect, and additional targeted research failed to identify information to suggest Johnson could be considered a master architect (Pacific Coast Architecture Database 2023; Internet Archive 2023; Calisphere 2023; Newspapers.com 2023; CDNC 2023).

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**PHOTO 2. AERIAL FROM 2007 SHOWING THE ALTERATIONS MADE TO THE PARK IN 2006.**

### Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File Search

The California NAHC maintains a confidential Sacred Lands File, which contains sites of traditional, cultural, or religious value to the Native American community. The NAHC was contacted on April 24, 2023, to request a search of the Sacred Lands File. The NAHC responded to the request in a May 15, 2023, letter. The results of the Sacred Lands File search conducted by the NAHC indicated that no Native American cultural resources are known to be located within the project area. The response and contact list are located in **Attachment 3**.

As required under Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, consistent with Assembly Bill (AB) 52, consultation letters were mailed on May 11, 2023, to the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation and the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, who have requested the City to notify them of projects subject to AB 52. Under AB 52, Native American tribes have 30 days to respond and request further project information and formal consultation. (see **Attachment 3**). Consultation will be documented separately as part of the project's environmental document.

### Historical Society Consultation

On April 26, 2023, Michael Baker International staff emailed the Whittier Historical Society a



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letter and figures depicting the project area. The correspondence requested any information or concerns regarding historical resources within the project area. No response was received (see **Attachment 4**).

### **Intensive Pedestrian Survey Methods**

A cultural resources survey was conducted on May 3, 2023, by cultural resources specialist and archaeologist Marcel Young, BA. The undeveloped portions of the project area were intensively surveyed using 15-meter spaced transects.

Before fieldwork, a map was created in ArcGIS Online that included the APE and GIS feature classes, including point, line, and polygon features for collecting data in the field. The maps were downloaded in Esri's Field Maps app on Apple iPads and coupled via Bluetooth with a Trimble DA2 Catalyst GNSS GPS receiver with submeter accuracy. The field crew used the tablet and GPS units to accurately survey the project area and map newly discovered cultural resources. Photographs with geospatial information of project area overviews and historic features were taken with the Solocator app.

The pedestrian survey was a non-collection survey. The Michael Baker International archaeologist recorded resources in the field using appropriate descriptions, drawings, and photos. Resources were recorded using Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 series forms to OHP standards.

A daily summary form was completed at the end of the survey to convey the conditions of the survey area and summarize findings. This form included a description of vegetation cover (including contextual photographs), as well as estimates of ground surface visibility, rated as poor (0-25 percent), fair (26-50 percent), good (51-75 percent), or excellent (76-100 percent).

### **Intensive Pedestrian Survey Results**

During the survey of the APE, ground surface visibility was rated fair, with approximately 26 to 50 percent visibility due to a predominance of irrigated grass coverage and modern development. The vegetation observed during the survey included a predominance of landscaped vegetation, including eucalyptus trees, money trees, pine trees, Mexican fan palms, heavenly bamboo, Japanese pittosporum, privet, jacaranda, Indian hawthorn, and landscaped St. Augustine's grass.

During the pedestrian survey, overview photographs of the park were taken to illustrate the current park conditions (**Photos 3 and 4**). The historic era attributes associated with Parnell Park were also documented with photographs and geospatial information, including the original restroom building (**Photo 5**), the circular water fountain (**Photo 6**), and the park lights (**Photo 7**). A DPR 523 series primary record and building, structure, and object record were completed for

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Parnell Park and are available in **Attachment 5**. An evaluation of the park for the California Register is provided in the next section.

No prehistoric archaeological resources were identified during the pedestrian survey.



PHOTO 3. OVERVIEW OF PARNELL PARK ENTRANCE SIGN.



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PHOTO 4. OVERVIEW OF THE NORTHWESTERN PORTION OF THE PARK AND KICKBALL FIELD WITH THE BACKSIDE OF THE PARNEILL PARK COMMUNITY AND SENIOR CENTER IN THE BACKGROUND.



PHOTO 5. NORTHWEST FACING VIEW OF THE ORIGINAL RESTROOM BUILDING BUILT IN 1966.

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PHOTO 6. SOUTHWEST FACING OVERVIEW OF THE WATER FOUNTAIN ASSOCIATED WITH THE 1966 DESIGN OF THE PARK.



PHOTO 7. EXAMPLE OF PARK LIGHTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INITIAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARK.



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## California Register of Historical Resources Evaluation

Parnell Park was originally developed between 1964 and 1966 with a baseball field, basketball court, restroom, play and picnic areas, swimming pool, petting zoo, and community building (no longer extant). It was expanded circa 2006 with the current Community and Senior Center and storybook zoo. The park is landscaped with extensive lawns and a variety of mature trees. Paved parking lots are located along the park's southern, eastern, and northern boundaries.

Parnell Park required evaluation for listing in the California Register as the park is over 50 years old having been opened in 1966. Below is a summary of the evaluation under the criteria for eligibility for listing in the California Register. Further documentation for the resource is located in the DPR 523 form (see **Attachment 5**).

**Criterion 1** – Parnell Park was developed between 1964 and 1966 as part of a planning process that began in 1962. It was not developed as part of a master plan; was not one of the area's first parks; does not have development features that influence park or landscape design; and did not contribute to recreational development of the City, County, State, or nation in a singularly important way. Therefore, the park is ineligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 1.

**Criterion 2** – Research failed to identify information regarding significant individuals associated with the park. Therefore, the property does not appear associated with persons significant in our past and is not eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 2.

**Criterion 3** – The park was constructed between 1964 and 1966 and updated throughout the 2000s. It generally lacks the features of a designed landscape, and much of its built environment is less than 50 years of age. Further, research and subsequent lack of documented evidence regarding the architect Raymond Walter Johnson failed to suggest that he would be considered a master architect. For these reasons, Parnell Park does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, is not a work of a master, and does not display high artistic value. Therefore, Parnell Park is not eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 3.

**Criterion 4** – The built environment of Parnell Park is not likely to yield valuable information which will contribute to our understanding of human history because the property is not and never was the principal source of important information pertaining to subjects such as mid-twentieth century park development; therefore, the park is not eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 4.

In conclusion, Parnell Park is ineligible for listing in the California Register under Criteria 1, 2, 3,

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and 4 because it lacks significance within a historic context. Additionally, the resource was evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)–(3) of the CEQA Guidelines using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and it is not a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

### Archaeological Site Sensitivity Analysis

Archaeological sensitivity zones are qualitative and based on the general presence and/or absence of Native American occupation sites, isolated prehistoric Native American artifacts and burials, and historic archival and archaeological materials exposed during various construction projects and the proximity to natural resources. Leffingwell Creek runs along the southern edge of the project area and the San Gabriel River is approximately 5.5 miles west of the project area. The project area is approximately 1 mile south of the base of the Puente Hills. The closest documented ethnohistoric village of *Juyubit* is approximately 5 miles south of the project area (Kirkman 1937).

Despite the proximity to perennial water sources and previously documented ethnohistoric villages, there are no known archaeological sites within a half-mile radius of the project area. Additionally, the soils in the project area consist of Urban land-Thums-Pierview complex and Urban land-Sorrento-Arbolado complex, which derive from discontinuous human-transported material over young alluvium derived from sedimentary rock. Near-surface deposits likely consist of imported fill. Thus, the archaeological sensitivity for potential unknown prehistoric archaeological sites within the project area is low.

The sensitivity for potential undocumented historic period buildings, structures, and historic period archaeological sites is moderate. Topographic maps, aerial photographs, and the literature reviewed indicate that a large orchard once occupied the project area with residential and agricultural buildings during the early twentieth century followed by Parnell Girls School in 1949. There is a potential for encountering historic archaeological deposits associated with the activities and structures associated with the early twentieth-century agriculture on the property or the girls school. While the potential for buried historic period resources is moderate, given the amount of disturbance across the project area and the history of land use, no significant historic period archaeological sites or built features are anticipated within the APE.

## PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION METHODS

The literature review, records search results, and paleontological sensitivity analysis are presented below.

## Geologic Context

California is divided into 11 geomorphic provinces, each defined by unique geologic and geomorphic characteristics. The project area is within the Peninsular Ranges geomorphic province, specifically the Southern Coastline Geomorphic Sub-Province, which extends from San Diego to Point Conception. The region's orientation provides southern shores with shelter from storms from the west and northwest. A broad continental shelf lies along the southern section. The shallow offshore shelf helps absorb wave energy, causing waves to break further from shore. Sand deposition started roughly 10,000 years ago and is relatively widespread along the southern coast (California Geological Survey and California State Parks 2015).

The geology of the region has been mapped by Saucedo et al. (2016) at a scale of 1:100,000 and Dibblee and Ehrenspeck (2001) at a scale of 1:24,000. Geologic units underlying the project area have been mapped as old alluvial fan deposits, undivided (Qof), which date to the middle to late Pleistocene (770,000 to 11,700 years ago) (Saucedo et al. 2016). Geotechnical studies of the project area (Elliott et al. 2023) also concluded Quaternary older alluvial deposits underlie the project area at depths as shallow as 1.5 feet. Older surficial deposits are moderately to well consolidated, moderately sorted sand, clay, and silt (Qof) with upper surfaces capped by moderate to well-developed pedogenic soils (Saucedo et al. 2016).

The soils in the project area have been mapped as consisting of 9.3 acres (78 percent of project area) of Urban land-Thums-Pierview complex with 0 to 5 percent slopes (1134) and 2.6 acres (22 percent of project area) of Urban land-Sorrento-Arbolado complex with 2 to 9 percent slopes (1136) (NRCS 2023). Both complexes consist of human-transported material sourced from alluvium derived from sedimentary rock.

The project area is located within the Los Angeles Plain ecoregion with nearly level floodplains and terraces and very gently to gently sloping alluvial fans. Marine air influence is great on the Los Angeles Plain; annual precipitation ranges from 10 to 17 inches. Typical vegetation historically includes California sagebrush, California buckwheat, coast live oak, chamise chaparral, and annual grasslands, although most of the region has been converted to urban and residential land cover (Griffith et al. 2016).

## Records Search Results

The NHMLAC completed a fossil locality records search on May 7, 2023 (see **Attachment 6**). The NHMLAC records search results indicated that no previously known fossil localities lie directly within the project area. However, NHMLAC staff identified five previously known fossil localities within 17 miles of the project area from similar sedimentary deposits as those found in the project area (**Table 2**).

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**TABLE 2. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES FROM NHMLAC RECORDS SEARCH**

| Locality Number | Distance      | Formation  | Taxa   | Depth          |
|-----------------|---------------|--|--|----------------|
| LACM VP 3347    | 0.5 miles SW  | La Habra Formation (lacustrine silt with caliche and plant detritus) | Horse ( <i>Equus</i> sp.)  | 2 feet bgs     |
| LACM VP 7702    | 10.5 miles NW | Unknown Formation (Pleistocene; silt)                                | Fish ( <i>Gasterosteus</i> sp.); Snake (Colubridae), Rodents ( <i>Thomomys</i> sp., <i>Microtus</i> sp., <i>Reithrodontomys</i> sp.); Rabbit ( <i>Sylvilagus</i> sp.)  | 30 feet bgs    |
| LACM IP 2690    | 13.8 miles W  | Unknown formation (Pleistocene)                                      | Acorn barnacle ( <i>Megabalanus</i> sp.), scaphopod ( <i>Dentalium Stagnicola</i> sp.), pond snails ( <i>Stagnicola</i> sp., <i>Callianax</i> sp.), moon snail ( <i>Euspira</i> sp.), turban snail ( <i>Megastrea</i> sp.), Venus clam ( <i>Tivela</i> sp.), piddock ( <i>Penitella</i> sp.), cardita ( <i>Cyclocardia</i> sp.), tellin ( <i>Tellina</i> sp.), lucine ( <i>Lucinisca</i> sp., <i>Epilucina</i> sp.), cerith ( <i>Lirobittium</i> sp.), sand dollar ( <i>Dendraster</i> sp.), cowry ( <i>Neobernaya</i> sp.), tower shell ( <i>Turritella</i> sp.), dwarf-venus ( <i>Nutricula</i> sp.) | Unknown        |
| LACM VP 3266    | 16.5 miles W  | Unnamed formation (Pleistocene, calcareous siltstone)                | Uncatalogued vertebrates   | 15-18 feet bgs |
| LACM VP 3319    | 14.5 miles SW | Unnamed formation (Pleistocene)                                      | Mammoth ( <i>Mammuthus</i> sp.)  | 30 feet bgs    |

bgs = below ground surface

Additionally, Michael Baker International conducted a supplemental investigation within 3 miles of the project area using the following online sources:

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- University of California Museum of Paleontology Locality Search (UCMP 2023)
- The Paleobiology Database (PBDB 2023)

The UCMP Locality Search yielded two localities: “Union Oil Co., Orchardale #1, near Whittier” (UCMP A2993) and “La Habra” (UCMP MF1614), both bearing micro-invertebrate fossils of Pliocene age. Specific coordinates were unavailable; thus, an exact distance to the project area could not be confirmed.

The Paleobiology Database yielded one locality titled “La Mirada” (PBDB collection number 73752) bearing numerous vertebrate fossils of late Pleistocene age, such as fish, frogs, turtles, snakes, ducks, ground sloths, rabbits, rodents, coyotes, seals, bears, bobcats, mastodons, horses, camels, deer, and bison. This locality is approximately 3 miles southeast of the project area and may coincide with the fossil collections recovered from and housed at Ralph B. Clark Regional Park.

### Paleontological Resources Sensitivity Analysis

The NHMLAC records search results indicate that potentially fossil-bearing units may underlie the project area since the same Pleistocene-age deposits outside the project area contain fossils. The Holocene-age deposits in the project area have low sensitivity, but Pleistocene-age alluvial sediments may underlie these younger sediments at a relatively shallow depth. Therefore, sediments in the project area are considered to have paleontological sensitivity increasing with depth.

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Cultural Resources

The SCCIC records search, literature review, field survey, and interested parties consultation identified one built environment resource, Parnell Park, within the project area. The park was evaluated and recommended ineligible for listing in the California Register. Therefore no historical resources, as defined by CEQA Section 15064.5(a), were identified within the project area. Additionally, archaeological sensitivity is low, given the absence of previously recorded sites within a half-mile radius of the project area and the preponderance of artificial fill and disturbance within the project area. Impacts to unanticipated cultural resources may be avoided or reduced to a less than significant level by implementing the following mitigation measures:

#### **CUL-1: Archaeological Resources Inadvertent Discovery**

In the event that any subsurface cultural resources are encountered during earth-moving activities, it is recommended that all work within 50 feet be halted until an

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archaeologist can evaluate the findings and make recommendations. Prehistoric materials can include flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, choppers) or obsidian, chert, or quartzite toolmaking debris; culturally darkened soil (i.e., midden soil often containing heat-affected rock, ash, and charcoal, shellfish remains, and cultural materials); and stone milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles, handstones). Historical materials might include wood, stone, or concrete footings, walls, and other structural remains; debris-filled wells or privies; and deposits of wood, metal, glass, ceramics, and other refuse. The archaeologist may evaluate the find in accordance with federal, state, and local guidelines, including those set forth in the California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2, to assess the significance of the find and identify avoidance or other measures as appropriate. If suspected prehistoric or historical archaeological deposits are discovered during construction, all work within the immediate area of the discovery shall be redirected and the find must be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983).

**CUL-2: Human Remains Inadvertent Discovery**

If human skeletal remains are found, those remains would require proper treatment in accordance with State of California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5-7055. Specifically, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 describes the requirements if any human remains are discovered during excavation of a site. As required by state law, the requirements and procedures set forth in Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code would be implemented, including notification of the County coroner, notification of the Native American Heritage Commission, and consultation with the individual identified by the Native American Heritage Commission to be the "most likely descendant." If human remains are found during excavation, excavation must stop in the vicinity of the find and any area that is reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the County coroner has been called out, the remains have been investigated, and appropriate recommendations have been made for the treatment and disposition of the remains.

## Paleontological

No significant fossils have been previously recovered from the project area, but several vertebrate fossils have been recovered from nearby (within 3 miles of the project) exposures of rock formations similar to those known or anticipated to underlie the project area. The project area's geology, which includes Pleistocene-age deposits at unknown depths, indicates that project-related ground-disturbing activities have the potential to destroy and otherwise



adversely impact significant paleontological resources at unknown depths within the project area.

Impacts may be avoided through implementation of the following mitigation measures:

**PALEO-1: Paleontological Monitoring**

The project proponent shall retain a Society of Vertebrate Paleontology-qualified paleontologist to monitor or supervise full-time monitoring should excavation occur into native Pleistocene-age soil and bedrock greater than 1.5 feet in depth. Ground disturbance refers to activities that would impact subsurface geologic deposits, such as grading, excavation, and boring. Activities taking place in current topsoil or within previously disturbed fill sediments, e.g., clearing, grubbing, pavement rehabilitation, do not require paleontological monitoring. Bedrock can occur at varying depths depending on the portion of the project area.

If no significant fossils have been recovered after 50 percent of excavation has been completed, full-time monitoring may be modified to weekly spot-check monitoring at the discretion of the qualified paleontologist. If the project paleontologist determines during the course of excavations that project excavations are located within fill or disturbed soils, or that the sensitivity for significant paleontological resources is otherwise low, then monitoring may be reduced or suspended at the project paleontologist's discretion. The determination to reduce or discontinue paleontological monitoring in the project area shall be based on the professional opinion of the qualified paleontologist regarding the potential for fossils to be present after a reasonable extent of the geology and stratigraphy has been evaluated.

**PALEO-2: Paleontological Resources Inadvertent Discovery**

In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during earth-disturbing activities, all construction activities within 100 feet of the discovery shall be temporarily halted. The qualified paleontologist shall evaluate the find. If the qualified paleontologist finds that the resource is not a significant fossil, then work may resume immediately. If the qualified paleontologist finds the resource is potentially significant, then the qualified paleontologist shall make recommendations for appropriate treatment in accordance with Society for Vertebrate Paleontology guidelines for identification, evaluation, disclosure, avoidance, recovery, and/or curation, as appropriate. The City shall determine the appropriate treatment of the find. Work cannot resume within the no-work radius until the City, through consultation as appropriate, determines that appropriate treatment measures have

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been completed to the satisfaction of the City. Any fossils recovered during mitigation shall be cleaned, identified, catalogued, and permanently curated with an accredited and permanent scientific institution with a research interest in the materials, such as the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

With the implementation of Mitigation Measures Paleo-1 and Paleo-2, potential impacts to significant paleontological resources shall be reduced to a less than significant level.

## PREPARER QUALIFICATIONS

This report was prepared by Michael Baker International Archaeologist James Daniels, Cultural Resources Department Manager Margo Nayyar, and Senior Paleontologist Peter Kloess, PhD. Archaeologist Marcel Young conducted the field survey.

**James Daniels, MA, RPA**, is a senior archaeologist with cultural resource management experience in California, Nevada, and North Carolina. His experience includes archaeological surveys, evaluations of historic and prehistoric sites for listing in the California and National Registers, site mitigation data recoveries, mitigation monitoring, and preparation of archaeological resource management reports and cultural resources technical reports. As senior archaeologist, he supports projects needing CEQA, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NHPA, Section 106, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, AB 52, Section 404 permits, and local cultural resource regulation compliance. He assists with environmental impact statements/reports and alternative mitigation measures for clients, including interpretive signage, informative website design, brochures, and ethnographic studies. He also assists in Native American consultation and coordination of Native American monitoring. James provides advanced technical services for clients, including geophysical surveys with ground penetrating radar, obsidian and ceramic sourcing using portable X-ray fluorescence, photogrammetry, and GIS predictive modeling and data collection using Esri Field Maps. James meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology and historic preservation.

**Margo Nayyar, MA**, is a senior architectural historian with 13 years of cultural management experience in California, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Idaho, New Mexico, Alaska, and Mississippi. Her experience includes built environment surveys, evaluation of historic-era resources using guidelines outlined in the California and National Registers, and preparation of cultural resources technical studies pursuant to CEQA and NHPA Section 106, including identification studies, finding of effect documents, memorandum of agreements, programmatic agreements, and Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey mitigation documentation. She prepares cultural resources sections for CEQA environmental documents, including infill checklists, initial studies, and environmental impact

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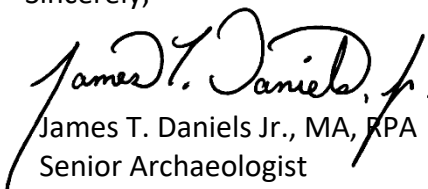
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reports, as well as NEPA environmental documents, including environmental impact statements and environmental assessments. She also specializes in municipal preservation planning, historic preservation ordinance updates, Native American consultation, and provision of Certified Local Government training to interested local governments. She develops Survey 123 and Esri Collector applications for large-scale historic resources surveys, and authors National Register nomination packets. Margo meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for history and architectural history.

**Marcel Young, BA**, has worked in various capacities in cultural resource management since 2013. He is experienced in surveying and conducting recording and evaluations of historic and prehistoric archaeological sites in California. Marcel is versed in conducting fieldwork within frameworks of Section 106 of the NHPA, CEQA, and NEPA. He has participated in projects in several phases of archaeology: Phase I pedestrian, Extended Phase I testing, shovel test surveys, buried site testing, Phase III data recovery, and monitoring.

**Peter A. Kloess, PhD, Principal Investigator—Paleontology** is a principal investigator and paleontologist with over 20 years of experience in paleontology, with 7 years in paleontology mitigation. His experience includes private and public consultation, field monitoring, excavation, and laboratory research on projects across the western United States, predominantly in California. He has consulting experience with a range of projects, including construction, transportation, utility, transmission, monitoring, and surveys, as well as expertise recovering a diversity of fossils from project sites, such as marine invertebrates, microfossils, plants, small mammals, and birds, large marine and terrestrial mammals, and dinosaurs. He also has extensive experience in paleontological museum collections and lab settings. He has worked on and co-led scientific excavations of large mammals and dinosaurs in California, Utah, New Mexico, and Montana. Dr. Kloess has served as a lab preparator and assistant curator for paleontology museums in California and Montana, where his duties included manual preparation of specimens, casting, jacketing, public outreach, cataloging, and curation. He meets the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's standards for paleontological Principal Investigator.

Sincerely,

  
James T. Daniels Jr., MA, RPA  
Senior Archaeologist

  
Margo Naylor, MA  
Senior Cultural Resources Manager

  
Peter Kloess, PhD  
Senior Paleontologist

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**Attachments:**

**Attachment 1** – Figures

**Attachment 2** – SCCIC Records Search Results

**Attachment 3** – NAHC Sacred Lands File Search Results and Native American Consultation

**Attachment 4** – Historical Society Consultation

**Attachment 5** – Confidential DPR 523 Site Forms

**Attachment 6** – NHMLAC Records Search Results

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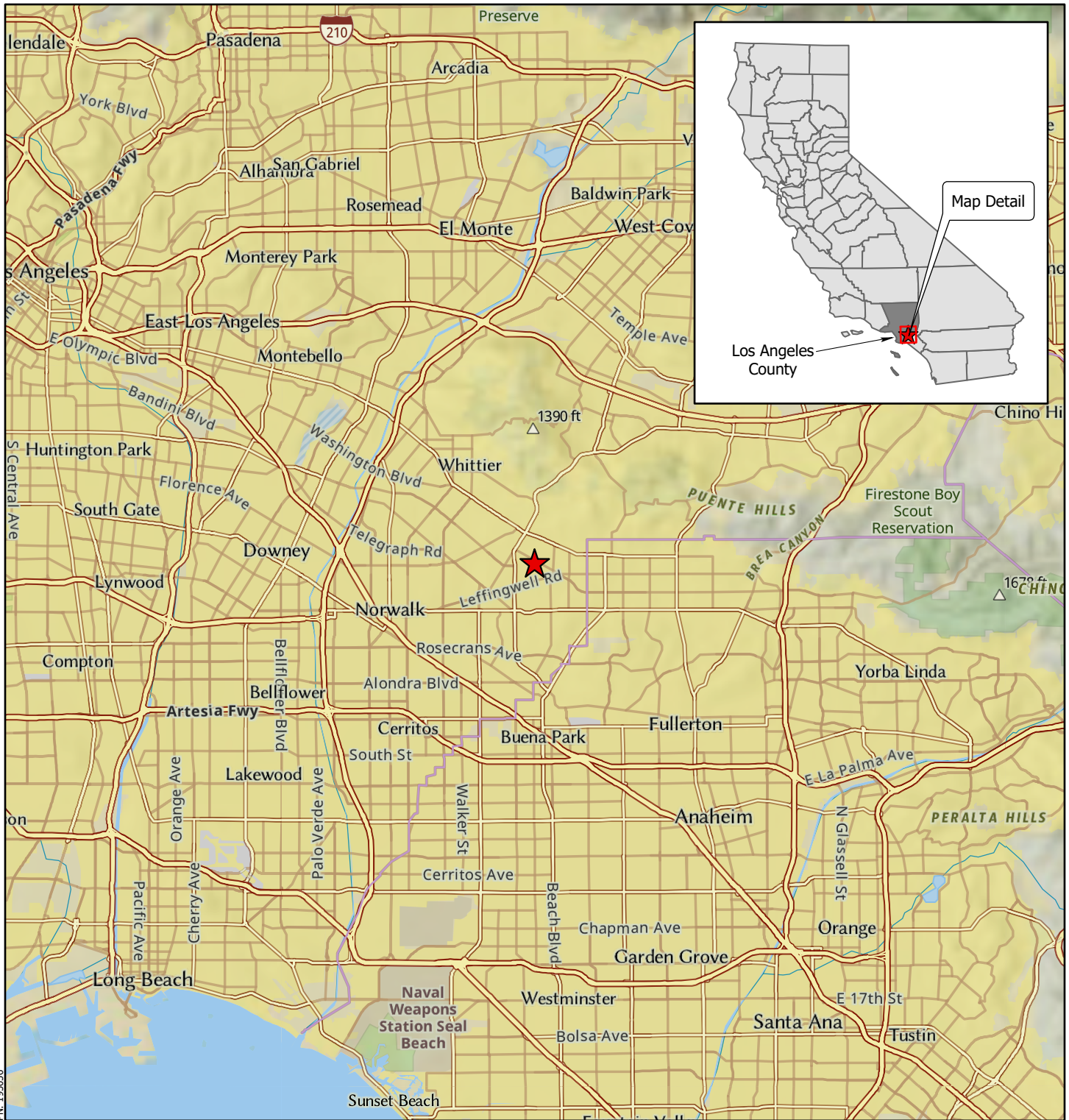
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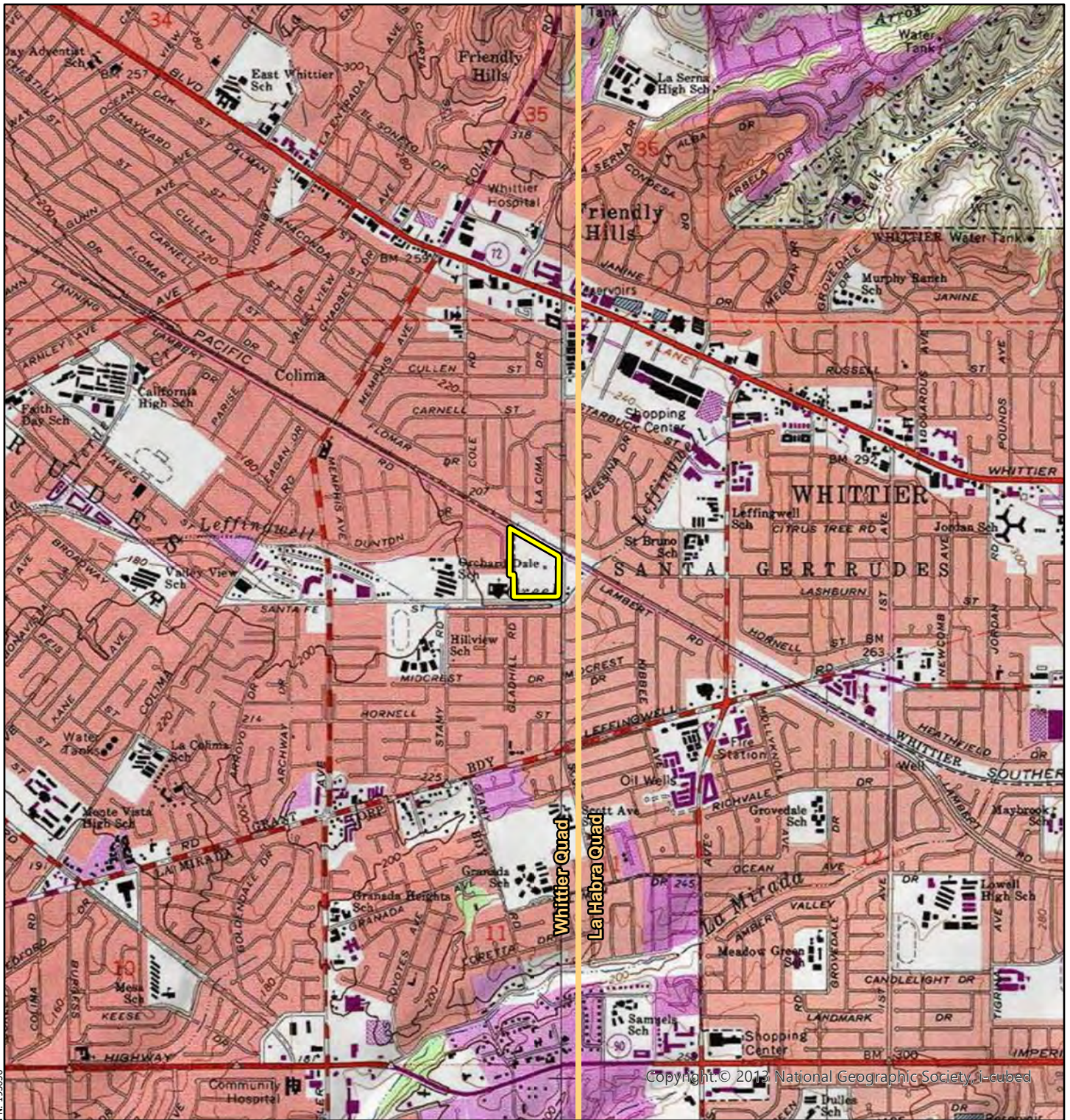
# Attachment 1

## Figures



**Legend**  
 Project Area





### Legend

- Project Area
- USGS 7.5' Quad Boundary

**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL



0 0.25 0.5  
Miles

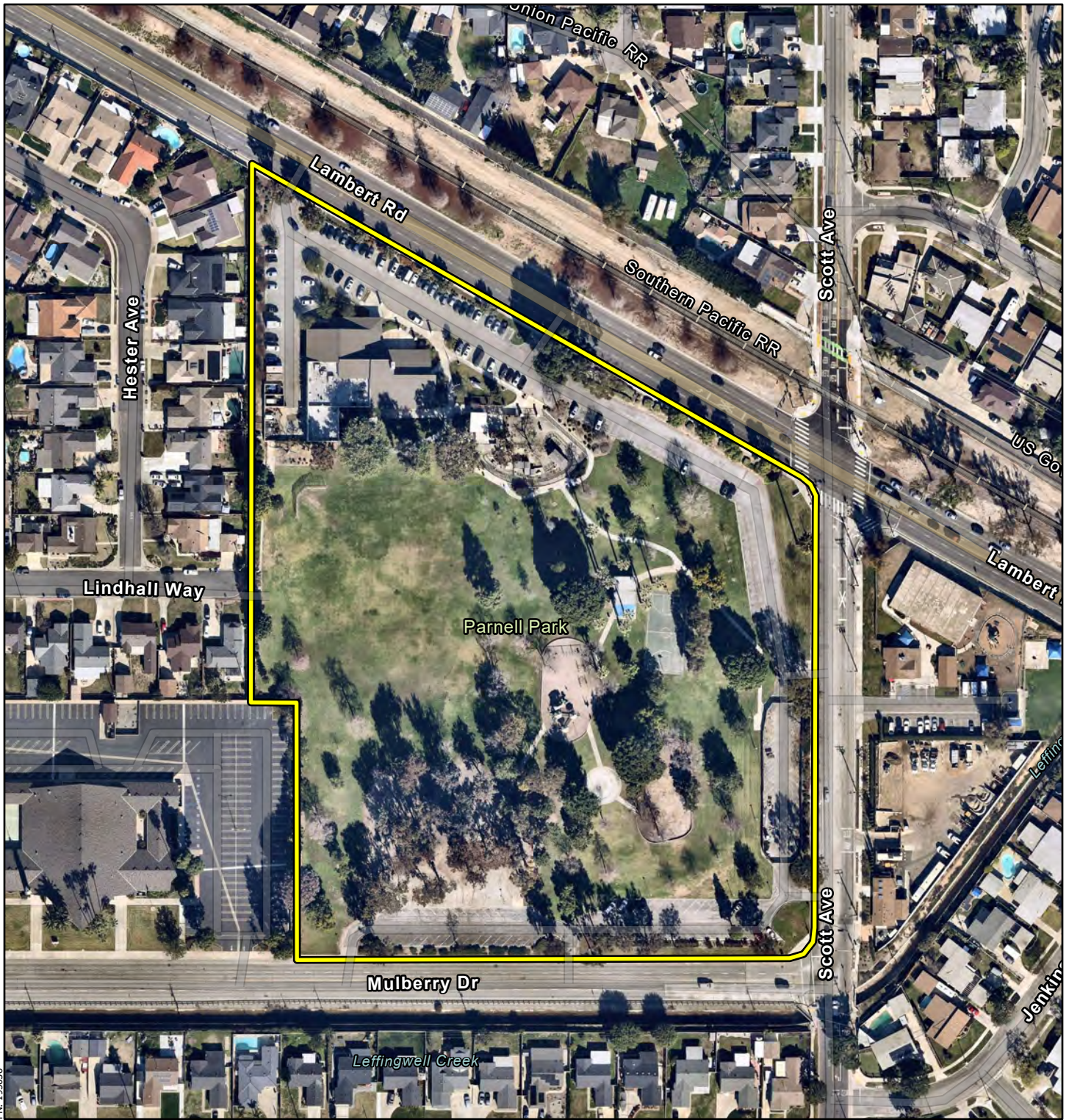
Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, Whittier USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: Whittier, California

PARNELL PARK RENOVATION PROJECT  
WHITTIER, CA

## Project Location

Figure 2





PN: 195056

### Legend

 Project Area



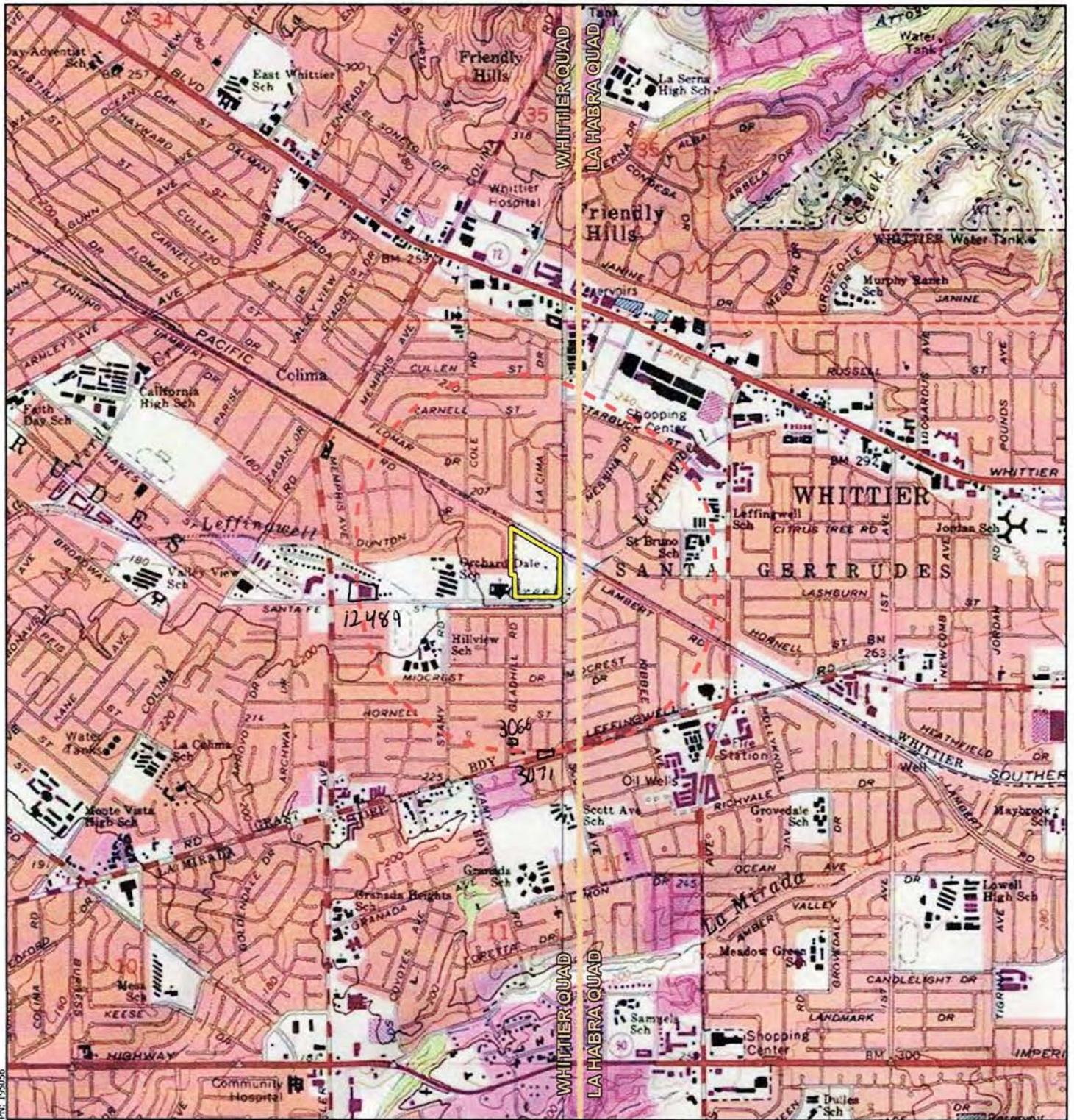


## **Attachment 2**

### **SCCIC Records Search Results**



No resources in project site or buffer



# Legend

- Project Area
- 1/2 Mile Search Area

16 resource enlargements, 8 report enlargements  
1 topo, 4 ~~topo~~ mylors

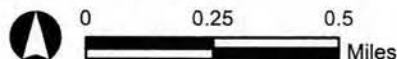
WHITTIER USGS 7.5-MINUTE TOPO QUAD  
T 03 S R 11 W, SECTION 2  
PART OF SANTA GERTRUDES (COLIMA) LAND GRANT

La Habra  
1 topo  
8 report enlargements

5 mylors

PARNELL PARK  
WHITTIER, CA

**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL



**Record Search Map**

Source: Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, Whittier USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: Whittier, California



# **Attachment 3**

## **NAHC Sacred Lands File Search Results**

April 24, 2023

Laura Miranda  
California Native American Heritage Commission  
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Re: Cultural Resources Inventory for the Parnell Park Renovation Project, Whittier, California

Dear Chairperson Miranda,

Michael Baker International is conducting a cultural resources inventory for the proposed Parnell Park Renovation Project located within the southern portion of the City of Whittier (City) in the County of Los Angeles. The cultural resources inventory will be conducted in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act. The proposed project would renovate the existing Parnell Park. Project improvements would include the construction of new sports fields and an ADA-compliant playground with a splash pad, updated restrooms, new fitness equipment, picnic pavilions and lawns, upgraded pedestrian paths, lighting, and landscaping and irrigation improvements.

Michael Baker International requested a records search with the South-Central Coastal Information Center and is waiting for the results. I am writing to request a search of the Sacred Lands File and to inquire if you have registered any cultural resources, traditional cultural properties, or areas of heritage sensitivity within this proposed project area.

We would also like to request a list of Native American tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area or who may wish to be notified of the investigation. Please submit your response to me via e-mail at james.daniels@mbakerintl.com.

Sincerely,

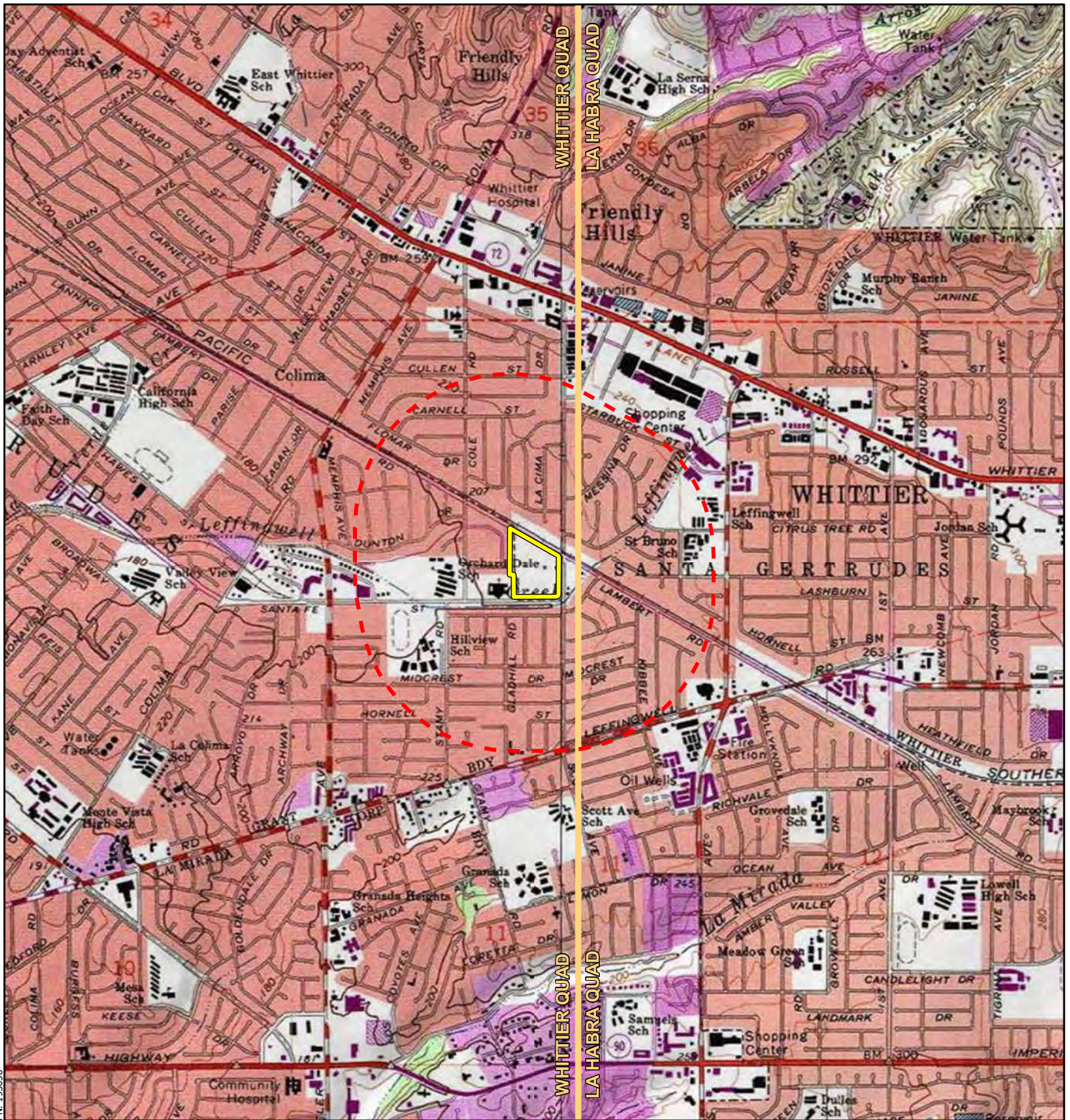
  
James T. Daniels, Jr. MA, RPA  
Senior Archaeologist  
james.daniels@mbakerintl.com

**Your Requested Information:**

County – Los Angeles  
USGS Quad – Whittier  
Township and Range – T03S R11W Sec. 2

Attachments: 1. 1:24,000 Scale Location Map of Project APE  
2. Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request





PN: 195056

## Legend



Project Area



1/2 Mile Search Area

WHITTIER USGS 7.5-MINUTE TOPO QUAD  
T 03 S R 11 W, SECTION 2  
PART OF SANTA GERTRUDES (COLIMA) LAND GRANT

**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL



0 0.25 0.5  
Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, Whittier USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: Whittier, California

PARNELL PARK  
WHITTIER, CA  
**Record Search Map**



# Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

## Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100

West Sacramento, CA 95691

916-373-3710

916-373-5471 – Fax

[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)

*Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search*

**Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**USGS Quadrangle Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Township:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Range:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Section(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company/Firm/Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description:**



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

May 15, 2023

James Daniels  
Michael Baker International

Via Email to: [james.daniels@mbakerintl.com](mailto:james.daniels@mbakerintl.com)

Re: Parnell Park Renovation Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Daniels:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: [Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Andrew Green  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

CHAIRPERSON  
Laura Miranda  
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Reginald Pagaling  
Chumash

SECRETARY  
Sara Dutschke  
Miwok

COMMISSIONER  
Isaac Bojorquez  
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER  
Buffy McQuillen  
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,  
Nomlaki

COMMISSIONER  
Wayne Nelson  
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER  
Stanley Rodriguez  
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
Raymond C.  
Hitchcock  
Miwok/Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
West Sacramento,  
California 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
[NAHC.ca.gov](http://NAHC.ca.gov)

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
Los Angeles County  
5/15/2023**

***Gabrieleno Band of Mission  
Indians - Kizh Nation***

Andrew Salas, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 393  
Covina, CA, 91723  
Phone: (844) 390 - 0787  
admin@gabrielenoindians.org

Gabrieleno

***Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel  
Band of Mission Indians***

Anthony Morales, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 693  
San Gabriel, CA, 91778  
Phone: (626) 483 - 3564  
Fax: (626) 286-1262  
GTTribalcouncil@aol.com

Gabrieleno

***Gabrielino /Tongva Nation***

Sandonne Goad, Chairperson  
106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St.,  
#231  
Los Angeles, CA, 90012  
Phone: (951) 807 - 0479  
sgoad@gabrielino-tongva.com

Gabrielino

***Gabrielino Tongva Indians of  
California Tribal Council***

Christina Conley, Cultural  
Resource Administrator  
P.O. Box 941078  
Simi Valley, CA, 93094  
Phone: (626) 407 - 8761  
christina.marsden@alumni.usc.edu

Gabrielino

***Gabrielino Tongva Indians of  
California Tribal Council***

Robert Dorame, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 490  
Bellflower, CA, 90707  
Phone: (562) 761 - 6417  
Fax: (562) 761-6417  
gtongva@gmail.com

Gabrielino

***Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe***

Charles Alvarez,  
23454 Vanowen Street  
West Hills, CA, 91307  
Phone: (310) 403 - 6048  
roadkingcharles@aol.com

Gabrielino

***Juaneno Band of Mission  
Indians Acjachemen Nation -  
Belardes***

Joyce Perry, Cultural Resource  
Director  
4955 Paseo Segovia  
Irvine, CA, 92603  
Phone: (949) 293 - 8522  
kaamalam@gmail.com

Juaneno

***Juaneno Band of Mission  
Indians Acjachemen Nation 84A***

Heidi Lucero, Chairperson, THPO  
31411-A La Matanza Street  
San Juan Capistrano, CA, 92675  
Phone: (562) 879 - 2884  
jbmian.chairwoman@gmail.com

Juaneno

***Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla  
Indians***

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

Cahuilla

***Soboba Band of Luiseno  
Indians***

Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson  
P. O. Box 487  
San Jacinto, CA, 92581  
Phone: (951) 654 - 5544  
Fax: (951) 654-4198  
ivivanco@soboba-nsn.gov

Cahuilla  
Luiseno

***Soboba Band of Luiseno  
Indians***

Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural  
Resource Department  
P.O. BOX 487  
San Jacinto, CA, 92581  
Phone: (951) 663 - 5279  
Fax: (951) 654-4198  
jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov

Cahuilla  
Luiseno

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 Parnell Park Renovation Project, Los Angeles County.

# **Attachment 4**

## **Historical Society Consultation**

April 25, 2023

Nick Edmeier, Museum Curator

**Whittier Historical Society**

6755 Newlin Avenue

Whittier, CA 90601

Via email: [nick@whittiermuseum.org](mailto:nick@whittiermuseum.org)

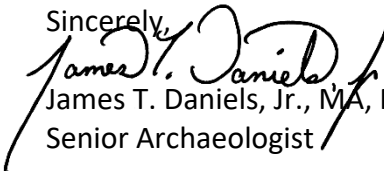
**Re: Cultural Resources Inventory for the Parnell Park Renovation Project, Whittier, California**

Dear Mr. Edmeier:

Michael Baker International is conducting a cultural resources inventory for the proposed Parnell Park Renovation Project located within the southern portion of the City of Whittier (City) in the County of Los Angeles. The cultural resources inventory will be conducted in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act. The proposed project would renovate the existing Parnell Park. Project improvements would include the construction of new sports fields and an ADA-compliant playground with a splash pad, updated restrooms, new fitness equipment, picnic pavilions, and lawns, upgraded pedestrian paths, lighting, and landscaping and irrigation improvements.

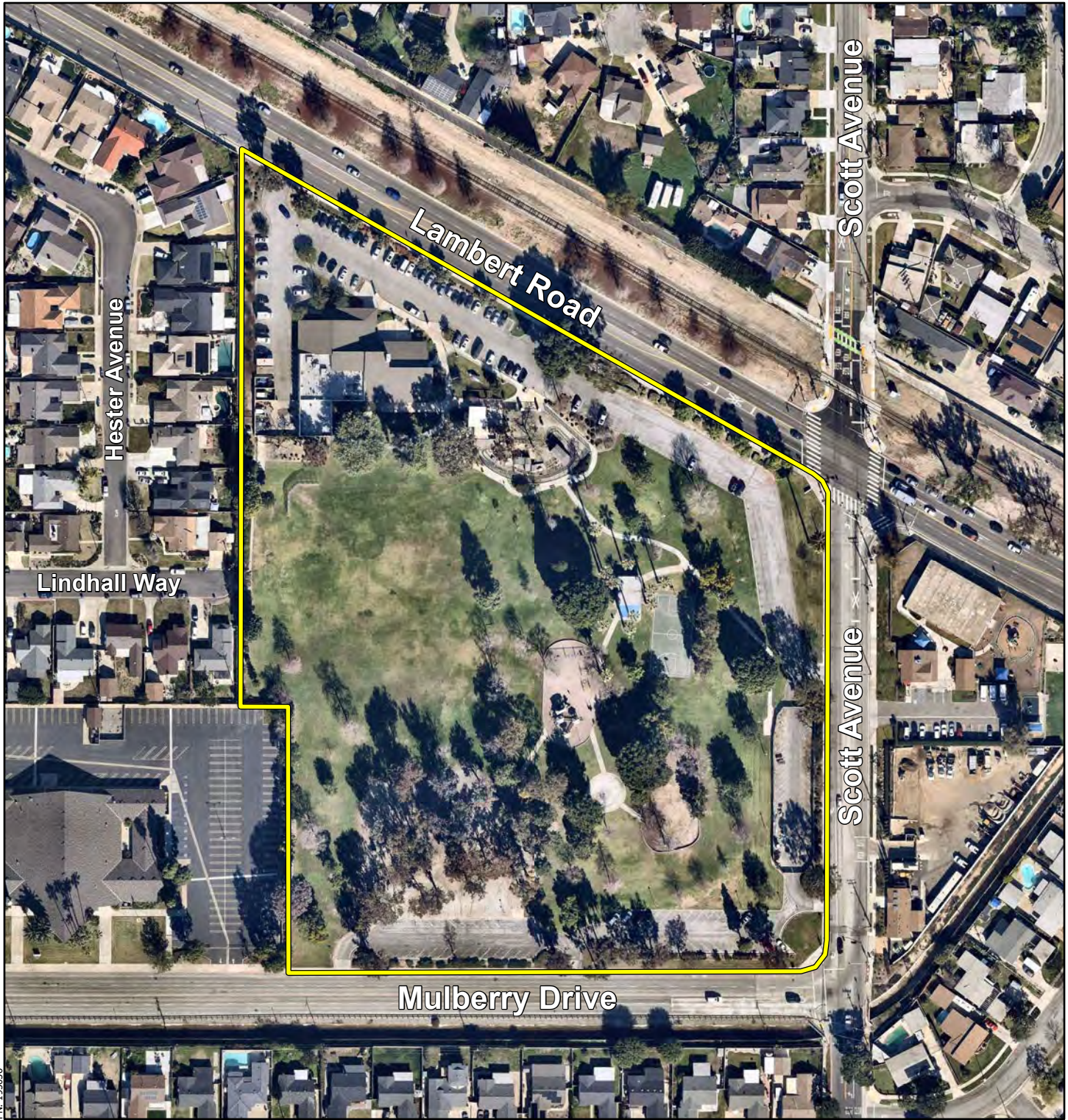
We are contacting you to identify cultural resources the proposed project may impact. Please notify us if your organization has any information or concerns about historical resources on the project site. This letter is not a research request; it is solely a request for public input related to any concerns the Whittier Historical Society may have. If you have any questions or comments, contact me at your earliest convenience at [james.daniels@mbakerintl.com](mailto:james.daniels@mbakerintl.com) or 760-603-6251. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

  
James T. Daniels, Jr., MA, RPA  
Senior Archaeologist

**Attachments: Figure 1.** Parnell Park Renovation Project Area Map.





### Legend

 Project Area







# **Attachment 5**

## **Confidential DPR 523**

### **Site Forms**

State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #  
HRI #  
Trinomial  
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings  
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 12

**\*Resource Name or #:** Parnell Park

**P1. Other Identifier:** N/A

**\*P2. Location:** ☒ **Unrestricted**

**\*a. County** Los Angeles **and**

**\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Whittier, Calif. **Date** 1974 **T** 3S; **R** 11W; S.B.B.M

**c. Address** 15390 Lambert Road **City** Whittier **Zip** 90604

**d. UTM: Zone** 11S, 407379mE and 3755554mN

**e. Other Locational Data:** APN 8226-018-904

**\*P3a. Description:**

Parnell Park is developed with a community and senior center (built circa 2006), storybook zoo (built circa 2006), basketball court (built 1965), water fountain (built circa 1965), play structure (built circa 2000), bathroom building (built 1965), baseball field (built 1965), and picnic area. It is landscaped with extensive lawns and a variety of mature trees. Paved parking lots are located along the southern, eastern, and northern boundaries of the park. The park was original developed between 1964 and 1966 with the baseball field, basketball court, restroom, play and picnic areas, swimming pool, petting zoo, and community building (no longer extant). It was expanded circa 2006 with the current community and senior center and storybook zoo.

**\*P3b. Resource Attributes:** AP16. Other

**\*P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☒ Structure

**P5a. Photograph or Drawing** (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



**P5b. Description of Photo:**

Photograph 1: 2020 aerial view of Parnell Park (Google Earth 2023).

**P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:**

☒ Historic  
1964-1966

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**

City of Whittier  
Whittier, CA 90602

**\*P8. Recorded by:**

Marcel Young  
Michael Baker International  
3760 Kilroy Airport Way Suite 270  
Long Beach, CA 90806

**\*P9. Date Recorded:**

May 3, 2023

**\*P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

**\*P11. Report Citation:**

Michael Baker International. 2023. "Cultural and Paleontological Resources Identification Memorandum for the Parnell Park Renovation Project, City of Whittier, California." Rancho Cordova, CA: Michael Baker International.

**\*Attachments:** ☒ Location Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record

**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

Page 2 of 12

\*NRHP Status Code 6Z

\*Resource Name or # Parnell Park

- B1. Historic Name: Parnell Park  
B2. Common Name: Parnell Park  
B3. Original Use: Park  
B4. Present Use: Park

\*B5. Architectural Style: None

\*B6. Construction History:

Parnell Park was originally developed between 1964 and 1966 with the baseball field, basketball court, restroom, play and picnic areas, community building (no longer extant), swimming pool, and petting zoo. It was expanded circa 2006 with the current community and senior center and enlarged storybook zoo. The original community building was demolished circa 2006.

\*B7. Moved? ☒ No Date: N/A Original Location: N/A

\*B8. Related Features: N/A

B9a. Architect: Ray Johnson b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme Community development

Period of Significance 1964-1966

Property Type Park

Area: Whittier

Applicable Criteria N/A

Unless otherwise noted, the following context was adapted from the City of Whittier's General Plan, Historic Resources Element (Whittier 2021).

After the Mexican-American War, in 1868, German immigrant Jacob F. Gerkens paid \$234 to the U.S. government to acquire 160 acres of land under the Homestead Act. Gerkens built a small cabin (also known today as "the Jonathan Bailey House"). By 1879, Gerkens sold his property to John Thomas, who established a 1,259-acre ranch in present-day Whittier. The Thomas Ranch was subsequently sold in 1887 to the Pickering Land and Water Company, which subdivided the ranch and sold lots to establish a "Quaker Colony" under the stewardship of Johnathan Bailey, John Painter, Hervey Lindley, Aquila Pickering, and T. E. Newlin. The City of Whittier incorporated in 1898 with 585 residents and soon became known as a thriving citrus ranching region with "Quaker Brand" fruit shipped across the country. Beginning in 1887, Whittier became a major walnut and pampas grass producer.

Whittier College and Whittier's State School for Juvenile Offenders both opened in 1891, intended to help spur economic development after the 1890 depression. By 1904, the community became desirable for residential and commercial development after the Los Angeles-Whittier trolley line opened. Commercial development included canneries, lumber mill, grist mill, and oil drilling.

See continuation sheet.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: N/A

\*B12. References: See continuation sheet.

B13. Remarks: N/A

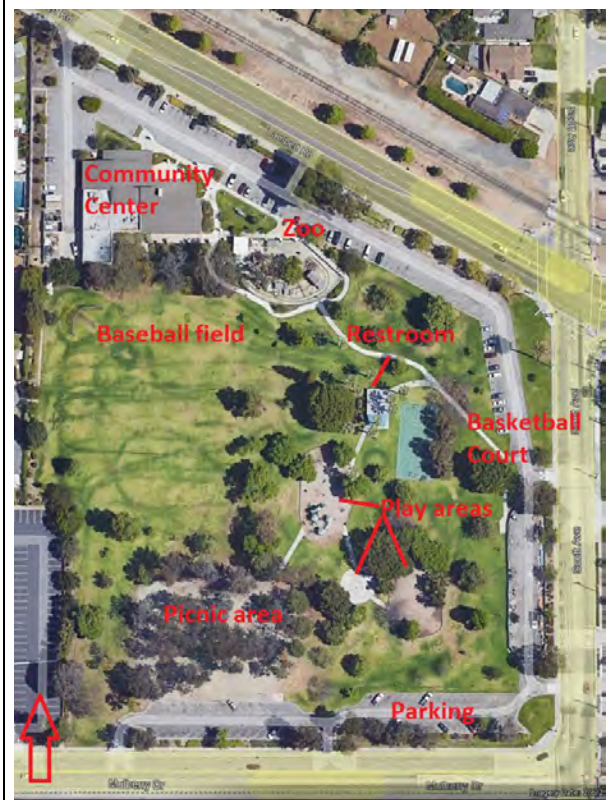
\*B14. Evaluator:

Margo Nayyar, Senior Architectural Historian  
Michael Baker International  
3100 Zinfandel Drive, Suite 125  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

\*Date of Evaluation: May 18, 2023

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)





State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**LOCATION MAP**

Primary #  
HRI#  
Trinomial

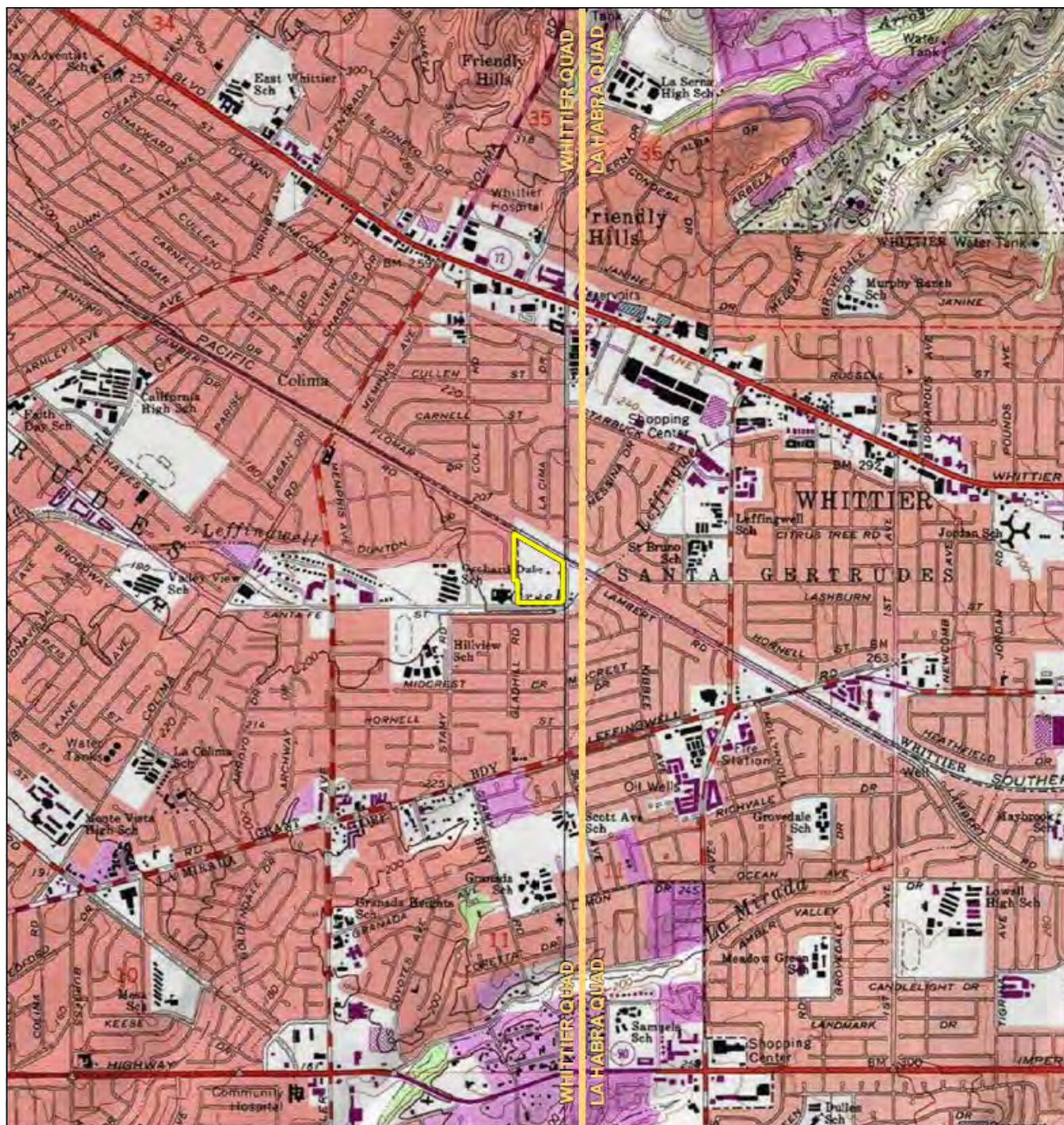
Page 3 of 12

\*Resource Name or # Parnell Park

\*Map Name: Whittier and La Habra, Calif.

\*Scale: 1:24,000

\*Date of map: 2023



Page 4 of 12

\*Resource Name or # Parnell Park

\*Recorded by: Marcel Young, Michael Baker International

\*Date: May 3, 2023

☒ Continuation

**\*B10. Significance (continued):**

As Whittier's population steadily grew to 14,822 by 1930, so did the diversity of goods and services provided within Whittier along with the rise of substantial new public and private buildings like the Murphy Memorial Hospital (1921), First National Bank (1923), and the Hoover Hotel (1930). Most of Whittier's new development during this period remained concentrated in the greater Uptown area, with residential development becoming increasingly dense around Whittier's commercial core.

Like other communities, Whittier's growth slowed during the Great Depression (1929-1941), and the agriculture and oil industries declined after World War II. However, Whittier's growth accelerated as distribution and manufacturing became important industries in the community because of its proximity to Los Angeles, major road networks, and a large worker population. New construction also flourished during the post-World War II period.

Between 1940 and 1960, Whittier's population more than doubled from 16,115 to 33,663 residents. Vast new tracts of residential homes and apartment buildings were developed in conjunction with commercial, industrial, medical, and institutional uses, which replaced the former agricultural land and oil fields that were once the backbone of Whittier's economy.

By 1970, the City's population had climbed to 72,863. Several annexations of unincorporated areas into Whittier during the 1950s and 1960s were partially responsible for this large population increase. Whittier was also experiencing the same kind of rapid growth that was occurring throughout Southern California after World War II. This growth was induced, in part, by an influx of returning soldiers, new families moving into California, and rising birth rates. Whittier was now a firmly established bedroom community with a well-developed infrastructure and the ability to provide its residents with numerous goods and services. However, to maintain the aesthetic appeal and to entice additional growth and development, rehabilitation and redevelopment would play a major role in the future of the City as the 1970s dawned.

Parnell Park History

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, the park property had been developed for residential and agricultural uses as depicted on area topographic maps. A large orchard and residential and agricultural buildings are first depicted in aerials in 1928, and by 1949, Parnell Girls School had been added to the property. The school sold part of its acreage (6.4 acres) to the County of Los Angeles in 1962 in anticipation of a move to the Chino area in 1963. Additionally, the school and adjacent landowners together requested the City of Whittier to consider annexation and purchase of another approximately 12.6 acres of land for use as a park. (USGS 1896, 1899, 1902, 1923, 1942, 1949, 1965; UCSB 1928, 1936; *Daily News* 1962)

The 6.4 acres of land sold to the County was approved for park use and the County moved forward with design plans for approximately \$133,000 with construction beginning in the next fiscal year, presumably summer 1963. Beginning in early 1963, news articles began discussing potential names for the park, and ultimately decided on Parnell Park in March 1963. At the same time, the City purchased the adjacent 12.6 acres for park use and area residents began petitioning the City to purchase the County-owned park. The City ultimately purchased the County-owned land in 1963 and it was annexed to the City in March 1964. (*Whittier Star Review* 1963; *East Review* 1963a, 1963b, 1964)

The County's original plans for the park included a 1500-square-foot community building, hard court play area, play structure, picnic area, off-street parking, and landscaping. Those plans were carried forward with the inclusion of a restroom building, petting zoo, and pool remodeling (the pool was originally constructed by the school). Grading for the park started in July 1964 and was partially completed in the summer of 1965, allowing the use of some of the recreational areas. It was fully operational by August 1966. An opening ceremony was held August 20, 1966. Since then, the park has hosted many community events. (*East Review* 1963b, 1966; *Whittier Star Review* 1964a, 1964b, 1964c, 1965a, 1965b)

The park underwent minimal change until circa 2006 when the pool was removed and replaced with the current community and senior center and enlarged storybook zoo. The original community building was demolished circa 2006. (Google Earth 2023)

Park development is not identified as significant theme in the City's historic resources element, and Parnell Park was developed after the area's first park, Penn Park, which was developed as part of the Works Progress Administration project in 1939-1940. (Whittier 2021; Whittier Public Library 2023)

Architect

Architect Raymond Walter Johnson designed the park. He self-reported personal and business information to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) throughout the 1950s-1970s. According to AIA records, Johnson was born in Langdon, North Dakota, on January 6, 1920. He graduated from the Pacific Coast University School of Engineering and University of Southern California School of



Page 5 of 12

**\*Resource Name or #** Parnell Park

**\*Recorded by:** Marcel Young, Michael Baker International

**\*Date:** May 3, 2023

☒ Continuation

Architecture. From 1939 to 1941, he worked as a draftsman for architect Leo F. Bachman. From 1945 to 1950, he was a draftsman for Francis J. Heusel. He owned his own firm called Ray W. Johnson, AIA, Architect by 1950. Projects he identified as notable included Berry's Flower Shop in Altadena (1951), Bath House Building for the Whittier City Parks Department (1953), Fluid Packed Pump Co in Los Nietos (year not identified), Vaupel's Men's Furnishings in Whittier (1954), Oilfields National Bank in Brea (1954), Ellenwood Homes in West Covina (1955), Harvey Machine Co (1952-1955), McDonnells Restaurants (1950-1952), Leffingwell Chemical Corporate Building (1968), Macrodyne Corporate Building (1969), Kyro Corporate Building (1969), S.C.M. Walton Printing Corporate Building (1970); and Pasadena Hydraulics, Inc. Building (1970). Johnson did not identify Parnell Park as a noteworthy project for his firm. His early commissions were a diverse array of commercial, bank, and residential projects, whereas his later commissions appear to have focused on commercial corporate buildings.

He operated his business at 726 S. Painter in Whittier. (*Whittier Star Review* 1964b, 1965a; AIA 1956, 1962, 1970)

Johnson is not identified in the Pacific Coast Architecture Database as a notable architect and additional targeted research failed to identify information to suggest Johnson could be considered a master architect (Pacific Coast Architecture Database 2023; Internet Archive 2023; Calisphere 2023; Newspapers.com 2023; CDNC 2023).

### California Register Evaluation

**Criterion 1** – Parnell Park was developed between 1964 and 1966 as part of a planning process that began in 1962. It was not developed as part of a master plan; was not one of the area's first parks; does not have development features that influence park or landscape design; nor did it contribute to recreational development of the City, County, state, or nation in a singularly important way. Therefore, the park is ineligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 1.

**Criterion 2** – Research failed to identify information regarding significant individuals associated with the park. Therefore, the property does not appear associated with persons significant in our past and is not eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 2.

**Criterion 3** – The park was constructed between 1964 and 1966, and updated throughout the 2000s. It generally lacks the features of a designed landscape and much of its built environment is less than 50 years of age. Further, research regarding the architect Raymond Walter Johnson failed to suggest that he would be considered a master architect, due to the lack of documented evidence. For these reasons, Parnell Park does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, is not a work of a master, and does not display high artistic value. Therefore, Parnell Park is not eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 3.

**Criterion 4** – The built environment of Parnell Park is not likely to yield valuable information which will contribute to our understanding of human history because the property is not and never was the principal source of important information pertaining to subjects such as mid-twentieth century park development; therefore, the park is not eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 4.

In conclusion, Parnell Park is ineligible for listing in the California Register under Criteria 1, 2, 3, and 4 because it lacks significance within a historic context. Additionally, the resource was evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)–(3) of the CEQA Guidelines using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and it is not a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Primary#  
HRI #  
Trinomial

Page 6 of 12

\*Resource Name or # Parnell Park

\*Recorded by: Marcel Young, Michael Baker International

\*Date: May 3, 2023

☒ Continuation

**\*B12. References (continued):**

AIA (American Institute of Architects). 1956. *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Company. Accessed May 2023.  
[https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker\\_1956\\_J.pdf](https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1956_J.pdf)

———. 1962. *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Company. Accessed May 2023.  
[https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker\\_1962\\_J.pdf](https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1962_J.pdf)

———. 1970. *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Company. Accessed May 2023.  
[https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker\\_1970\\_J.pdf](https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_J.pdf)

Calisphere. 2023. Database search for Ray Johnson. Accessed May 2023. <https://calisphere.org/>.

CDNC (California Digital Newspaper Collection). 2023. Database search for Ray Johnson. Electronic database, <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/>.

*Daily News, The*. 1962. "Whittier City Council to Air Park Plan Nov. 7". November 1, 1962. Accessed May 2023. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com).

*East Review*. 1963a. "A Vantage Point." June 16, 1963, p. 3. Accessed May 2023. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com).

———. 1963b. "Park Progress." July 18, 1963. P.4. Accessed May 2023. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com).

———. 1964. "Parnell Park Land Annexed by Council." March 29, 1964. P. 1. Accessed May 2023. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com).

———. 1966. "Parnell Park Opening Takes Place Saturday." August 18, 1966. Page 1. Accessed May 2023. [www.Newspapers.com](http://www.Newspapers.com).

Google Earth. 2023. Historic and contemporary aerial views of Parnell Park. [www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com).

Internet Archive. 2023. Database search for Ray Johnson. Accessed May 2023. <https://archive.org/>.

Newspapers.com. 2023. Search for Ray Johnson. Accessed May 2023. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com).

Pacific Coast Architect Database. 2023. Database search for Ray Johnson." Accessed May 2023.  
<https://pcad.lib.washington.edu/search/persons?name=ray+johnson&keywords=&occupation=&plocation=&blocation=&gender=any&sort=name>.

USGS (United States Geological Survey). 1896. *Downey, Calif.* 1:62,500 scale topographic map. Accessed May 2023.  
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**P5a. Photographs (continued):**



**Figure 1**

**Left:** 1960 aerial view of the park property depicting agricultural operations and residential buildings (UCSB 1960).

**Right:** 1976 aerial of the park depicting the original elements of the park (UCSB 1976).

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**Figure 2**  
2007 aerial after alterations and depicting the current conditions.



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**P5a. Photographs (continued):**



Photograph 2. View northwest of park.



Photograph 3. View northeast of current barbecue area and modern play structure.



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**P5a. Photographs (continued):**



Photograph 4. View northwest of original restroom building.



Photograph 5. View southwest of original restroom building.

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**P5a. Photographs (continued):**



Photograph 6. View north of a defunct fountain and modern play structure areas.



Photograph 7. View southwest of fountain and beyond is the picnic area.

# **Attachment 6**

## **NHMLAC Records Search Results**





Natural History Museum  
of Los Angeles County  
900 Exposition Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
tel 213.763.DINO  
www.nhm.org

## Research & Collections

e-mail: [paleorecords@nhm.org](mailto:paleorecords@nhm.org)

May 7, 2023

Michael Baker International  
Attn: James T. Daniels, Jr.

re: Paleontological resources for the Parnell Park Renovation Project (195056)

Dear James:

I have conducted a thorough search of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for proposed development at the Parnell Park Renovation project area as outlined on the portion of the Whittier USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on April 25, 2023. We do not have any fossil localities that lie directly within the proposed project area, but we do have fossil localities nearby from the same sedimentary deposits that occur in the proposed project area, either at the surface or at depth.

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

| Locality Number | Location  | Formation  | Taxa  | Depth          |
|-----------------|---|--|---|----------------|
| LACM VP 3347    | 11204 Bluefield; Whittier                               | La Habra Formation (lacustrine silt with caliche and plant detritus) | Horse ( <i>Equus</i> )  | 2 feet bgs     |
| LACM VP 7702    | Intersection of 26th St and Atlantic Blvd, Bell Gardens | Unknown Formation (Pleistocene; silt)                                | Fish ( <i>Gasterosteus</i> ); Snake (Colubridae), Rodents ( <i>Thomomys</i> , <i>Microtus</i> , <i>Reithrodontomys</i> ); Rabbit ( <i>Sylvilagus</i> )  | 30 feet bgs    |
| LACM IP 2690    | South of railroad tracks; crossing 103 St., Watts       | Unknown formation (Pleistocene)                                      | Acorn barnacle ( <i>Megabalanus</i> ), scaphopod ( <i>Dentalium</i> ), ( <i>Stagnicola</i> ), pond snails ( <i>Callianax</i> ), moon snail ( <i>Euspira</i> ), turban snail ( <i>Megastrea</i> ), Venus clam ( <i>Tivela</i> ), piddock ( <i>Penitella</i> ), cardita ( <i>Cyclocardia</i> ), tellin ( <i>Tellina</i> ), lucine ( <i>Lucinisca</i> , <i>Epilucina</i> ), cerith ( <i>Lirobittium</i> ), sand dollar ( <i>Dendraster</i> ), cowry ( <i>Neobernaya</i> ), tower shell ( <i>Turritella</i> ), dwarf-venus ( <i>Nutricola</i> ) | Unknown        |
| LACM VP 3266    | W Athens Blvd & Menlo Ave                               | Unnamed formation (Pleistocene,                                      | Uncatalogued vertebrates  | 15-18 feet bgs |

| Locality Number  | Location  | Formation                          | Taxa                         | Depth          |
|--|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
|  | Intersection of<br>Carson St. & Alameda St<br>(Pleistocene) |                                    |                              | 30 feet<br>bgs |
| LACM VP 3319   | Alameda St  | Unnamed formation<br>(Pleistocene) | Mammoth ( <i>Mammuthus</i> ) |                |
| <i>VP, Vertebrate Paleontology; IP, Invertebrate Paleontology; bgs, below ground surface</i> |   |                                    |                              |                |

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

Sincerely,



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