A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY FOR THE VICTOR VALLEY CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION PROCESSING FACILITY PROJECT

CITY OF VICTORVILLE, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

APNs 0472-181-15, -16, -23, and -65

Project Site Location: Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 4 West of the *Victorville, California* USGS Quadrangle Topographic Map

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Archaeological Report Summary Information

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Assessor's Parcel Numbers:	0472-181-15, -16, -23, and -65
USGS Quadrangle:	Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 4 West of the USGS *Victorville, California* (7.5-minute) Quadrangle.
Study Area:	6.88 acres
Key Words:	Archaeological survey program; City of Victorville; 6.88 acres; *Victorville, California* USGS topographic quadrangle; Temp-1 (historic foundations); Temp-2 (historic residence and ancillary structures); no CRHR eligible resources identified; monitoring of grading activities recommended.

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1.0 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

The following report describes the results of the cultural resources survey conducted by BFSA Environmental Services, a Perennial Company (BFSA), for the Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project. The survey included 6.88 acres (Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APNs] 0472-181-15, -16, -23, and -65) located northeast of the intersection of Abbey Lane and East Abbey Lane, within the city of Victorville in western San Bernardino County, California. Further, the project is situated within Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 4 West of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (7.5-minute) *Victorville, California* topographic quadrangle map. As designed, the project proposes to develop an industrial waste processing facility.

BFSA conducted this assessment to locate and record any cultural resources identified within the project site in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and following City of Victorville environmental requirements. A records search was conducted by BFSA at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton (CSU Fullerton). The search did not identify any previously recorded resources within the project site; however, 16 resources are recorded within one-half mile of the subject property. The records search also identified 29 previous studies conducted within one-half mile of the project, one of which overlaps a portion of the subject property (Tang et al. 2010). The previous study did not identify any cultural resources within the subject property and did not address the entirety of the project area. Further, a search of the Sacred Lands Files (SLF) was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to determine if any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance are present within the project site. The SLF search has been returned with positive results for potential sites or locations of Native American importance within the vicinity. The NAHC suggested contacting Chemehuevi Indian Tribe for further information. This additional outreach will be conducted by the lead agency under the official Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Native American consultation process. All correspondence with the NAHC can be found in Appendix D.

1.1 Purpose of Investigation

The purpose of this investigation was to complete background research regarding the cultural resource sensitivity of the project, survey the project site acreage, identify any archaeological resources within the project area, and test and evaluate any cultural resources that may be impacted by the proposed development. The site plan shows the configuration of the proposed development (see Figure 2.0–3).

1.2 Major Findings

The records search for the Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project identified 16 historic and prehistoric sites within a one-half-mile radius of the project, four of which are prehistoric sites documented during grading activities at the construction of the

adjacent Burrtec Waste facility in 1995 (Knell and Becker 1995a, 1995b, 1995c, 1995d). A review of historic aerial imagery and information on-file with the San Bernardino Property Information Management System (PIMS) indicate historic occupation within the property beginning in 1948. The cultural resources survey of the property did not locate any prehistoric resources. However, the survey did identify two historic resources, Temp-1 (historic foundations) and Temp-2 (one residence and two ancillary structures). The review of historical maps, aerial photographs, and San Bernardino PIMS information illustrate that that the Temp-1 foundations correspond with structures built between 1948 and 1953, while the residence and structures that comprise Temp-2 were constructed in 1955. No artifacts were found in association with Temp-1 and Temp-2 and both sites are evaluated as not eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and, therefore, are not considered a Historical Resource under CEQA Criteria.

1.3 Recommendation Summary

Although no site-specific mitigation is required and no prehistoric resources were identified during the survey, the subject property was developed prior to CEQA and the adoption of environmental laws requiring the appropriate identification and handling of cultural resources. This characterization of the property as surficially disturbed is relevant to the consideration of unobserved cultural resources being present within the project. Further, four of the prehistoric sites identified in the records search were documented during grading activities as part of the construction of the adjacent Burrtec Waste facility in 1995 (Knell and Becker 1995a, 1995b, 1995c, 1995d). Therefore, given the project's proximity to the Mojave River and Bell Mountain Wash, the historic occupation of the property, past impacts associated with development, and the current records search results, the property remains sensitive for cultural resources. As the property remains sensitive for cultural resources, archaeological and Native American monitoring of grading is recommended. All notes, photographs, and other materials related to this project will be curated at the archaeological laboratory of BFSA in Poway, California.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

BFSA was retained by the applicant to conduct a cultural resources study of the proposed Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California (Figure 2.0–1). The archaeological survey was conducted in order to comply with CEQA and City of Victorville requirements with regard to development-generated impacts to cultural resources. Sensitivity for cultural resources in a given area is usually indicated by known settlement patterns, which in the western San Bernardino County area are focused around environments with accessible food and water.

The proposed project is located northeast of the intersection of Abbey Lane and East Abbey Lane in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California (Figure 2.0–1). The project area is situated within the northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 4 West of the USGS (7.5-minute) *Victorville, California* topographic quadrangle (Figure 2.0–2). As designed, the project proposes to develop an industrial waste processing facility within the 6.88-acre property (APNs 0472-181-15, -16, -23, and -65) (Figure 2.0–3).

Principal Investigator Tracy A. Stropes, M.A., RPA, directed the cultural resources study for the project. Field Archaeologist David Grabski conducted the pedestrian survey in 10-meter interval transects. The survey conditions were generally good. Kathleen Krogh and Andrew J. Garrison, M.A., RPA, prepared the technical report. Emily T. Soong created the report graphics and Caitlin A.M. Foote conducted technical editing and report production. Qualifications of key personnel are provided in Appendix A.

2.1 Previous Work

An archaeological records search was conducted by BFSA at the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton. The records search did not identify any resources within the project site; however, 16 resources are recorded within one-half mile of the project. The records search also identified 29 previous studies which have been conducted within one-half mile of the project, one of which overlaps a portion of the subject property (Tang et al. 2010). The previous study did not identify any cultural resources within the subject property.



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Figure 2.0–1

General Location Map

The Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project

ESRI Street Map

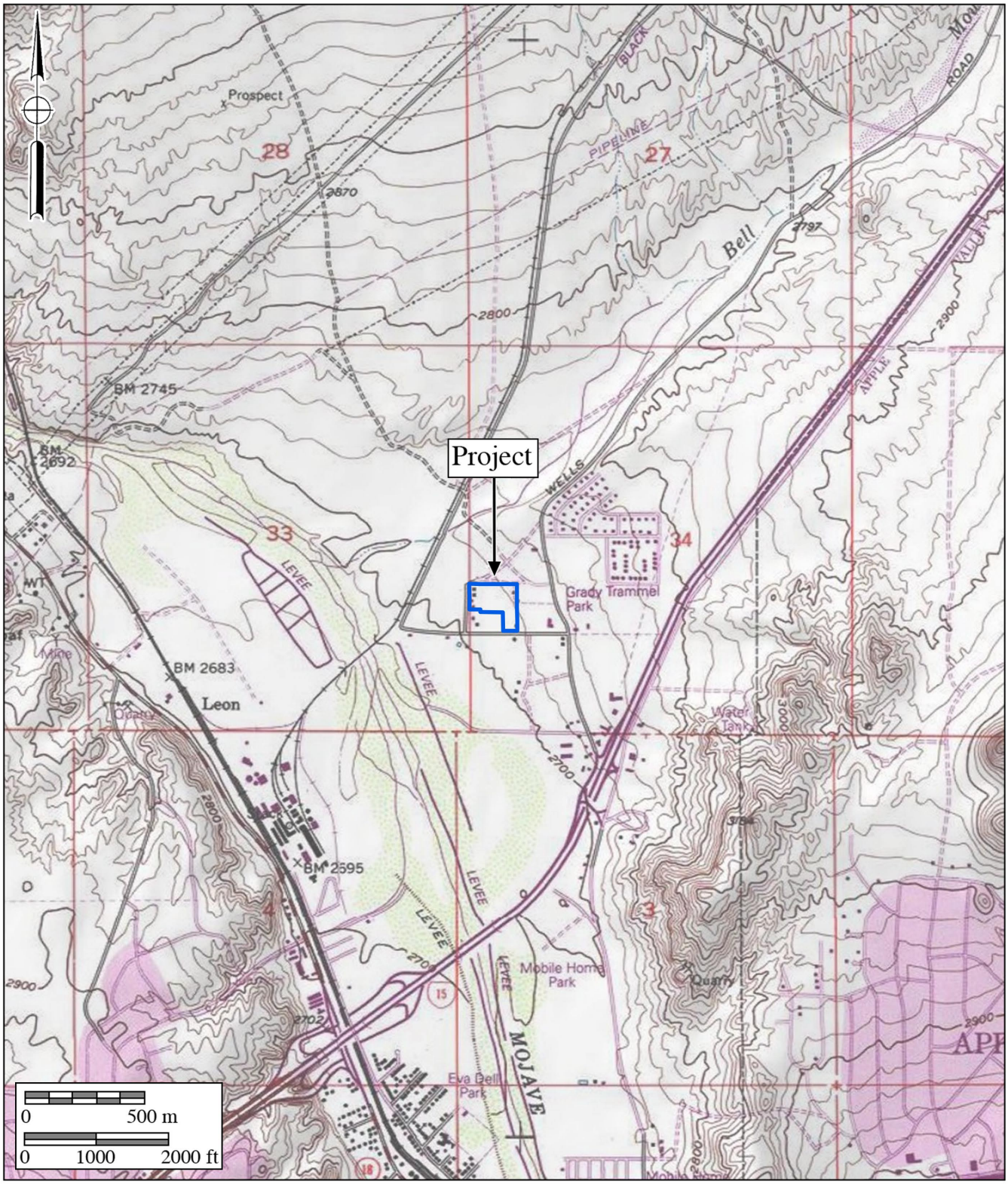


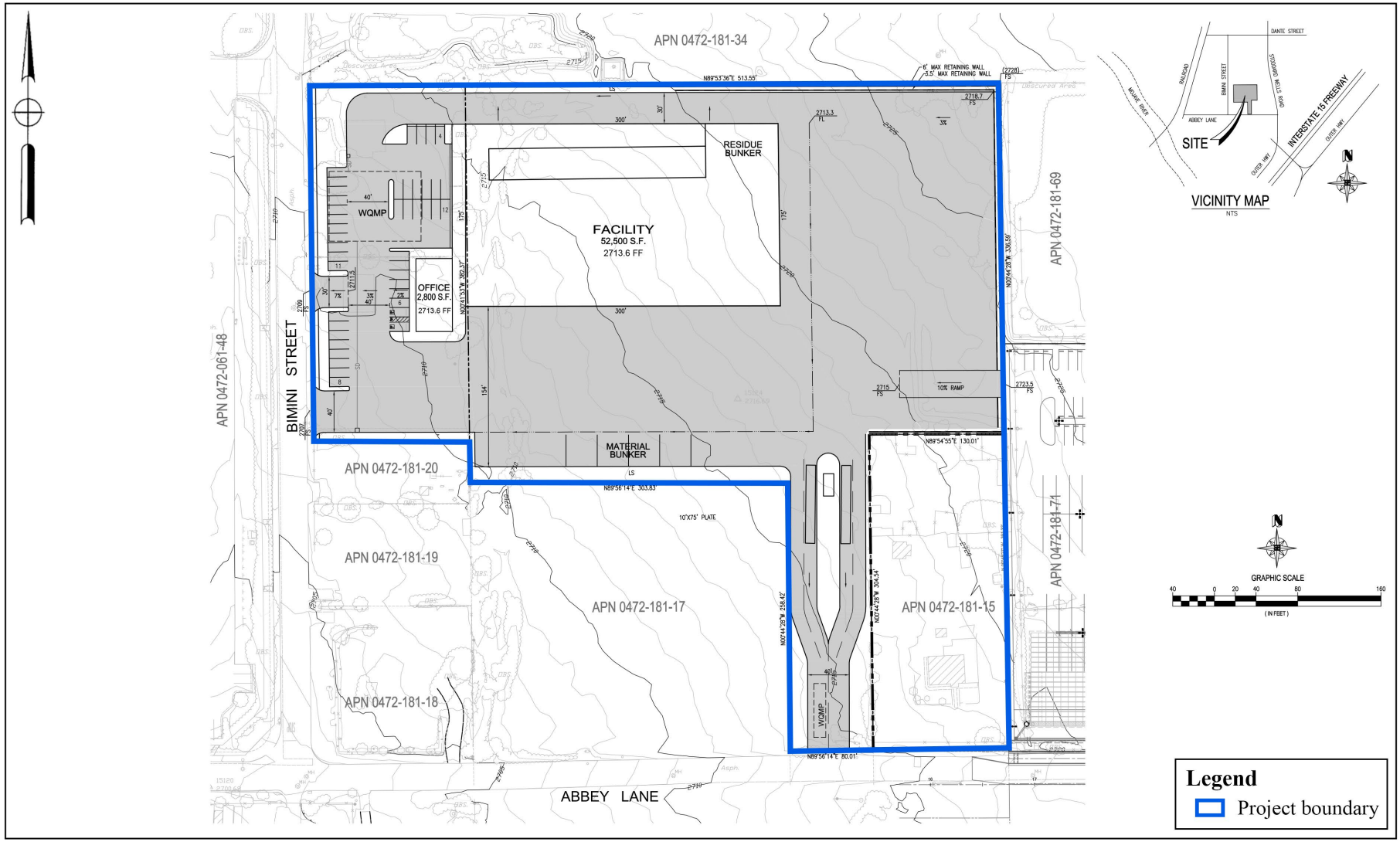
Figure 2.0–2

Project Location Map

The Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project

USGS *Victorville* Quadrangle (7.5-minute series)

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Figure 2.0–3
Site Plan

The Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project

2.2 Project Setting

The subject property is located east of the Peninsular Ranges Geologic Province of southern California. The range, which lies in a northwest-to-southeast trend through the county, extends some 1,000 miles from the Raymond-Malibu Fault Zone in western Los Angeles County to the southern tip of Baja California. The subject property is located north of the San Gabriel Mountain range and the San Bernardino National Forest and south of the Ord Mountain range in the Mojave River drainage basin in the southern portion of the Mojave Desert. The Mojave River is less than one mile to the west of the project area, while Bell Mountain Wash is situated just under 1,000 feet north of the project. Geologically, the project area primarily overlies Holocene modern alluvium of the Mojave River (Hernandez et al. 2008). The specific soils within the project area consist of Cajon-Arizo Complex, 2 to 15 percent slopes (118) (NRCS 2024). The property is generally flat with elevations ranging from approximately 2,717 to 2,732 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Currently, the vegetation on the property consists of creosote bushes, grasses, and several pine trees. The dominant plant species in the vicinity of the project include creosote bush, saltbush, bursage, and Joshua trees.

2.3 Cultural Setting

The subject property straddles the traditional territory of multiple Native American groups including the Serrano and the Vanyume. Although there may be considered a range of cultural variations among these groups, they all have language derived from a base Uto-Aztecan language stock. In the same instance, although they may have held differing worldviews and maintained variations in their social structures, how they exploited the natural resources of their territories remained similar.

Although the Mojave Desert is an area believed to have had limited prehistoric subsistence resources, it has historically supported a long and occasionally dense population. Evidence of villages and camps, burials, quarries, rock features, and bedrock mortars has been documented at archaeological sites across the desert, some of which contain evidence of a lengthy prehistoric time span. Although early archaeological remains are not found frequently, when they are, they are generally located along the margins of former pluvial lakes or in areas of dune deflation. In contrast, artifacts on the desert floor may be sparse, widely scattered, and mixed with the desert pavements. For the region, archaeologists have reached a broad consensus regarding the general cultural chronology. The identified sequence includes the Paleo Indian Period, the Pinto Period, the Gypsum Period, the Saratoga Springs Period, and the Ethnohistoric Period.

2.3.1 Paleo Indian Period (12,000 to 7,000 Years Before the Present [YBP])

The earliest documented evidence of human occupation in the Mojave Desert comes from the Paleo Indian Period, a cultural expression referred to as the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition (WPLT). The WPLT occurred in the western Great Basin and covered an area that stretched from the now arid lands of southern California to Oregon. A cultural adaptation to pluvial conditions

(*e.g.*, lakes, marshes, and grasslands) flourished for thousands of years after approximately 9000 B.C., but disappeared in response to the warming and drying trends of the Altithermal Climatic Period (Moratto 1984). One of the most well-known expressions of the WPLT is the Lake Mojave Complex, which is thought to have covered a vast area including parts of the southwestern Great Basin and the Mojave Desert, maybe reaching as far south as the San Diego area. Artifacts indicative of the Lake Mojave Complex include foliated points and knives, Lake Mojave points, Silver Lake points, and flaked-stone crescents. Similar artifacts have been subsequently recorded along the shoreline of many other pluvial lakes in the Mojave Desert.

2.3.2 Pinto Period (7,000 to 4,000 YBP)

The Pinto Period dates to the end of the Pleistocene, when the severe and dramatic environmental change from pluvial to arid conditions began. Pinto Period sites are found mostly near ephemeral lakes and now dry streams and springs, suggesting a wetter climate than the present. Projectile points associated with the Pinto Period are characterized as larger atlatl dart points, as opposed to arrowhead points, which were introduced later. This period has been described as a highly mobile desert economy, with an emphasis on hunting that was supplemented by the use of processed seeds (Moratto 1984). Pinto Period artifacts have been interpreted as indications of temporary or seasonal occupations by small groups of people.

2.3.3 Gypsum Period (4,000 to 1,500 YBP)

The presence of Humboldt Concave Base, Gypsum Cave, Elko Eared, or Elko corner-notched points are believed to be indicative of the Gypsum Period (radiocarbon dated from 4,000 to 1,500 years ago). The Gypsum Period reflects a more intensive desert occupation. Indications of trade with coastal populations are evidenced by the shell beads in the archaeological record. An increase in milling stones and manos has been found in association with this period, which indicates an increased use of hard seeds (Moratto 1984). Several scholars associate this period with the division of the Uto-Aztecan language, approximately 3,000 to 2,500 years ago. The major language groups that emerged from this division are Numic, spoken by the Kawaiisu and Piute; Takic, spoken by the Kitanemuk, Serrano, Gabrieliño, and other southern California Shoshonean speakers; Hopic, spoken in the southwest; and Tubatulabalic, spoken by the Tubatulabal in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. A shift in settlement patterns toward a more sedentary lifestyle occurred during this period, characterized by the emergence of large permanent or semi-permanent village sites and associated cemeteries.

2.3.4 Saratoga Springs Period (1,500 to 800 YBP)

The Saratoga Springs Period is characterized by a transition from larger dart points to smaller arrow points. This, combined with evidence from rock art motifs, leads scholars to argue for a shift from atlatls to the use of the bow and arrow either during the end of the Gypsum Period or the beginning of the Saratoga Springs Period. This period saw an increase in trade with Arizona

and other areas of the Southwest. Evidence in the archaeological record shows that Brown and Buff wares (pottery styles) characteristic of Arizona made their way to the California desert by A.D. 900. It is also believed that the Anasazi mined turquoise in the eastern California desert about this time.

2.3.5 Ethnohistoric Period (800 YPB to the Time of European Contact)

During the Ethnohistoric Period, the Vanyume and potentially the Serrano occupied the project area. The territory of the Vanyume was covered by small and relatively sparse populations focused primarily along the Mojave River, north of the Serrano and southeast of the Kawaiisu. It is believed that the southwestern extent of their territory went as far as Cajon Pass and portions of Hesperia. Bean and Smith (1978) noted that it was uncertain if the Vanyume spoke a dialect of Serrano or a separate Takic-based language. However, King and Blackburn (1978) suggest that the Vanyume and other Kitanemuk speakers once occupied most of Antelope Valley. In contrast to the Serrano, the Vanyume maintained friendly social relations with the Mohave and Chemehuevi to the east and northeast (Kroeber 1925). As with the majority of California native populations, Vanyume populations were decimated around the 1820s by placement in Spanish missions and asistencias. It is believed that by 1900, the Vanyume had become extinct (Bean and Smith 1978). However, given the settlement patterns reported for the Vanyume, it is more probable that the population was dispersed rather than completely wiped out.

The Serrano and Vanyume were primarily hunters and gatherers. Individual family dwellings were likely circular, domed structures. Vegetal staples varied with locality; acorns and piñon nuts were found in the foothills, and mesquite, yucca roots, cacti fruits, and piñon nuts were found in or near the desert regions. Diets were supplemented with other roots, bulbs, shoots, and seeds (Heizer 1978). Deer, mountain sheep, antelopes, rabbits, and other small rodents were among the principal food packages. Various game birds, especially quail, were also hunted. The bow and arrow were used for large game, while smaller game and birds were killed with curved throwing sticks, traps, and snares. Occasionally, game was hunted communally, often during mourning ceremonies (Benedict 1924; Drucker 1937; Heizer 1978). In general, manufactured goods included baskets, some pottery, rabbit-skin blankets, awls, arrow straighteners, sinew-backed bows, arrows, fire drills, stone pipes, musical instruments (rattles, rasps, whistles, bull-roarers, and flutes), feathered costumes, mats, bags, storage pouches, and nets (Heizer 1978). Food acquisition and processing required the manufacture of additional items such as knives, stone or bone scrapers, pottery trays and bowls, bone or horn spoons, and stirrers. Mortars, made of either stone or wood, and metates were also manufactured (Strong 1929; Drucker 1937; Benedict 1924).

2.3.6 Historic Period

Prior to the European presence in North America, Native American groups subsisted along the shores of the no longer extant lakes of the Great Basin region that covered the major portion of the present-day Mojave Desert. It was along these shores that Native Americans made their

homes, produced their tools, and left an indelible mark upon the landscape. However, by the time the first Spanish explorers ventured into what is now southern California in 1769, the pluvial lakes had long since vanished, leaving the Mojave River to support primarily the Paiute and the Mohave tribes.

The earliest documentation of any movement through the region is from the journal of a Spanish Franciscan priest, Francisco Garces (Kyle 1990). Garces was in search of a passable immigration route from what is now southern Arizona to the northern Spanish missions of what is now California. This, he thought, would allow an easier route for trade between the missions located in present-day New Mexico and present-day California. It is believed that in 1776, Garces passed what would later become Barstow, California.

Up until the 1850s, the majority of traffic through the region took place along the "Old Spanish Trail," which forked northward from Mojave Road, located a few miles east of present-day Barstow (Steele 1975). These early travelers were not likely organized groups, and more often than not, were raiders, mission escapees, slave traders, fur trappers, soldiers, explorers, stockmen, merchants, guides, gold prospectors, and immigrants.

By the early 1860s, many early pioneers began settling along the Mojave River, deriving their income from the road traffic that was now more common in the region. This, in turn, led to the development of way stations that held emergency supplies for travelers, with their most lucrative trade being liquor. It was around this same time that settlers also began agricultural and stock-raising ventures. Despite the early forays into gold mining that began as early as the 1850s, large-scale local developments did not begin until nearly 1881. This was likely a result of the harsh nature of the region, which forced costly freight charges and had crude mineral recovery methods, a scarcity of water, and an overall lack of local subsistence.

It was not until the discovery of silver in Calico and the construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad from Mojave to Daggett in 1882 that the region became a mining center. This gave rise to the now famous 20-mule teams. 10 teams were hitched together with two wagons and a water wagon to haul ore from Daggett to the town of Calico. It would follow that rich silver deposits gave birth to Calico Mines, Waterman Mines, and Daggett Mills (Kyle 1990). These ventures were then bolstered by the non-metallic mining industry, which still represents a significant portion of the desert's commercial industry today.

In 1853, Congress authorized exploration and surveys to determine the most economical route for a rail line from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean (Kyle 1990). Southern Pacific Railroad constructed the desert section of the rail line. The route was completed from Mojave to Needles in 1882 to 1883. Ore was hauled on the Calico Railroad from Calico to the Oro Grande Milling Company, which was across the river from Daggett, around 1888. It was at this same time that the Santa Fe Railroad arrived in the region. In 1886, the California Southern Railroad (a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company) completed the line from National City in San Diego County through Cajon Pass, joining the transcontinental line.

That same year, the plan of the town of Victor was prepared. Named for California Southern Railroad construction superintendent Jacob Nash Victor, the town was established after the construction of the original railroad station located approximately one mile northwest of the narrows of the Mojave River. The plan for the town of Victor included a grid-patterned original subdivision map of approximately 200 acres that would encompass properties between A and G streets and First through Eleventh streets. In 1901, the name of the town was changed from Victor to Victorville, due to confusion by the United States Post Office with Victor, Colorado (City of Victorville 2015).

Due to the presence of rich soils and an abundance of water from the Mojave River, the town of Victor began to develop agriculturally soon after it was established in the 1880s. This focus was short-lived, however, as in the 1890s, limestone and granite were discovered in Victor Valley. This discovery led to the town shifting its attentions toward the cement manufacturing industry, with the Southwestern Portland Cement Company beginning operations in the town in 1916 (City of Victorville 2015).

Utilizing the existing National Old Trails Highway system, U.S. Route 66 was designated. Although the National Old Trails Highway originally cut through the town of Hesperia, the route was realigned in 1924 to pass through Victorville. The intersection of Seventh Street and D Street in downtown Victorville became a major transportation corridor after the designation (City of Victorville 2015).

As Victorville grew, the United States government became interested in utilizing the lands surrounding the town. The United States Army Corps of Engineers began construction of the Victorville Army Flight Training School in 1941, completing construction in 1942. A total of 10,000 men were stationed at the school when it opened. Following World War II, however, the airfield saw less use until the facility was reactivated in 1950 due to training needs associated with the Korean War. Upon reopening, the facility was renamed George Air Force Base after Brigadier General Harold H. George who was killed in a ground accident on a United States base in Australia in 1942. The base was closed in 1992 and has been converted for civilian use as the Southern California Logistics Airport (City of Victorville 2015).

The town of Victorville was incorporated as a general law city in 1962, its city limits encompassing approximately 10 square miles. In 2007, the city comprised approximately 74 square miles (City of Victorville 2015).

2.4 Research Goals

The primary goal of the research design is to attempt to understand the way in which humans have used the land and resources within the project area through time, as well as to aid in the determination of resource significance. For the current project, the study area under investigation is the western portion of San Bernardino County. The scope of work for the archaeological program conducted for the Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project included the survey of 6.88 acres. Given the area involved and the narrow focus

of the cultural resources study, the research design for this project was necessarily limited and general in nature. Since the main objective of the investigation was to identify the presence of, significance of, and potential impacts to cultural resources, the goal here is not necessarily to answer wide-reaching theories regarding the development of early Southern California, but to investigate the role and importance of the identified resources. Nevertheless, the assessment of the significance of a resource must take into consideration a variety of characteristics, as well as the ability of the resource to address regional research topics and issues.

Although initial site evaluation investigations are limited in terms of the amount of information available, several specific research questions were developed that could be used to guide the initial investigations of any observed cultural resources. The basic research effort employed is focused upon gathering sufficient data to determine the boundaries of each resource, the depth, stratigraphy, and contents of any subsurface deposits, and the overall integrity of the site. Testing and recordation of the contents of the site would provide the basis to complete an analysis of spatial relationships of artifacts, features, and natural resources. Ultimately, this information forms the foundation to determine the cultural affiliation of the site, the period of occupation, site function, and potential to address more focused research questions. The following research questions take into account the small size and location of the project area discussed above.

Research Questions:

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

Data Needs

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

1) To identify cultural resources occurring within the project area;
2) To determine, if possible, site type and function, context of the deposit, and

chronological placement of each cultural resource identified;

3) To place each cultural resource identified within a regional perspective; and
4) To provide recommendations for the treatment of each of the cultural resources identified.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological program for the Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project consisted of an institutional records search, an intensive pedestrian survey of the 6.88-acre project site, and preparation of a technical study. This archaeological study conformed to professional standards in support of City of Victorville requirements. Statutory requirements of CEQA and subsequent legislation (Section 15064.5) were followed in evaluating the significance of cultural resources. Specific definitions for archaeological resource type(s) used in this report are those established by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO 1995).

3.1 Archaeological Records Search

An archaeological records search for the project site and the surrounding area within a one-half-mile radius was conducted by BFSA at the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton. Land patent records, held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and accessible through the BLM General Land Office (GLO) website, were also reviewed for pertinent project information. In addition, the BFSA research library was consulted for any relevant historical information.

3.2 Field Methodology

In accordance with CEQA review criteria and the policies of the City of Victorville, an intensive pedestrian survey of the project site was conducted that employed a series of parallel survey transects spaced at 10-meter intervals to locate archaeological sites within the project area. The archaeological survey of the project area was conducted on June 27, 2024. The entire project area was covered by the survey process, and photographs were taken to document the subject area's conditions during the survey (see Section 4.2). Ground visibility throughout the property was considered moderate to good.

3.3 Report Preparation and Recordation

This report contains information regarding previous studies, statutory requirements for the project, a brief description of the setting, research methods employed, and the overall results of the survey. The report includes all appropriate illustrations and tabular information needed to make a complete and comprehensive presentation of these activities, including the methodologies employed and the personnel involved. A copy of this report will be placed at the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton. Any newly recorded sites or sites requiring updated information will be recorded on the appropriate Department of Parks and Recreation site forms, which will be filed with the SCCIC (Appendix B).

3.4 Native American Consultation

BFSA also requested a SLF search from the NAHC to search for the presence of any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance within

one mile of the project area. This request is not part of any AB 52 Native American consultation. The results of the SLF are discussed in Section 4.1. All correspondence can be found in Appendix D.

3.5 Applicable Regulations

Resource importance is assigned to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the city of Victorville in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. A number of criteria are used in demonstrating resource importance. Specifically, criteria outlined in CEQA provide the guidance for making such a determination. The following sections detail the CEQA criteria that a resource must meet in order to be determined important.

3.5.1 California Environmental Quality Act

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

1) A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing in, the CRHR (PRC SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR [California Code of Regulations]. Section 4850 et seq.).
2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
3) Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript, which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR (PRC SS5024.1, Title 14, Section 4852) including the following:

    a) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
    b) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
    c) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or

d) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

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

1) Substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired.
2) The significance of an historical resource is materially impaired when a project:

   a) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the CRHR; or
   b) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or its identification in an historical resources survey, meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or,
   c) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

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

1) When a project will impact an archaeological site, a lead agency shall first determine

whether the site is an historical resource, as defined in subsection (a).

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

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

(d) When an initial study identifies the existence of, or the probable likelihood, of Native American human remains within the project, a lead agency shall work with the appropriate Native Americans as identified by the NAHC as provided in PRC SS5097.98. The applicant may develop an agreement for treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any items associated with Native American burials with the appropriate Native Americans as identified by the NAHC. Action implementing such an agreement is exempt from:

    1) The general prohibition on disinterring, disturbing, or removing human remains from any location other than a dedicated cemetery (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5).
    2) The requirement of CEQA and the Coastal Act.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Records Search Results

An archaeological records search for the project site and the surrounding area within a one-half-mile radius was conducted by BFSA at the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton (Appendix C). The search results identified 16 cultural resource sites within the search radius, none of which are located within the project boundaries. Of the 16 cultural resource sites, eight are prehistoric and eight are historic. The previously recorded prehistoric resources include two isolates and six sites containing hearths, three of which also contained associated prehistoric artifacts. The previously recorded historic resources include three historic trash scatters, three historic trails/roads, a former wastewater treatment facility, and one historic isolate. A brief description of the previously recorded resources is presented within Table 4.1–1.

Table 4.1–1
Cultural Resources Recorded Within One-Half Mile of the Project Site

Site	Description
SBR-4272H	Historic Old Spanish Trail and historic trash scatter
SBR-6304; SBR-7036; and SBR-7037	Prehistoric hearth
SBR-6314; SBR-8250; and SBR-8251	Prehistoric hearth features with associated artifacts
SBR-6320H	Historic wastewater treatment facility
SBR-6323H; SBR-6326H; and SBR-8194H	Historic trash scatter
SBR-9360H	Historic Stoddard Wells Road
SBR-12357H	Historic Old Arrowhead Trail/Interstate 15
P-36-061295	Historic isolate
P-36-061296 and P-36-061297	Prehistoric lithic isolate

The records search also identified 29 previous studies within one-half-mile of the project, one of which overlaps a small portion of the subject property (Tang et al. 2010). The Tang et al. study conducted in 2010 included an archaeological field survey and records search for the proposed wastewater treatment facility development overlapping the southwestern and southeastern corners of the current project area. The Tang et al. (2010) report did not identify any cultural resources within the current project.

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

- The National Register of Historic Places index

- Historic USGS data
- BLM GLO records
- Historic aerial photographs (1929 through 2023)
- 1956 *Victorville, California* (7.5-minute) USGS topographic map
- 1956 *Victorville, California* (15-minute) USGS topographic map

Aerial photographs demonstrate that in 1929, the subject property was completely undeveloped and consisted of vacant desert terrain. By 1952, one residence is visible in the northwest corner of the property and one residence is visible in the northeast corner of the property, while the southeastern portion of the proposed project is cleared of vegetation. On the subsequent aerial image from 1953, additional structures are visible in the northwest and northeast corners of the property, which are connected by a dirt road. By 1959, residences, ancillary structures, and associated landscaping are evident in the northwest, northeast, and southeast corners of the property. Aerial photographs show additional ancillary structures were added to the northwest corner of the property, facing East Abby Lane, by 1968, while the residence and associated ancillary structures in the northeast corner are no longer visible in the photograph from 1969. Subsequent aerial imagery appears to illustrate the continued addition and removal of ancillary structures within the northwest and southeast corners of the property. By 2018, the property only contained two residences and two associated ancillary structures in the northwest corner of the property (APNs 0472-181-23 and -65) and one residence with associated ancillary structures in the southeast corner (APN 0472-181-15). However, by 2020, only the residential property in the southeast corner remained as the structures in the northwest corner had been demolished. Current aerial photographs only depict the APN 0472-181-15 residence and associated ancillary structures with an address of 16992 Abbey Lane. A review of the San Bernadino County PIMS indicates that the 16992 Abbey Lane residence was constructed in 1955.

BFSA also requested a SLF search from the NAHC. This request is not part of any AB 52 Native American consultation. The SLF search has been returned with positive results for potential sites or locations of Native American importance within the project vicinity. The NAHC suggested contacting the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe for further information. This additional outreach will be conducted by the lead agency under the official AB 52 Native American consultation process. All correspondence is provided in Appendix D.

Based on the records search results, the subject property is sensitive for both historic and prehistoric cultural resources. Aerial photographs illustrate that occupation within the subject property began as early as 1952, and both historic and prehistoric resources have been identified within one-half mile of the project. A review of the site forms for the recorded prehistoric resources indicates that all the resources were identified subsurface. Sites SBR-6304, SBR-6314, and SBR-7307 were identified within the eroded sidewalls of either the Mojave River or Bell Mountain Wash. Further, Site SBR-7306 was identified during backhoe trenching, while sites SBR-8250 and SBR-8251 and isolates P-36-061296 and P-36-061297 were located in 1995 during

archaeological monitoring of the adjacent Burrtec Waste facility at 17000 Abbey Lane (Knell and Becker 1995a, 1995b, 1995c, 1995d)

4.2 Results of the Field Survey

The archaeological survey of the project site was conducted by field archaeologist David Grabski on June 27, 2024. All elements of the survey were directed by Principal Investigator Tracy A. Stropes. The archaeological survey of the project site was an intensive reconnaissance consisting of a series of parallel survey transects spaced at approximately 10-meter intervals. The survey included a careful inspection of all exposed ground surfaces, including any rodent burrows and disturbed areas. Overall, visibility was characterized as moderate with some obscurement by modern refuse throughout the property, a large spoils pile in the northeastern portion of the project area, and the current occupation of the southeast corner (16992 Abbey Lane). Vegetation primarily consisted of creosote bushes, grasses, and several pine trees found throughout the subject property.

The majority of the property was accessible during the survey with the exception of the southeast corner which contains the 16992 Abbey Lane residence, multiple ancillary structures, animal corrals, stored vehicles, and other equipment. However, an inspection of the yard surrounding the residence was performed. Further, the northwest portion of the property is currently being utilized for the storage of trash containers and is partially obscured by four remnant concrete pad foundations. Overviews of the project site are provided in Plates 4.2–1 through 4.2–4.

The survey confirmed that the subject property has been subjected to partial development and clearing. The survey did not result in the identification of any prehistoric cultural resources within the project area. However, based upon the historic aerial photograph review and records search information, it appears the four remnant concrete slab foundations in the northwest corner of the project, the 16992 Abbey Lane residence in the southeast corner of the project, and two of the associated ancillary structures are older than 50 years in age and eligible for evaluation for the CRHR. The four concrete slab foundations in the northwest corner of the project were designated in the field as Temp-1, and the existing residence and two ancillary structures in the southeast corner of the project (16992 Abbey Lane) were designated as Temp-2 (Figure 4.2–1 and Plate 4.2–5). No historic artifacts were identified in association with Temp-1 or Temp-2.



Plate 4.2–1: Overview of the project from the northwest corner, facing southwest.



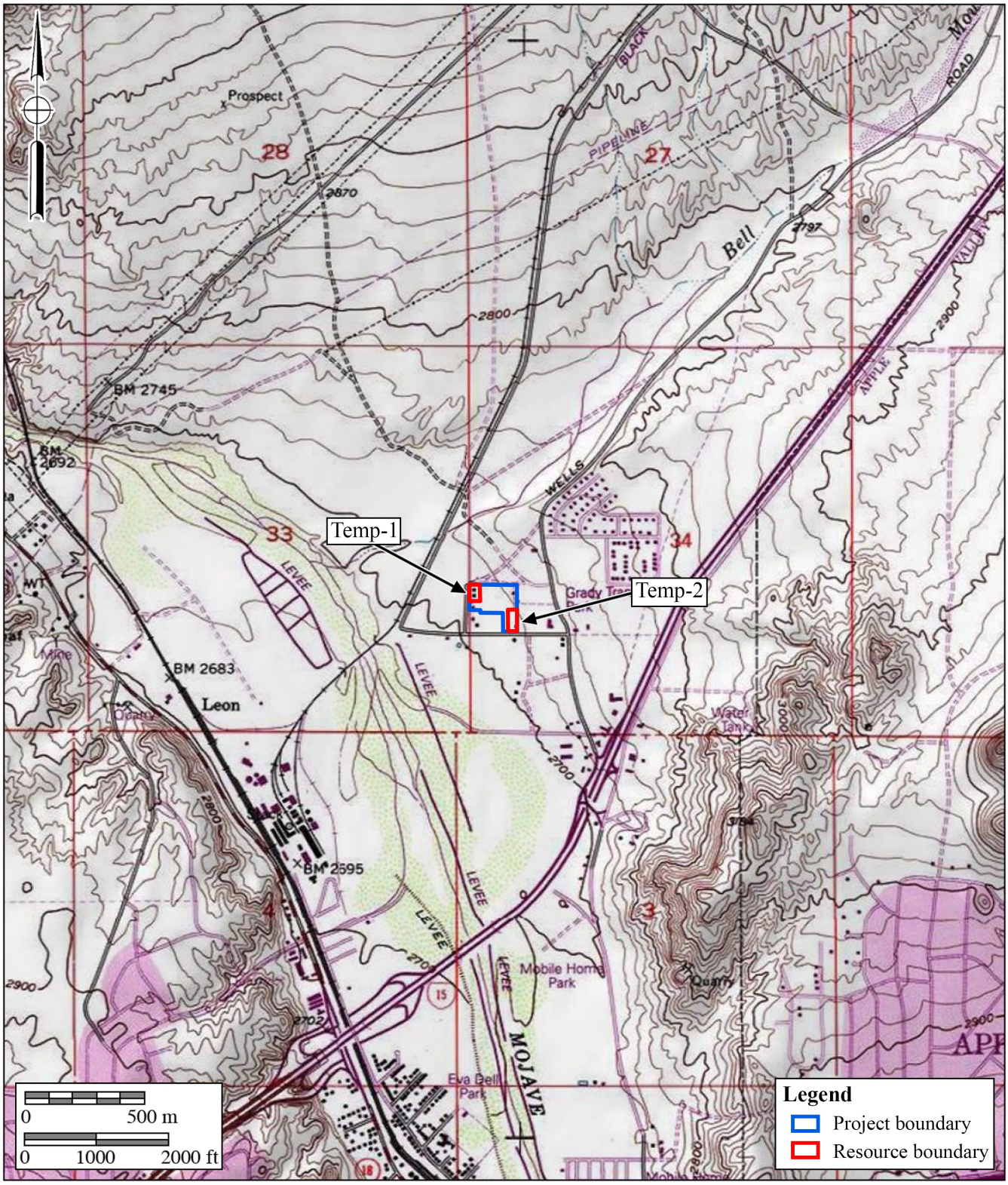
Plate 4.2–2: Overview of the project from the southwest corner, facing south.



Plate 4.2–3: Overview of the project from the northeast corner, facing southwest.



Plate 4.2–4: Overview of the project from the southeast corner, facing north.



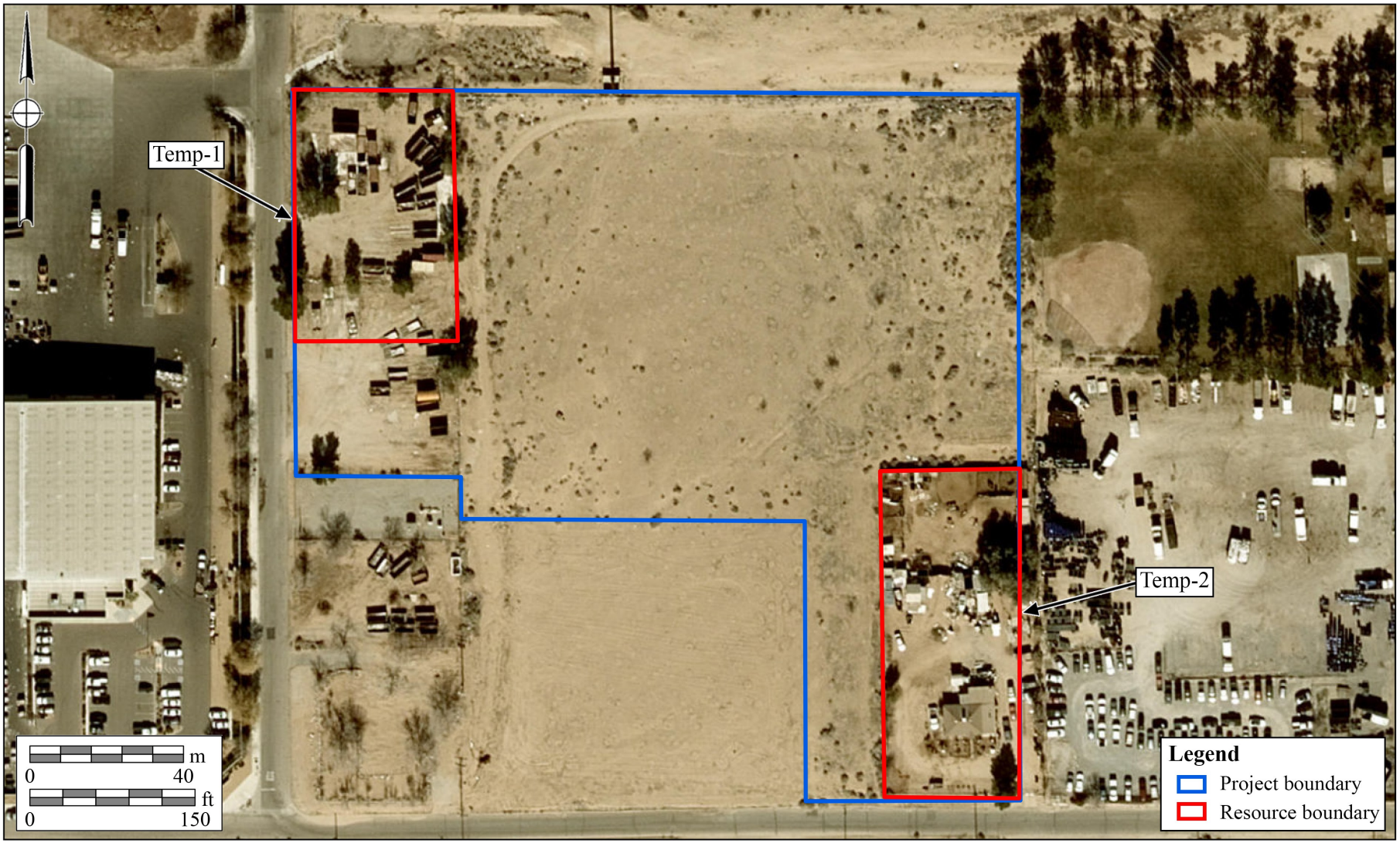
BFSA Environmental Services
A Perennial Company

Figure 4.2–1

Cultural Resource Location Map

The Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project

USGS *Victorville* Quadrangle (7.5-minute series)



BFSA Environmental Services
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Plate 4.2–5

Cultural Resources Shown on the Current Aerial Photograph

The Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project

4.2.1 Temp-1

Site Temp-1 consists of four concrete slab foundations located within the northwest portion of the property. The foundations appear to be associated with the mid- to late-twentieth century residential occupation of APNs 0472-181-23 and -65 (Plates 4.2–6 through 4.2–9). Collectively, Site Temp-1 measures approximately 235 by 150 feet (see Figure 4.2–1). Each individual concrete slab foundation was designated as a feature. Feature 1, situated in the northwest corner of the project, measures approximately 35 by 35 feet. Feature 2, situated east of Feature 1, measures approximately 15 by 50 feet. Feature 3, located south of features 1 and 2, measures approximately 20 by eight feet. Features 1, 2, and 3 appear to reflect the location of a residence and ancillary structures first visible within APN 0472-181-23 on the 1952 aerial photograph, while the San Bernardino PIMS lists a construction date of 1948 for the residence. A review of the San Bernardino PIMS identified the address of this property as 17187 Abbey Lane.

Feature 4 is located within APN 0472-181-65 and measures approximately 30 by 25 feet. A review of the San Bernardino PIMS identified the address of this property as 17173 Abbey Lane and lists the construction date of the residence likely associated with Feature 4 as 1952. Although a building is depicted in this general location on the 1953 aerial photograph, it is not clearly visible until the 1959 aerial photograph.

A review of the individuals listed as owners of the 17173 and 17187 Abbey Lane properties from the San Bernardino PIMS and a historic newspaper search of the neighborhood did not identify any information linking the foundations associated with Site Temp-1 to any significant individuals or events. The foundations are common cement slabs and are unlikely to yield any important information regarding the historic development of the area. Further, given that all structures associated with the foundations have been removed, Site Temp-1 does not possess integrity and, therefore, is not eligible for the CRHR.



Plate 4.2–6: Overview of Feature 1 (Temp-1), concrete slab foundation, facing northeast.



Plate 4.2–7: Overview of Feature 2 (Temp-1), concrete slab foundation, facing southeast.



Plate 4.2–8: Overview of Feature 3 (Temp-1), concrete slab foundation, facing northeast.



Plate 4.2–9: Overview of Feature 4 (Temp-1), concrete slab foundation, facing northwest.

4.2.2 Temp-2

Site Temp-2 consists of a currently occupied residence (16992 Abbey Lane) in the southeastern portion of the property. Along with the residence, two of the ancillary structures identified at the address appear to be older than 50 years in age and were documented and evaluated. Collectively, Site Temp-2 measures approximately 310 by 125 feet (see Figure 4.2–1 and Plate 4.2–5). The residence is primarily a stucco-clad, hipped-roof, minimal traditional home with a board-and-batten addition located on the east and north façades (Plates 4.2–10 through 4.2–12). The two ancillary structures, which appear older than 50 years in age, consist of a front-gabled garage or barn, clad in wood shingles (Plates 4.2–13 and 4.2–14) and a stucco-clad, shed-style roof storage building (see Plates 4.2–11 and 4.2–12).

The 16992 Abbey Lane residence was constructed in 1955. A review of individuals listed as owners of the property from San Bernardino PIMS, and a historic newspaper search of the address, did not identify any information linking the property to significant individuals or events. The property is primarily linked to Ernst O. Osborn, who was likely the first owner of the residence. The only information of note relating to Osborn is a 1962 newspaper article which documents his request to establish an auto wrecking yard on the property (*Daily Press* 1962). Further, in 1970, Osborn's wife, Lois Osborn, was also mentioned as part of a group of Abbey Lane neighborhood residences who objected to E.L. Yeager Construction Co.'s proposed developments in the area (*San Bernardino County Sun* 1970). The 16992 Abbey Lane residence has been impacted by the addition to the east and north façades and none of the ancillary structures associated with Site Temp-2 embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values. The buildings are unlikely to yield any important information regarding the historic development of the area and do not possess integrity. As such, Site Temp-2 is not eligible for the CRHR.



Plate 4.2–10: South façade of the 16992 Abbey Lane residence (Temp-2), showing the addition to the east façade (right), facing north.



Plate 4.2–11: West façade of the 16992 Abbey Lane residence and the storage building (left) (Temp-2), facing northeast.



Plate 4.2–12: North façade of the 16992 Abbey Lane residence (right) and the storage building (center) (Temp-2), facing southeast.



Plate 4.2–13: South and west façades of the ancillary garage or barn structure (Temp-2), facing northeast.



Plate 4.2–14: West and north façades of the ancillary garage or barn structure (Temp-2), facing east.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The records search for the Victor Valley Construction and Demolition Processing Facility Project identified 16 historic and prehistoric sites within a one-half-mile radius of the project. The cultural resources survey did not identify any prehistoric resources within the project site; however, two historic resources, Temp-1 (historic foundations) and Temp-2 (one residence and two ancillary structures), were identified. A review of historical maps, aerial photographs, and the San Bernardino PIMS illustrate that that the Site Temp-1 foundations correspond with structures built between 1948 and 1953, while the still-standing residence and ancillary structures at Site Temp-2 were constructed in 1955. No artifacts were found in association with sites Temp-1 and Temp-2. Both sites are evaluated as not eligible for the CRHR and, therefore, are not considered a Historical Resource under CEQA Criteria. As such, no site-specific mitigation is required for removal of sites Temp-1 and Temp-2.

Although no site-specific mitigation is required and no prehistoric resources were identified during the survey, the subject property was developed prior to CEQA and the adoption of modern environmental laws requiring the appropriate identification and handling of cultural resources. This characterization of the property as surficially disturbed is relevant to the consideration of unobserved cultural resources being present within the project. When parcels are cleared, disced, or otherwise disturbed, evidence of surface artifact scatters is lost. Regardless of whether cultural resources have ever existed within this property, the current state of the project area appears to have affected the potential to discover any surface scatters of artifacts. Further, four of the prehistoric sites identified in the records search were documented during grading activities at the construction of the adjacent Burrtec Waste facility in 1995 (Knell and Becker 1995a, 1995b, 1995c, 1995d). Therefore, given the project's proximity to the Mojave River and Bell Mountain Wash, coupled the historic occupation of the property, past impacts associated with development, and records search results, the property remains sensitive for cultural resources and archaeological and Native American monitoring of grading is recommended.

6.0 CERTIFICATION

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

Andrew J Garrison — August 14, 2024

Andrew J. Garrison
Project Archaeologist

Date

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APPENDIX A

Qualifications of Key Personnel

Andrew J. Garrison, M.A., RPA

Project Archaeologist

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

Education

Master of Arts, Public History, University of California, Riverside **2009**

Bachelor of Science, Anthropology, University of California, Riverside **2005**

Bachelor of Arts, History, University of California, Riverside **2005**

Professional Memberships

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

Experience

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

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

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

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

Preservation Researcher **2009**
City of Riverside Modernism Survey **Riverside, California**

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

Information Officer **2005, 2008–2009**
Eastern Information Center (EIC), University of California, Riverside **Riverside, California**

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

Reports/Papers

2019 A Class III Archaeological Study for the Tuscany Valley (TM 33725) Project National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance, Lake Elsinore, Riverside County, California. Contributing author. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 A Phase I and II Cultural Resources Assessment for the Jack Rabbit Trail Logistics Center Project, City of Beaumont, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the 10575 Foothill Boulevard Project, Rancho Cucamonga, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 Cultural Resources Study for the County Road and East End Avenue Project, City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 Phase II Cultural Resource Study for the McElwain Project, City of Murrieta, California. Contributing author. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 A Section 106 (NHPA) Historic Resources Study for the McElwain Project, City of Murrieta, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2018 Cultural Resource Monitoring Report for the Sewer Group 818 Project, City of San Diego. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2018 Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for the Stone Residence Project, 1525 Buckingham Drive, La Jolla, California 92037. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2018 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Seaton Commerce Center Project, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2017 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Marbella Villa Project, City of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

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2016 Historic Resource Assessment for 220 South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 Assessor's Parcel Number 041-064-4. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. Submitted to the City of Orange as part of Mills Act application.

2015 Historic Resource Report: 807-813 Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. On file at the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.

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2014 Archaeological Monitoring Results: The New Los Angeles Federal Courthouse. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. On file at the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.

2012 Bolsa Chica Archaeological Project Volume 7, Technological Analysis of Stone Tools, Lithic Technology at Bolsa Chica: Reduction Maintenance and Experimentation. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.

Presentations

2017 "Repair and Replace: Lithic Production Behavior as Indicated by the Debitage Assemblage from CA-MRP-283 the Hackney Site." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Fish Camp, California.

2016 "Bones, Stones, and Shell at Bolsa Chica: A Ceremonial Relationship?" Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Ontario, California.

2016 "Markers of Time: Exploring Transitions in the Bolsa Chica Assemblage." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Ontario, California.

2016 "Dating Duress: Understanding Prehistoric Climate Change at Bolsa Chica." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Ontario, California.

2014 "New Discoveries from an Old Collection: Comparing Recently Identified OGR Beads to Those Previously Analyzed from the Encino Village Site." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Visalia, California.

2012 Bolsa Chica Archaeology: Part Seven: Culture and Chronology. Lithic demonstration of experimental manufacturing techniques at the April meeting of The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society, Irvine, California.

APPENDIX B

Site Record Forms

(Deleted for Public Review; Bound Separately)

APPENDIX C

Archaeological Records Search Results

(Deleted for Public Review; Bound Separately)

APPENDIX D

NAHC Sacred Lands File Results

(Deleted for Public Review; Bound Separately)