

**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF APN 3118-006-057,
AN UNDEVELOPED 5-ACRE PARCEL, LOCATED ALONG
AVENUE H, JUST WEST OF 15TH STREET WEST,
IN THE CITY OF LANCASTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA**

[PAST File No. 1303]

USGS 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Lancaster West, Calif.

Keywords: Negative; Survey; 5 acres; Commercial; Lancaster;
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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

A Phase I cultural resources survey was conducted for APN 3118-006-057, an undeveloped 5-acre property, in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California (subject property or project area). Current plans call for the development of storage facility on the subject property. In summary, this study of the parcel included: (1) a complete records search from the South Central Coastal Information (SCCIC); (2) a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and Native American Contact List from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC); (3) reviewing relevant historic maps and aerial photographs of the area; (4) conducting an on-foot, reconnaissance-level, field inspection of the subject property; and (5) the preparation of this report to document the findings of the investigation.

In summary, the SCCIC records search revealed that there are no recorded archaeological resources within the project area or within a ¼-mile radius. Additionally, the records revealed that there is one report that includes the subject property (*Cultural Resources Technical Report for the City of Lancaster General Plan Update* [Tang 2006]); and one report (Hudlow 2006) within the ¼-mile search radius. A review of historic USGS topographic quadrangles (beginning in 1915) indicated that no structures have been built on the parcel since that time. Likewise, a review of a historic aerial photographs (beginning in 1948) shows no developments have taken place within the boundaries of the subject property. A records search of the NAHC SLF produced a negative result. Along with the SLF results, the NAHC also provided a list of nine Native American Contacts specifically for this project.

The subject property can be characterized as a relatively flat undeveloped desert parcel dominated by small playas and dry Desert Shrub vegetation where about 75% of the ground surface was visible. Developments on the property currently appear limited to a graded dirt road that parallels the north side of Avenue H. In between this dirt roadway and paved Avenue H, there is a row of utility poles. Cultural materials noted on the subject property consisted of dumped neoteric refuse scattered throughout the parcel; the oldest of which are rusted opened metal cans and a couple of metal bodied beverage cans with aluminum pull-top lids (1965-1975). Other deposited items on the property include more modern items such as dumped furniture, asphalt, carboard, cut brush and tree limbs, etc.

Overall, the proposed development of a storage facility on APN 3118-006-057 will not have a direct impact on any known or suspected cultural resources. Likewise, indirect impacts to cultural resources in the region are not anticipated at this time. Based on these findings, no additional cultural resource investigations are recommended prior to the commencement of work on the project. Although it is considered unlikely, there always the possibility that buried cultural resource deposits or isolates could exist in the area. Therefore, should any prehistoric or early historic artifacts or features be encountered on subject property, all work around the find must be halted. The City of Lancaster should be notified, and the services of a qualified archaeologist retained in order to document, evaluate, and mitigate all impacts to the resource following the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as amended, as well as all applicable California State Codes. In the unfortunate event that human remains are discovered the procedures described in Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code must be followed.

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to a request from Suihan Liu of PPJ Properties One LLC, PAST, INC, conducted a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for APN 3118-006-057, an undeveloped parcel, located on the north side of Avenue H, just west of 15th Street West, in the City of Lancaster. Los Angeles County, California (subject property or project area). Figure 1, attached to the end of this report, is a portion of the 1958 (photorevised 1974) edition of the USGS Lancaster West, Calif. 7.5-minute topographic series quadrangle depicting the location and shape of the 5-acre (4.62± acres [net]) subject property. According to Site Plan Sheet PRE-1, current plans for APN 3118-006-057 call for the development of a storage facility containing nine buildings, along with parking spaces, and other amenities (see Figure 2).

The scope-of-work for this Phase I cultural resources survey investigation included: (1) obtaining a 1/4-mile radius records search for the project area from the California Historical Information System's South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) located at California State University, Fullerton; (2) requesting a Sacred Lands File search and Native American Contacts list from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), in West Sacramento; (3) relevant background research (i.e., documents, maps, and aerial photographs); (4) conducting an on-foot field examination of the subject property; and (5) the preparation of this report to document the findings of the study and to make a set of recommendations regarding future cultural resources management actions. For this study, Ms. Barbie Getchell is identified as the Principal Investigator, while John E. Atwood served as the Project Archaeologist. A statement of qualifications for these two investigators is provided at the end of this report in Appendix A.

Overall, this report follows the guidelines set forth in *Preservation Planning Bulletin Number 4 (a) – February 1990 Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1990) by relating some background information on the environmental and cultural settings of the area; presenting a summary of the SCCIC and NAHC record searches as well as some additional information gleaned from historical maps and aerial photographs of the area; describes the methods used during the inspection of the subject property; reports on the findings made during the survey; discusses the results of the investigation; and concludes with a set of management considerations regarding the future development of the subject property. Attached to the end of this report is Figure 1, a portion of the 1958 (photorevised 1974) edition of the USGS Lancaster West, Calif.

7.5-minute series topographic quadrangle depicting the location and shape of the subject property; Figure 2, Site Plan Sheet PRE-1 for the Proposed Storage Facility prepared by Antelope Valley Engineering, Lancaster; Appendix A, a statement of qualifications for PAST, INC. investigators Getchell and Atwood; Appendix B, a copy of the records search report letter (File No. 24002.10177) prepared by Isabela Kott, Assistant Coordinator, GIS Program Specialist of the SCCIC; Appendix C, a copy of the NAHC response letter and Native American Contact List for the project prepared by Andrew Green, Cultural Resources Analyst; and Appendix D, two photographs of the subject property taken during the field inspection.

II. BACKGROUND

A. NATURAL SETTING

Geographically, the subject property is located east of California State Route 14 (aka the Antelope Valley Freeway) within the boundaries of the City of Lancaster (Los Angeles County), within the Antelope Valley, which is located within the western portion of the Mojave Desert in Southern California. The Antelope Valley (occupying some 3,885 square kilometers [1,500 square miles]) is bounded on the north by the Tehachapi Mountains and on the south by the San Gabriel Mountains. Locally, this geographical area of Southern California is commonly referred to as the “High Desert” with elevations above 2,000 feet (609.6 meters) and below 4,000 feet (1,219.2 meters) that extends eastward to the Victor Valley and beyond (e.g., Barstow, Hesperia, Phelan, Victorville, etc.). More specifically, APN 3118-006-057, a 5-acre (4.62± acres [net]) is located on the north side of Avenue H, just west of 15th Street West within the West ½ of the Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 4, Township 7 North, Range 12 West of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian. The subject property is rectangular in shape and measures about 615-feet north-south and 330-feet east-west (net lot size).

Geologically, the project area is composed of ‘Qyp’ – “Younger playa deposits (Holocene to late Pleistocene) – Moderate to well consolidated, clay with some silt. Soils generally light-grayish-brown to brown when moist, 10YR 5/3, with upper soil profile showing laminations, and occasional pinhole porosity. Lacustrine silt and clay deposits with minor loose, well-sorted sand and fine gravel deposited in the shallow-water regions of the last pluvial lake that filled the lowland parts of Antelope Valley up to about 12,000 years ago. Deposits are generally covered with a veneer of loose sand and silt” with a band of ‘Qf’ – “Modern alluvial fan deposits

(Holocene) – Unconsolidated to weakly consolidated, poorly sorted, rubble, gravel, sand, and silt deposits forming active, essentially undissected, alluvial fans. Includes small to large cones at the mouths of stream canyons and broad aprons of coarse debris adjacent to mountain fronts” being located just west of the project area (Hernandez 2010). The relatively flat subject property is located at an elevation of about 2,315-feet with the closest natural freshwater resource being Amargosa Creek, which is located about 914.4-meters (3,000-feet) to the west.

The region is classified as a cold semi-arid steppe climate (Köppen–Geiger Classification type “BSk”) characterized by cool to mild winters and hot, nearly rainless, summers. Today, natural freshwater resources in this region are scarce. At the end of the Great Ice Age, however, a playa system developed in the Antelope Valley. Then, beginning around 5,000 BCE, the climate of the region became warmer and dryer. In many areas of the Antelope Valley, Joshua Tree woodlands and Mojave creosote brush scrub vegetation has been removed to use land for agricultural purposes and subsequently, for modern residential and commercial developments. Desert wildlife in the Antelope Valley includes small and medium size mammals as well as various birds, reptiles, and insects. The prehistoric societies that once lived in the region relied heavily on the collection of native plants and animals for food and other uses; however, access to a freshwater resource was of prime concern.

B. ETHNOGRAPHIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

The project area lies within an area that may have been historically utilized by several different groups of Native American people including those referred to as the Kawiisu (Zigmond 1986), the Kitanemuk (Blackburn and Bean 1978), and the Serrano (Bean and Smith 1978). The Kitanemuk were a small group of people located primarily in the Tehachapi Mountains and spoke a Serran language of the Takic family (Blackburn and Bean 1978). In the cooler seasons of the year, these people may have traveled to the arid lowlands of the Antelope Valley (the southern extent of their incursions into the Antelope Valley is poorly defined at the present time). While little is known about the Kitanemuk, Blackburn and Bean (1978:564) relate that these people were primarily assimilated into the Missions San Fernando, San Gabriel, and possibly San Buenaventura; however, some Kitanemucs also were present at Fort Tejon during the 1850s and later at the Tule River Reservation. Most of the known information on the Kitanemuk comes from a mention of these people by Francisco Garcés who may have visited a village in 1776 (Kroeber 1925), and the ethnographic notes of John P. Harrington who interviewed a few individuals

residing at Tejon Ranch in 1917. Since archaeological research, for the most part, is directly related to the development of an area, future research in the Lancaster, Palmdale, and Rosamond areas should provide for a more thorough understanding of the region.

The western Mojave Desert has no established local cultural sequence, and most archaeological data has been gathered by limited test excavations and surface surveys (Moratto 1984:388). It is known, however, that the region hosted a Paleo-Indian population at the end of the Pleistocene, about 10,000 years ago. Habitation sites from this time appear to be found adjacent to old lakeshores. Groundstone implements from these sites indicate that plant processing was being performed and large dart or spear points represent hunting activities. Then around 5,000 years ago, the region experienced an intense climatic warming period that produced major changes in human settlement patterns and lifeways. As the large lakes began to dry, the people moved their settlements closer to other dependable water resources such as springs, streams, and smaller lakes. As time went on, more complex social and religious patterns began to develop. The continuing trend towards a dryer climate forced the people to center their populations to more permanent or semi-permanent villages; however, the people continued to exploit other areas seasonally for available plant and animal resources. Technological advancements, such as the introduction and use of the bow and arrow, also altered the subsistence strategy of the inhabitants around 1,500 BP. Trade and the development of trade routes was also important to the prehistoric people of the Antelope Valley as the geographical landscape provided a natural corridor from the coastal to desert populations.

In general, nearly all the known prehistoric sites in the Antelope Valley area are located near major topographic or hydrological features. For the most part, archaeological sites are found near springs and principal watercourses and at rock outcrops. Robinson (1987) and Sutton (1987) have both presented summaries of archaeological data and offered models of the region's prehistory. Today, most of the current large scale archaeological research in the Antelope Valley has been conducted on Edwards Air Force Base; supplemented by archaeological studies undertaken as part of the land development process, which this study is representative of.

C. HISTORIC INFORMATION

Contact with Europeans began in 1772, when Captain Pedro Fages entered the valley through Cajon Pass and traveled west along the San Andreas Fault in search of Spanish army deserters

(Robinson 1987:2). In 1776, Fray Francisco Garcés traveled through the Antelope Valley. Garcés found the Kitanemuk living in a communal square tule house (Kroeber 1925). Among other things, Garcés mentioned that the basketry of the Kitanemuk seemed to be of the San Joaquin drainage type rather than that found in southern California (ibid.). The first non-Spanish contact took place in 1826 by a party of trappers led by Jedediah S. Smith at Willow Springs (Robinson 1987:2). Other trappers and explorers subsequently passed through the Antelope Valley in the following two decades including Ewing Young, Kit Carson, and John C. Frémont (ibid.).

According to Gudde and Bright (1998:202), **Lancaster** [Los Angeles Co.] was “named in 1877 by settlers, after their former home in Pennsylvania”. However, a more expansive summary of the city’s history is presented on the City of Lancaster’s website:

Some historians state that the name "Lancaster" was bestowed upon the town by Mr. M.L. Wicks, a real estate developer who purchased six sections of land from the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1884 at a price of about \$2.50 an acre. Prior to that date, in 1882, Mr. Wicks has started a Scottish settlement of about 150 persons in the Valley, presumably the town was a more permanent home for those people. The story goes on to say that he named the new city for his former home, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Another version of the way Lancaster received its name attributes the deed to Mr. Purnell, a member of the Southern Pacific Railroad staff whose duties included the naming of all stations. His reasons, unfortunately, must remain obscure because all records were destroyed by fire in 1906.

Regardless of the origin of the name, the area would not have been developed as it has without the influence of the Southern Pacific Railroad, which was completed between San Francisco and Los Angeles in 1876. Following the completion of the railroad and the establishment of a water stop because of the purity and accessibility, the Western Hotel, then known as the Gilwyn was built, and by 1890, Lancaster was quite prosperous.

In 1898, gold was discovered in the hills north of Lancaster and attracted scores of prospectors who staked claims that are still visible and being prospected. The old-time miners would rig "V" shaped wagons with sails and "tack" across Muroc Dry Lake going to and from work. Also, in 1898, borax was found in the mountains surrounding the Antelope Valley, sparking the world's largest open-pit borax mine.

Since the 1930's, when the first airplane was brought to the area and the Air Force started conducting flight tests at Muroc Air Base, Lancaster has grown relatively steadily. Edwards Air Force Base, famous for its space shuttle landings and home to the famous aviatrix Pancho Barnes and the Happy Bottom riding Club, has had a major impact on the local economy, and continues to with the Air Force Flight Test Center's programs which include testing of the B-1b, the B-2

stealth bomber, the F117A stealth fighter, the SR71 "Blackbird", and the U-2 (yes, it still flies). It is quite common to look into the forever blue sky and see one, two, or even three of these beautiful "birds" flying at the same time.

Until it was incorporated in 1977, the area was under the political influence of Los Angeles County. Citizens in the area felt a need for better interaction with their policy making body and local control; and, with the work of the Citizens for Incorporation, cityhood became a reality. The vote for incorporation signified a new community pride as well as a commitment to exercise the traditional rights of self governance.

(City of Lancaster 2016)

Additional information about the early development of the Antelope Valley can be found in *Soil Survey of the Lancaster Area California* (Carpenter and Cosby 1926). The authors relate among many other things, that “during the eighties [1880s] it was used for winter and spring grazing of cattle and other range stock which were moved into the surrounding mountains during the warm summer months. About 1890 a number of more venturesome ranchers, mainly about Del Sur... attempted to grow gain by dry-farming methods...It was reported at 750 [train] carloads of wheat were shipped from this region in 1893” (ibid.:668). Today, land once used primarily for agricultural purposes (mainly, dry farming) in the area is rapidly giving way to an expanding and diverse assortment of commercial and residential developments.

D. ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

1. SCCIC Records Search

On June 21, 2022, a records search for APN 3118-006-057 was requested from the SCCIC; the results were received via email on September 23, 2022. According to results letter prepared by Isabela Knott, Assistant Coordinator, GIS Program Specialist of the SCCIC, the ¹/₄-mile radius records search revealed that: (1) there are no known archaeological resources within the project area; (2) there are no archaeological resources recorded within the search area; (3) there is one previous report which includes the project area (Tang et al. 2006); and (4) there is one report that has been prepared for a property within the search radius (Hudlow 2006). Along with the results letter (first two pages are attached here as Appendix B due to the paucity of information), the records search also included (1) a copy of their COVID-19 EMERGENCY Records Search Protocols for LA, Orange and Ventura Counties – 2 pages; (2) a Custom Map showing the location of the subject property and the Hudlow (2006) survey – 1 page; (3) a Report Database Printout – 1 page; and (4) Report Copies (55 PDF pages).

As noted above, there is one report on file with the SCCIC that includes the subject property. This report is a *Cultural Resources Technical Report [for the] City of Lancaster General Plan Update* (Tang et al. 2006). As noted in the Executive Summary section of the report.

Between July and October 2006, CRM TECH performed a cultural resources overview study on approximately 267.5-square-mile area in and around the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California...It measures approximately 23 miles along the east-west axis and 13 miles along the north-south axis, extending between the City of Palmdale on the south, and Kern County and Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) on the north...

As part of the environmental overview for an update of the general plan...CRM TECH implemented a historical / archaeological resources records search, pursued historical and ethnohistorical background research, carried out a reconnaissance-level field survey, and consulted with representatives of the local community.

The results of the records search indicate that less than one-fourth of the total acreage within the planning area has been surveyed for cultural resources, leaving the bulk of the planning area yet to be surveyed systematically and intensively. To date, more than 700 archaeological sites, isolates, and historic-period buildings have been previously recorded in the planning area...A total of 152 prehistoric, i.e., Native American, sites and 287 historic-period archaeological sites, mainly refuse dumps and ruins of early homesteads, have been identified within the planning area. Most of these sites occur within a two-mile radius of the shoreline of Rosamond Dry Lake within the boundaries of EAFB, in the northeastern portion of the planning area. Some of the sites were recorded along the southern and western boundaries of EAFB suggesting that many similar sites may be found to the south and west of the EAFB boundaries. The majority of the known sites are from the historic period, reflective of the efforts of early settlers to establish roads and homesteads in the Antelope Valley. At least 138 historic-period buildings have been recorded in the planning area, nearly all of which were concentrated in and near the city's historic downtown core, as would be expected.

(Tang et al. 2006:i)

From all the research procedures that were undertaken for the update, the study resulted in the development of a series of "sensitivity assessment" maps for the study area (Tang et al. 2006:Figures 3a–4b). Following Figure 3a, Sensitivity assessment for archaeological resources, western portion of the planning area, the current project area is in the blue/purple area noted as "Low to moderate" (ibid.:25); while Figure 4a, Sensitivity assessment for historic-period built-environment features, the subject property is located within the blue/purple area labeled as "Sporadic occurrence of historic-period built environment (ibid.:28).

In October 2006, Scott M. Hudlow conducted *A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for APN 3118-006-024, Property at Avenue H and 20th Street West, City of Lancaster, California*. The parcel that Hudlow examined is also located on the north side of Avenue H to the west of the current project area. As related in the Management Summary of his report...

At the request of Duck George LLC, a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey was conducted on a property, APN 3118-006-024, 20th Street West and Avenue H, in the City of Lancaster, California. The Phase I Cultural Resource Survey consisted of a pedestrian survey of the approximate 10.00-acre site and a cultural resource record search. **No cultural resources were identified; no further work is required. If cultural resources are encountered during the further course of construction, a qualified archaeologist should be consulted for further evaluation.**

(Hudlow 2006:2)

As 1-mile radius record searches were common in 2006 (note: today, ¼-mile radius searches are considered standard in the current COVID-19 protocols era), the Hudlow (2006) report described his records search finding as follows:

A record search of the project area and the environs within 1 mile was conducted at the South Coast Archaeological Information Center [sic]. Scott M. Hudlow performed the record search on October 3, 2006. The record search revealed that eight surveys have been conducted within one mile of the project area. Six cultural resources have been identified within one mile of the project area, four historic sites and two prehistoric isolates. No archaeological sites were identified within the project area.

(Hudlow 2006:4)

2. NAHC Response

In a letter dated September 12, 2022, that was prepared by Andrew Green, Cultural Resources Analyst, of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) related that a search of their Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for APN 3118-006-057 with negative results. As noted in the Green letter "...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." Along with the response letter, the NAHC provided a list of nine Native American Contacts that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area (a copy of the NAHC response letter and Native American Contact List is attached to the end of this report as Appendix C).

3. Historical Map and Aerial Photographs

As part of the archival research for this project, a series of historical USGS topographic maps for the area were examined online by using the USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer website (<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>). The historic USGS topographic quadrangles that were reviewed are listed below.

Historic USGS Topographic Quadrangles Examined

- 1915 Elizabeth Lake, Calif. (96,000-scale)
- 1917 Elizabeth Lake, Calif. (125,000-scale)
- 1930 Oban, Calif. (24,000-scale)
- 1933 Oban, Calif. (24,000-scale)
- 1958 Lancaster, Calif. (62,500-scale)
- 1958 Lancaster West, Calif (24,000-scale)
- 1958 (photorevised 1974) Lancaster West, Calif. (24,000-scale)

In addition to the USGS map research, historic aerial photographs for the area were also examined online (www.historicaerials.com). The historic aerial photographs that were examined are listed below by year.

Historic Aerial Photographs Examined

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| • 1948 | • 1994 |
| • 1953 | • 2005 |
| • 1956 | • 2009 |
| • 1959 | • 2010 |
| • 1965 | • 2012 |
| • 1971 | • 2014 |
| • 1974 | • 2016 |
| • 1987 | • 2018 |

In summary, an examination of the historic USGS Quadrangles and aerial photographs listed above revealed that there have been no developments within the boundaries of the subject property. On the 1917 edition of the Elizabeth Lake, Calif. Quadrangle (125,000-scale), the map shows that a northwest to southeast roadway once existed opposite of the subject property that connected with 10th Street West. Interestingly, the Oban, Calif. Quadrangles (24,000-scale) indicate that in 1930 present day Avenue H was named “Fairmont Road” (changed to Avenue H on the 1933 map). These two maps also mark the location of a well located a short distance to the

west of the subject property on the north side of Avenue H. On the 1958 edition of the Lancaster West, Calif. Quadrangle (24,000-scale) the map depicts a series of dirt roads within Section 4, which generally defines various larger (10-acre) lots in the area.

III. PROJECT CHRONOLOGY AND METHODS

The field examination of APN 3118-006-057 was conducted on Monday, September 26, 2022, by Project Archaeologist John E. Atwood of PAST, INC. While the boundaries of the relatively flat undeveloped subject property were not delineated on the ground, a comparison of recent aerial photographs and the dimensions shown on the site plan (cf. Figure 2) allowed the surveyor to locate the project area. The reconnaissance-level survey was conducted by walking a series of east-west 10-15 meter transects across the subject property with a still camera occasionally taking digital photographs, followed by, a series of north-south 10-15 meter transects with a video camera. A total of 15 high-resolution (20.9 MP) photographs in both RAW (NEF) and JPG formats were taken using a Nikon D500 with a 35mm lens (considered a standard perspective view when using a DX-format), while some 5K video footage was taken using a GoPro 10 camera on an extension stick. In addition to the electronic documentation, observations made during the inspection (e.g., on the terrain, land modifications, soil, vegetation, and cultural materials) were written down as fieldnotes. All project materials associated with this survey will be kept on file at the Oak Hills, California office of PAST, INC. under Accession #1303. In addition to the report copy that the client will submit to the City of Lancaster, PAST, INC. will also forward a copy to the SCCIC for the state's archival records.

IV. REPORT OF FINDINGS

The subject property can be characterized as a relatively flat undeveloped desert parcel dominated by small playas and dry desert shrub vegetation where about 75% of the ground surface was visible. Developments on the property currently appear limited to a graded dirt road that parallels the north side of Avenue H (in between this dirt roadway and paved Avenue H, there is a row of utility poles). Nearby improvements relative to the subject property include a large tract home development across the street on the south side of Avenue H, an uncamouflaged cellular tower and the BYD (Build Your Dreams) Coach & Bus manufacturing building to the east, and the Pond 2 reservoir and California State Route 14 to the west.

Cultural materials noted on the subject property consisted of dumped neoteric refuse scattered throughout the parcel (note: sadly, this is commonplace on vacant land in the Antelope Valley; especially on land adjacent to a major roadway) (cf. Appendix D, Photographs 1 and 2). The oldest trash noted on the parcel may have in the form of several heavily rusted metal cans (some with the lids removed, while others exhibit pierced holes from a church key). The oldest dateable items consisted of a couple of rusted metal bodied, aluminum top with pull-tab (aka pop-top), beverage (likely beer) cans that date from around 1965-1975. Other recent trash noted included: dumped furniture, asphalt, gravel, a plastic oil changing collection pan, cardboard, shoes, a gutted plastic water cooler, a fry pan, cut brush and tree limbs, etc. Near the northern end of the subject property the scattered sun-bleached bones (spine, back leg, etc., [no skull]) of a Canine (coyote or a medium-sized domestic dog) were noted.

Overall, the inspection of APN 31118-006-057 failed to reveal any evidence of occupation or use of the area by the prehistoric inhabitants of the area. Cultural items or materials such as stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, scrapers, manos, metates, mortars, pestles, etc.), flakes or cores (i.e., stone tool manufacturing debris), burned rocks from hearths, or food remains (shell and bone) were not observed on the current surface of the subject property. Likewise, early historic materials or features were not encountered.

V. DISCUSSION

As documented in the *Cultural Resources Technical Report City of Lancaster General Plan Update*, the subject property is located within an area noted as having low to moderate sensitivity for archaeological resources (Tang et al. 2006:25 Figure 3a). The SCCIC records search prepared for this project revealed that there are no recorded prehistoric resources within the boundaries of the project area or within a ¼-mile radius. The Kitanemuk people (as well as perhaps other Serran language people) occupied this area and used the land for many different purposes such as habitations areas, lithic workshop areas, food and other resource procurement and processing areas, religious and dance areas – just to name a few examples. Several of these uses leave material remains in an identifiable locale that archaeologists refer to as “sites”, while other kinds of use leave little evidence, except for the occasional discovery of an isolated find. Based on the location (i.e., somewhat distance from a freshwater resource) and a featureless terrain (i.e., relative flat with no rock outcrops), the subject property does not appear to be a likely location for the presence of an archaeological site and no isolated finds were encountered.

In reference to the General Plan Update Sensitivity Assessment, the project area is located within an area identified as “sporadic occurrence of historic-period built-environment (Tang et al. 2006:28 Figure 4a). A review of historic USGS topographic quadrangles dating back to as early as 1915, and historic aerials photographs dating back to 1948, failed to indicate that any structures or other improvements have been developed within the boundaries of the project area. Unfortunately, the dumping of trash in the High Desert is common; whereas, all the material originates from elsewhere and therefore has very little to no scientific research value.

VI. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, the proposed development of a storage facility on APN 3118-006-057 will not have a direct impact on any known or suspected cultural resources. Likewise, indirect impacts to cultural resources in the region are not anticipated at this time. Based on these findings, no additional archaeological investigations are recommended at this time prior to further development of the property.

Public Resources Code Sections 21080.1, 21080.3.1, and 21080.32 require public agencies to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose of mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources. Following the requirements of AB 52 Tribal Consultation Procedural Requirements there are five steps that must be by the Lead Agency for a project. These steps include: (1) tribe requests notification, (2) formal notification by the Lead Agency, (3) tribe requests consultation, (4) Lead Agency begins consultation, and (5) conclusion of consultation. As required by the City of Lancaster, the NAHC was contacted to perform a records search of their Sacred Lands File; the results were negative. Along with the results letter, the NAHC also provided a Native American Contact List specifically for this project (cf. Appendix C).

Although it is considered unlikely, there always the possibility that prehistoric or historic archaeological deposits or isolates could exist in the area. Therefore, should any prehistoric or early historic artifacts or features be encountered on subject property, all work around the find must be halted. The City of Lancaster should be notified, and the services of a qualified archaeologist retained in order to document, evaluate, and mitigate (data recovery or in-situ

preservation) all impacts to the resource following the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as amended, as well as all applicable California State Codes.

In the unfortunate event that human remains are discovered the procedures described in Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code must be followed. These procedures require notification of the coroner. If the Coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, they are required to notify the Native American Heritage Commission by telephone within 24 hours. Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code describe the procedures that should be followed pursuant to notification of the NAHC.

VII. REFERENCES CITED

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VIII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Figure 1. Location Map

Figure 2. Site Plan

Appendix A. Statement of Qualifications (2 pages)

Appendix B. SCCIC Records Search Results for APN 3118-006-057, Lancaster
(Records Search File No. 24002.10177) (2 pages)

Appendix C. NAHC Letter and Native American Contact List (2 pages)

Appendix D. Two photographs taken during the field inspection (1 page)

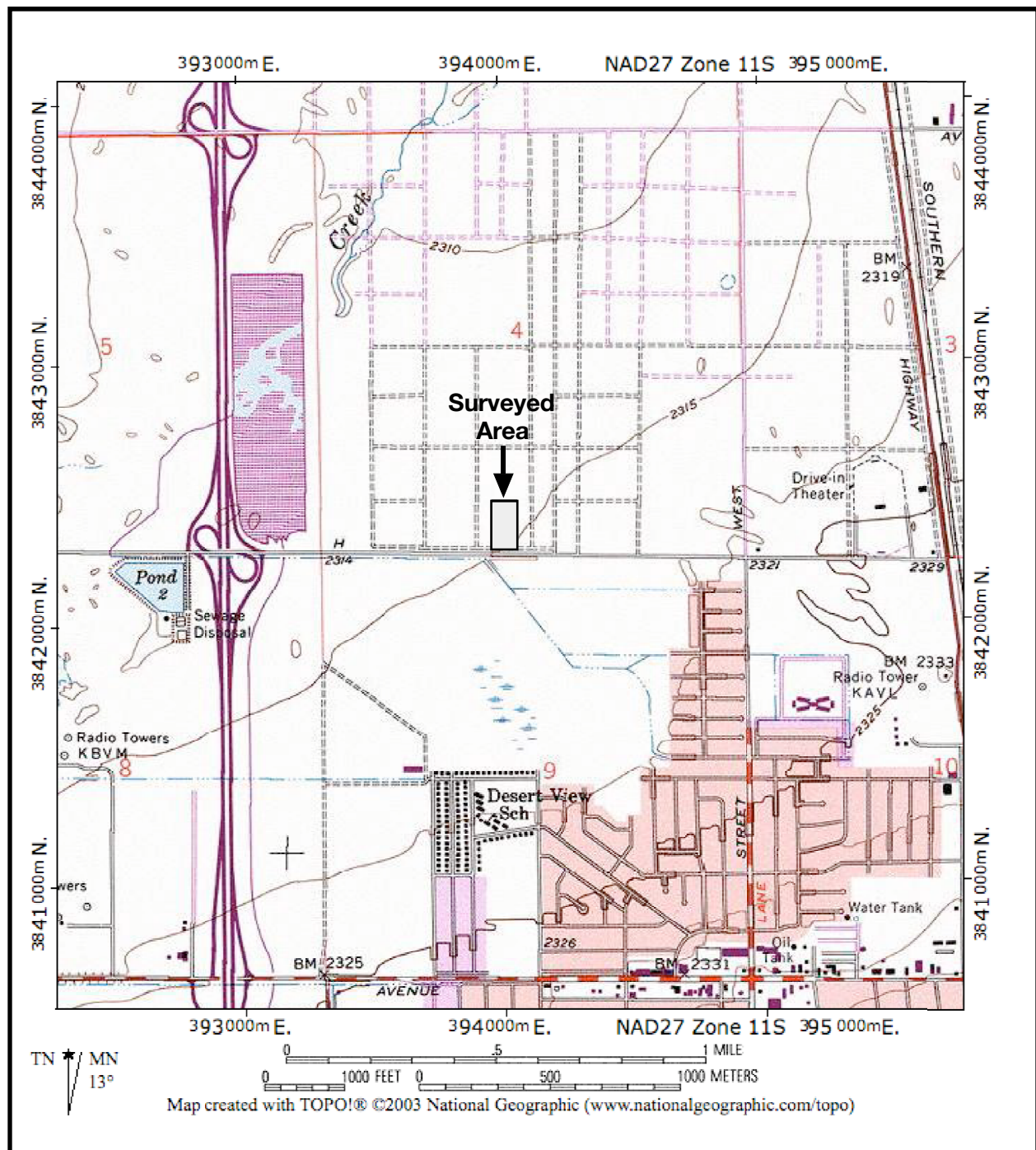


Figure 1. Location Map

A portion of the 1958 (photorevised 1974) edition of the USGS Lancaster West, Calif. 7.5-minute series topographic quadrangle showing the location of the area surveyed for cultural resources (outlined and shaded); APN 3118-006-057, located on the north side of Avenue H near 15th Street West in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

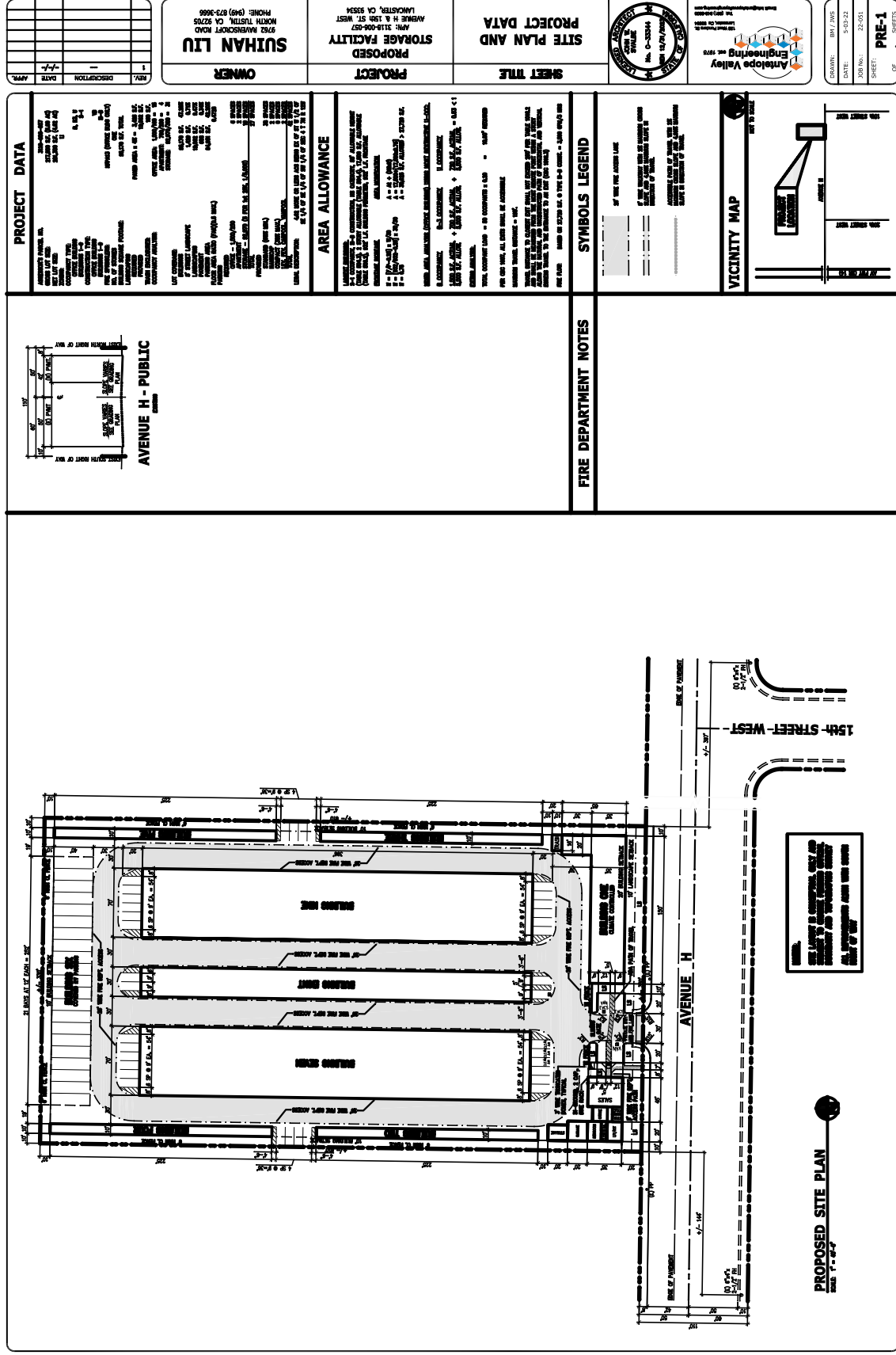


Figure 2. Site Plan

Site Plan Sheet No. PRE-1 for a proposed storage facility on APN 3118-006-057 in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

Appendix A

Statement of Qualifications

Barbie Getchell and John E. Atwood of PAST, INC.

2 pages

BARBIE GETCHELL
PAST, INC.
Principal Investigator / Archaeologist

Ms. Getchell is certified in field research by the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) and meets the current Secretary of the Interior Standards for archaeological research. Barbie received her M.A. in History (archaeological emphasis) from the University of Durham in the UK and her B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is well versed in all aspects of the archaeological evaluation process including prehistory and historic studies. Her experience in the field includes testing, surveys, and monitoring projects in, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, the Tahoe National Forest, and Santa Cruz Island in California as well as projects in Idaho and Nevada. Work experience abroad includes archaeological projects in Belize and the United Kingdom.

TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

- Specializes in developing database applications for archaeological research and non-archaeological applications. Also experienced in the use of computer interfacing Global Positioning Systems (GPS) mapping and Internet web page development and design.
- Extensive technical report writing experience. Report types include: archaeological technical reports (Phase I, II, and III, and monitoring); research designs; cultural resource management plans; EIR/EIS section preparation; and ethnographic, historic, and historic map research.
- Proven leadership and project management skills as a Principal Investigator, Laboratory Director, Contract Supervisor, Field Director, and Database Administrator.
- Extensive experience with computer software such as Microsoft Access, Excel, PowerPoint and Word, WordPerfect for Windows, Corel Draw, as well as many others.

• **EDUCATION**

- Master of Arts Degree, History (archaeological emphasis), University of Durham, UK (1993)
- Bachelor of Arts Degree, Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles (1990)

• **ASSOCIATIONS**

- Register of Professional Archaeologists
-
- Archaeological Institute of America

• **SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE**

Federal Lands

- Numerous field and laboratory projects on Edwards AFB including the Bacon-Darr Adobe, Pancho Barnes' 'Happy Bottom Riding Club', Gen. Henry H. 'Hap' Arnold's 1930s camp, etc.
- Various Cultural Resources Inventories in the Tahoe National Forest

Public Works

- Cultural Resources Monitoring of the Stranwood Ave. to Sepulveda Blvd. Drain project, Los Angeles County, CA
- Cultural Resources Inventory and Impact Assessment for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in Lancaster, CA.
- Test Excavations at Friendship County Park, San Pedro, Los Angeles County, CA.

Commercial / Private Developments

- Archaeological Testing and Mitigation at P-40-001888 on the Serenade Tract in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, CA.
- Weinberg Village portion of the Emma Stern Village at Camp JCA Shalom, Malibu, Los Angeles County, CA.
- Archaeological Testing at P-15-002572, -004424, -004425, and -004426 on TPM No. 10157 in the City of Rosamond, Kern County, CA.
- Data Recovery program at P-19-000129 for the PAZAR Associates and The Home Depot in City of Calabasas, CA.

Studies Abroad

- Rio Brava Project in Belize, Central America.
- Evidence from the Sutton Hoo Cemetery for the Development of Early Anglo-Saxon Kingship in England (M.A. Thesis).

JOHN E. ATWOOD
PAST, INC.
President / Project Archaeologist

Mr. Atwood has been actively participating in archaeological investigations since the early 1980s, where he specializes in project administration and data management. After receiving his B.A. degree in anthropology from California State University, Northridge in 1984, John has spent most his professional career in archaeology with only two cultural resources management firms including being a cofounder of PAST, INC. in 1995. Overall, he has participated in more than 370 archaeological research projects and has prepared more than 340 technical reports. His regional field experience includes surveys, testing, data recovery and monitoring projects in Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties in California as well as performing archival research for studies Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.

TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

- Professional experience includes: client and Lead Agency negotiations; detailed project proposals, budgets, and logistics; contract preparation; hiring of personnel and specialists; field and laboratory supervision; data analysis; report preparation; curation; and payroll and accounting.
- Extensive technical report writing experience (more than 340). Report types include: archaeological technical reports; Section 106 reports; resource management plans; research designs; preparation of EIR/EIS, lithic studies, ethnographic, historic, and archival research sections.
- Specializes in computer applications for archaeological research such as word processing, spreadsheets, mapping, graphics, and photography
- Other experiences include publishing (Knapper's Quarterly, a publication for about the knapper that contains articles about experimental archaeology and profiles of flintknappers); photography; internet site design and webpage development; and webserver operations.

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts Degree, Anthropology, California State University Northridge (1984)

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- Federal Passport in Time (PIT) at Sulphur Springs Campground in the Angeles National Forest, California.
- Class III Study of a 55+ mile Southern California Gas Company Line from Niland to Calexico in Imperial County, California.
- Cultural resources inventory of six proposed ASR-11 sites to serve the R2508 Airspace in the High Desert Area of California that included project areas in Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino counties.
- Cultural resource evaluations for a proposed airport surveillance detection equipment to serve LAX, Los Angeles County, California.
- Archaeological data recovery mitigation and monitoring in Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo County, California.
- Archaeological monitoring of the Weinberg Village portion of the Emma Stern Village at Camp JCA Sholom, Malibu, California.
- Cultural resources inventory of a 67.49-acre property in the community of Lake Isabella, Kern County, California
- Historic surveys of several irrigation waterways in the Boise Valley, Idaho.
- Cultural resource study of the Kern River Valley Specific Plan Area, 110,510 acres, in Kern County, California.
- Multi-phase evaluations in Oceano, CA

Appendix B

South Central Coastal Information Center
Records Search Results for Survey of APN 3118-006-057, Lancaster

Records Search File No.: 24002.10177

3 pages

South Central Coastal Information Center

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

sccic@fullerton.edu

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

9/23/2022

Records Search File No.: 24002.10177

John E. Atwood
PAST, INC.
10848 Aster Rd
Oak Hills, CA 92344

Re: Record Search Results for Survey of APN 3118-006-057, Lancaster

The South Central Coastal Information Center received your records search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Lancaster West, CA USGS 7.5' quadrangle. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, we have implemented new records search protocols, which limits the deliverables available to you at this time. Please see the attached document on COVID-19 Emergency Protocols for what data is available. If your selections on your data request form are in conflict with this document, we reserve the right to send you what we state on the document. You may receive more than you asked for or less than you wanted. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a ¼-mile radius:

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

Archaeological resources within project area: 0	None
Archaeological resources within ¼-mile radius: 0	None
Reports within project area: 1	LA-07991
Reports within ¼-mile radius: 1	LA-07963

Resource Database Printout (list):

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☒ nothing listed

Resource Database Printout (details):

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Digital Database (spreadsheet):

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (list):

☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (details):

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Digital Database (spreadsheet):

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Record Copies:

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☒ nothing listed

Report Copies:

☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

OHP Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) 2019:

☒ available online; please go to

https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30338

Archaeo Determinations of Eligibility 2012:

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments

Historical Maps:

Ethnographic Information:

Historical Literature:

GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:

Caltrans Bridge Survey:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm>

Shipwreck Inventory:

http://shipwrecks.slc.ca.gov/ShipwrecksDatabase/Shipwrecks_Database.asp

Soil Survey Maps: (see below)

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☒ nothing listed

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

☒ not available at SCCIC

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☒ not available at SCCIC; please go to

☒ not available at SCCIC; please go to

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

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

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

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

Thank you for using the [California](#) [Historical](#) [Resources](#) [Information](#) [System](#),

Isabela Kott
Assistant Coordinator, GIS Program Specialist

Appendix C

Native American Heritage Commission

Response Letter and Native American Contact List

3 pages



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

September 12, 2022

John E. Atwood
PAST, INC.

Via Email to: john@past-crm.com

CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
Karuk

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
Apache

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

COMMISSIONER
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
Miwok/Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

Re: Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of APN 3118-006-057, Lancaster Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Atwood:

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.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
9/12/2022**

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Jairo Avila, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer
1019 Second Street, Suite 1 Tataviam
San Fernando, CA, 91340
Phone: (818) 837 - 0794
Fax: (818) 837-0796
jairo.avila@tataviam-nsn.us

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 Serrano
Phone: (951) 755 - 5110
Fax: (951) 755-5177
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Ann Brierty, THPO
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 Serrano
Phone: (951) 755 - 5259
Fax: (951) 572-6004
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman
Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1899 Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (928) 750 - 2516
scottmanfred@yahoo.com

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

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

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Donna Yocum, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838 Kitanemuk
Newhall, CA, 91322 Vanyume
Phone: (503) 539 - 0933 Tataviam
Fax: (503) 574-3308
ddyocum@comcast.net

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Jessica Mauck, Director of Cultural Resources
26569 Community Center Drive Serrano
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 864 - 8933
Jessica.Mauck@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (909) 528 - 9032
serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (253) 370 - 0167
serranonation1@gmail.com

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 Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of APN 3118-006-057, Lancaster Project, Los Angeles County.

Appendix D

Two Photographs Taken During The Field Inspection

—
APN 3118-006-057
—

1 page

Appendix D. Two Photographs Taken During The Field Inspection



Photograph 1. Facing east, this photo shows the condition of the subject property and a scattering of neoteric refuse across the parcel. Avenue H is located adjacent to the utility poles on the right side of the frame with the nearby cellular tower and BYD facility near the center of the frame. Photo taken by John E. Atwood on September 26, 2022.



Photograph 2. Facing northeast, this photo shows the ground surface conditions on the subject property (note: the variety of deposited trash and wind-blown items on the parcel). Photo taken by John E. Atwood on September 26, 2022.