

APPENDIX 4

December 23, 2024

Kaitlyn Dodson-Hamilton
Tom Dodson & Associates
2150 N. Arrowhead Ave
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Subject: Cultural Resources Assessment for Street Improvements for the Mission Springs Water District Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility Project, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County California.

Dear Ms. Kaitlyn Dodson-Hamilton,

At your request, Mojave Archaeological Consulting, LLC has prepared a cultural resources assessment for the Street Improvements for the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility Project. The Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) is the lead agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of this letter report is to provide MSWD with the information and analysis to determine the potential for the proposed project to impact historical or archaeological resources under CEQA.

The project is located within Section 14 of Township 3 South, Range 4 East, on the Desert Hot Springs, California USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle (see Attachment A, Map 2). The project site consists of approximately 1.08 miles (5,700 linear feet) of roadway on the northern, western, and southern boundaries of MSWD's Nancy Wright Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility along 19th Avenue, Little Morongo Road, and 20th Avenue in the City of Desert Hot Springs, within Riverside County.

In 2019, MSWD certified an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the West Valley Water Reclamation Program for the construction of municipal wastewater collection and treatment systems that would facilitate the individual septic systems that overlie the Mission Creek aquifer. The planned program consisted of three components: construction of the Nancy Wright Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility [Wright RWRF], construction of a conveyance system connecting existing sewer areas to the Wright RWRF, and construction of a collection system in an area MSWD refers to as M2. Prior to construction associated with these components, CRM TECH conducted a cultural resources assessment that included a records search and background research, Native American outreach, and a pedestrian field survey to identify any "historical resources" within the West Valley Water Reclamation Program project area at that time, including the Wright RWRF (Tang et al. 2018).

As part of the continued development of the Wright RWRF, MSWD will complete street improvements adjacent to the Wright RWRF. The roadways are currently dirt and will be paved. The paved roadways are anticipated to be 32-ft in width and will also include curbs, gutters, and future sidewalk construction (12-ft) for a total of a 44-ft wide right-of-way (ROW) along 19th Avenue, Little Morongo Road, and 20th Avenue. Additionally, stop signs and other signage will be installed. The project is anticipated to include ground disturbance along the 1.08 miles of roadway to include clearing, grubbing, and subgrade construction using bulldozers, backhoes, graders, and other major equipment. As these activities expand the area covered and addressed by the previous 2018 cultural resources assessment, this letter report is intended to identify and address any impacts to cultural resources associated with the newly planned roadwork.

In order to identify any “historical resources” as defined by CEQA, Mojave Archaeological Consulting reviewed background research, requested a new search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a list of Native American contacts, conducted outreach with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI), and completed a pedestrian field survey. The investigation was carried out by Michelle Hart, M.A. Ms. Hart has more than 12 years of experience conducting cultural resource studies and meets the Secretary of Interior’s professional qualifications standards for archaeology, architectural history, and history.

Research

Previous Reports and Previous Resources

Due to the closure of the Eastern Information Center (EIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) in June 2024, an official records search has not been completed for the current project. Cultural resource records for Riverside County are currently unavailable as they are in the process of being physically transferred and integrated into the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) at the San Diego State University campus. Following the transfer of these records, it is anticipated it will take some time for the SCIC to work through a backlog of search requests for projects within Riverside County in the coming months. In the meantime, a prior records search conducted by CRM TECH as part of the cultural resources assessment for the larger West Valley Water Reclamation Program (WVWRP) project, was reviewed and any applicable data is discussed below.

The cultural resources assessment for the WVWRP included a search of EIC records within a one-mile radius of areas including the Wright RWRP (Tang et al. 2018). The current street improvements project, adjacent to the facility, was encompassed within the 2018 search. Based on the results, numerous past cultural resource studies have been conducted within one-mile of the current project site. Of these studies, at least four have covered portions of the project site (Report Numbers RIV-00071, -03908, -06011, and -10370; report citations unknown/unavailable).

As of 2018, within the broad one-mile search area for the WVWRP, 46 cultural resources had been identified including 26 “sites” and 17 “isolates” (i.e. three or fewer artifacts). These resources included four prehistoric sites (ceramic and ground stone scatters) and ten prehistoric isolates (ceramic sherds, groundstone fragments, and lithic flakes); none of which lie within or in the immediate vicinity of the current project site. The remaining 22 sites and seven isolates were historic and included roads, a transmission line, a railroad segment, buildings, an electrical substation, refuse scatters, and isolated refuse items (metal cans and glass bottle fragments).

The nearest previously recorded historic resources include segments of 20th Avenue (Primary Numbers 33-008403 and 33-028053), a historic road that is located within the current project site. The east-to-west trending road appears on historic topographic maps for the area beginning in 1940. Because of a lack of specific historic association and a loss of historic integrity to the overall road, it was previously recommended and determined to be not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources (Brock 1998, as cited in Tang et al. 2018).

Apart from 20th Avenue, the only other previously recorded resource located in relatively close proximity to the project site is a historic refuse scatter (33-028574/CA-RIV-12874H) located 300 feet west of Little Morongo Road, within the Wright RWRP. The site was documented by CRM TECH during their 2018 field survey for the WVWRP and consisted of a small dump of mid-century period domestic trash that included assorted metal cans, a glass jar, and various glass fragments. CRM TECH recommended the site not eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources based on a lack of any important historical associations and lack of additional data potential. Regardless, it lies far enough from

the current project site that it would not be impacted by project activities and requires no further consideration.

Historic Maps and Aerial Imagery

Maps and aerial imagery were also reviewed to determine the historic land uses in the study area. Available sources included a General Land Office (GLO) land survey plat map dating to 1856, USGS topographic quadrangle maps dating from 1901 through the 1960's, and aerial imagery dating from the 1940's to modern periods. On the 1850's GLO plat, surveyors noted an "Indian Trail" trending generally east-to-west where it crosses the project site within Section 14 and terminating at an unnamed spring approximately one mile to the east of the project site. After the early 1900's, the trail is not depicted on maps, nor does it appear visible within any available subsequent aerial imagery of the area.

In the 1870's, the Southern Pacific Railroad was constructed through the Coachella Valley and by 1901 the railroad and the Palm Springs Station are depicted on USGS topographic maps within one mile of the project site. By 1940, as the residential community of Desert Hot Springs was developed to the northeast and a grid of roads was laid out in the general area, including present 20th Avenue. By the 1950's other roads are present, including Little Morongo Road and an unnamed short road segment that corresponds with 19th Avenue. Apart from the roads, no development occurred in the immediate vicinity of the project site until modern periods.

Aerial imagery indicates a well pad and water tank were constructed at the corner of Little Morongo Road and 19th Avenue by approximately 2005. The Wright RWRP was subsequently under construction after 2018. A solar photovoltaic power plant has also been constructed immediately north of the project site at the corner of 19th Avenue and Little Morongo Road, as well as a large business park on the north side of 19th Avenue, less than one-half mile to the west. Coinciding with these recent developments, the imagery demonstrates that all three road segments constituting the current project site (19th Avenue, 20th Avenue, and Little Morongo Road) have been substantially widened from their historic footprints and presently appear as heavily graded and well-used modern roads.

Sacred Lands File Search

A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on October 07, 2024. Additionally, as the project site lies within the Traditional Use Area of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) an outreach letter was sent to the ACBCI THPO to invite tribal participation in the field survey and to elicit any additional information or concerns relevant to the project area. The NAHC responded on November 19th, and stated the SLF search results were negative for Native American cultural resources in the general area of the project site.

ACBCI responded on October 25th and stated that their registry indicates that the area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and no cultural resources had been identified within the project area; however, they also expressed that the "Project APE is in a highly sensitive location, multiple TCR's have been identified within a one-mile radius". They request the presence of "an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities" and state that "Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist [Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines] to investigate the find, and if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Office". Additionally, they request copies of any cultural resource documentation generated in connection with this project (i.e. a copy of this report). ACBCI's response letter is included with Attachment C of this report, along with the SLF response letter and a list of Native American contacts for MSWD's reference, and to assist with any applicable government-to-government consultation.

Field Survey

On October 25, 2024, a pedestrian survey of the entirety of the project site was completed. The survey included segments of Little Morongo Road, 19th Avenue, and 20th Avenue totaling 1.08 miles [5,700 linear feet], see Attachment A, Map 3). The existing footprint of the graded roadways was found to generally be wider than the proposed 44-ft wide disturbance corridor for the current project. Nevertheless, transects were placed on either side of the right-of-way and the roadway to inspect the graded road surface, adjacent berms, as well as any undisturbed areas paralleling the road corridor. All ground surfaces were closely inspected for any indications of cultural resources. To assess the potential for buried cultural deposits, soil profiles were examined at locations of animal burrows, drainages, disturbed areas, and other exposures. Ground visibility was generally excellent (greater than 90 percent). It was noted that a large amount of flood debris from the nearby Mission Creek drainage are present along the roadways particularly on the south side of 20th Avenue and east of Little Morongo Road--generally the area appeared as a braided wash subject to sheet wash erosion and apparent recent heavy flooding. No cultural resources were recorded during the field survey. Photographs depicting the survey are provided in Attachment B.

Conclusions

Mojave Archaeological Consulting assessed the proposed project site for potentially significant cultural resources under CEQA. Specifically, CEQA guidelines state “historical resources” include resources listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical resources (or determined to be historically significant by the lead agency—generally, in cases where the resource would meet any of the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources). As discussed above, portions of the project site have been covered by multiple previous cultural resource studies and the project site was again fully covered by the current investigation. Segments of three roads (19th Avenue, 20th Avenue, and Little Morongo Road) will be subject to paving and other disturbances as a result of the proposed project. These three roads date to the historic-era and are noted on topographic maps dating to the 1940’s through 1950’s. One of the roads (20th Avenue [33-008403/33-028053]) appears to have been evaluated previously under the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources and was found not to be eligible. During the current survey, no artifacts or other historic materials were identified in association with the roads, and in general, all three of the roads appear to lack any important historic associations, significant or notable aspects of design or construction, or any demonstrated potential for additional data that would yield new information important to history. The roads remain in use today, were found to be modern in appearance, and overall, do not retain any historic character or aspects that would convey their 1940’s to 1950’s period of construction as they have been widened and substantially altered by grading, flood repair, and construction activities in recent years (as evidenced by aerial imagery and field verification). As such, 19th Avenue, 20th Avenue, and Little Morongo Road are not considered to be “historical resources” for the purposes of CEQA. No other cultural resources, either prehistoric, or historic, were found within the project site. Additionally, the area appears subject to sheetwash erosion as well as periodic heavy flooding from adjacent Mission Creek; it is unlikely any intact cultural deposits would be present in such a setting. Considering these findings, Mojave Archaeological Consulting recommends to the Mission Springs Water District that the project will have no impact to historical or archaeological resources.

However, it should be noted that during outreach efforts with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI), ACBCI expressed concerns regarding the sensitivity for Tribal cultural resources within the general area and specified that they would request the presence of “an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities”. Additional specific comments

from ACBCI are outlined with their response letter which is included in Attachment C of this report to assist with any government-to-government consultation efforts, where applicable.

No further cultural resources work is recommended as necessary for the proposed project activities. However, if potentially significant archaeological materials are encountered during construction, all work should be halted in the vicinity of the discovery until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance and integrity of the find. If intact and significant archaeological remains are encountered, the impacts of the project should be mitigated appropriately. Any such discoveries, and subsequent evaluation and treatment, should be documented in a cultural resources report, which would be submitted to the SCIC (and the ACBCI THPO, as requested). Additionally, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, CEQA Statute & Guidelines Section 15064.5(e), and PRC Section 5097.98 mandate the process to be followed in the event of the discovery of human remains. Finally, if the project is expanded to include areas not covered by this survey or other recent cultural resource surveys, additional cultural resource investigations may be required.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these findings and recommendations, please contact me at (760) 821-7061 or michelle@mojavearchaeology.com.

Sincerely,



Michelle Hart, M.A.
Principal Investigator/ Cultural Resources Consultant

Attachments

- A: Project Maps
- B: Survey Photographs
- C: Response from NAHC and Native American Correspondence

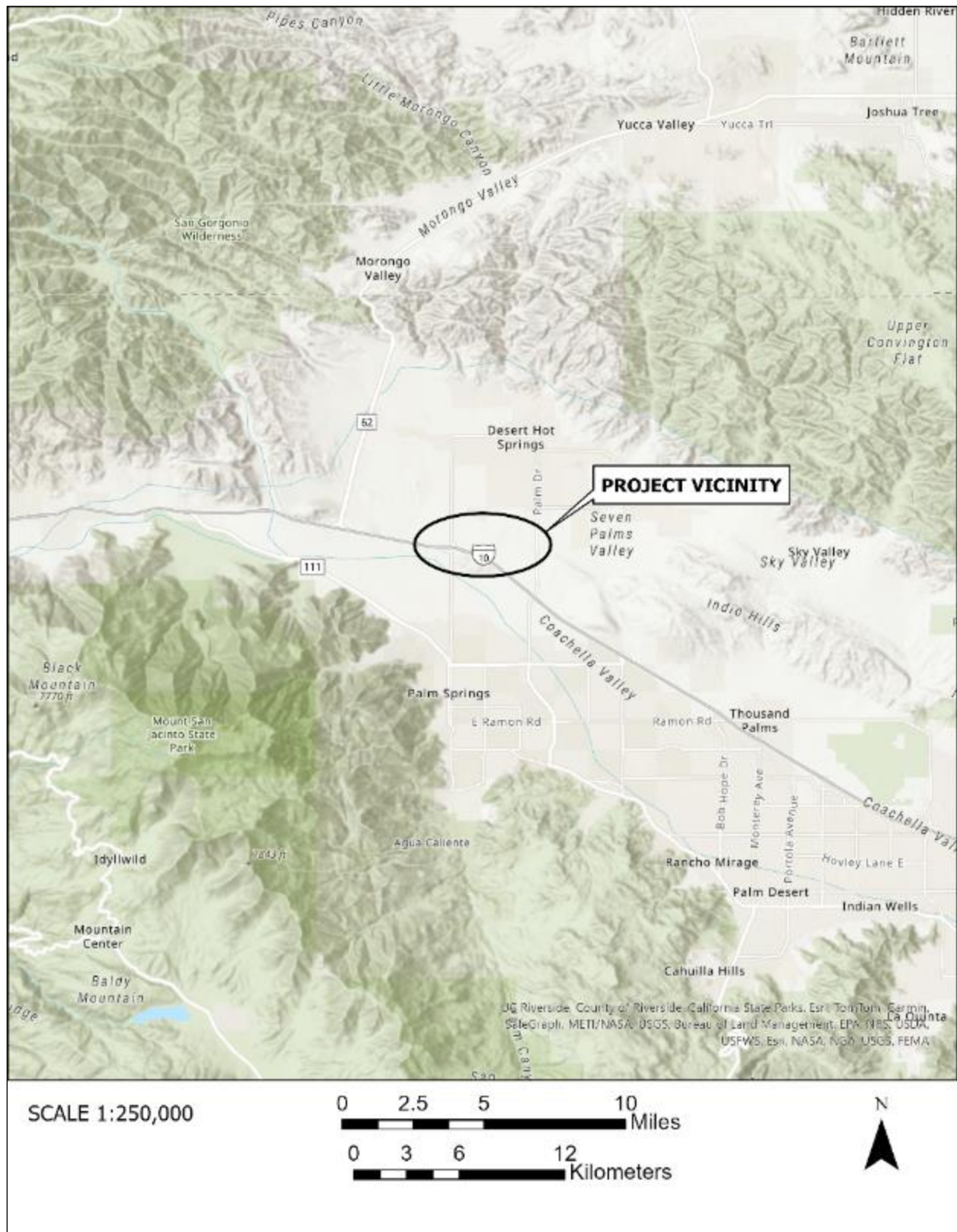
References

Tang, Bai “Tom”, Diedre Encarnacion, Danel Ballester, and Nina Gallardo

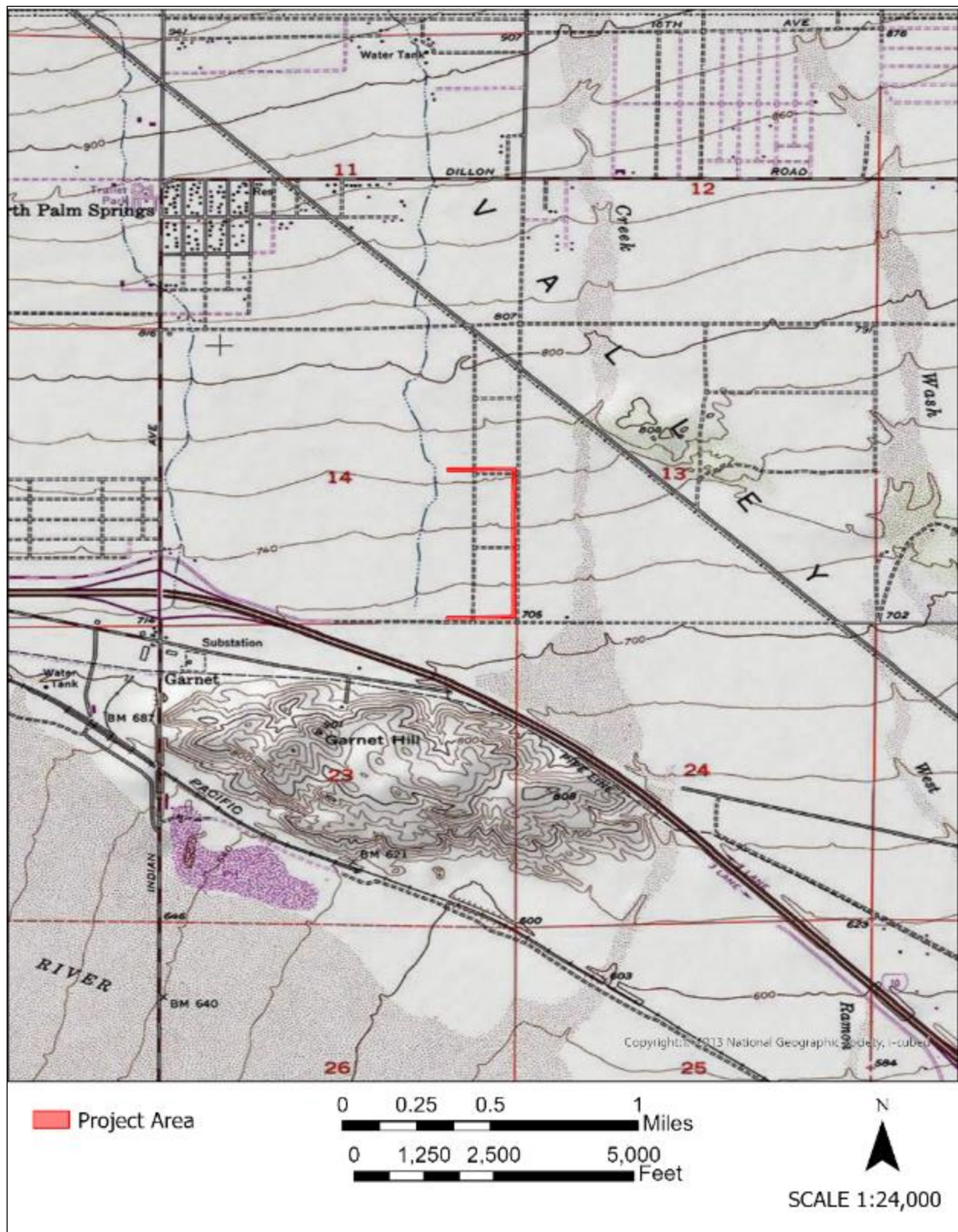
2018 *Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: West Valley Water Reclamation Program, in and Ner the City of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California.* On file with Tom Dodson and Associates, San Bernardino, California.

Attachment A

Project Maps



Map 1: Overview of Project Vicinity



Map 2: Project Location



Map 3: Detail of Project Area and Survey Coverage

Attachment B
Survey Photographs

Project site overview/view of 20th Avenue from intersection with Little Morongo Road, facing west.



Project site overview/view of Little Morongo Road, facing north.



Project site at intersection of Little Morongo Road and 19th Avenue, facing south/southwest.



Overview of Project Site/19th Avenue, with waste water reclamation facility at left, solar farm at right, view to the west.



Attachment C

Response from NAHC and Native American Outreach



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

November 19, 2024

Michelle Hart
Mojave Archaeological Consulting, LLC

Via Email to: michelle@mojavearchaeology.com

CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Butty McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseno

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Laurena Bolden
Serrano

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Bernae Calac
Pauma-Yuma Band of
Luiseno Indians

ACTING EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY
Steven Quinn

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

Re: MSWD Street Improvements: 19th Ave, 20th Ave, Little Morongo Rd. Project, Riverside County

To Whom It May Concern:

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
Riverside County
11/19/2024**

Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Lacy Padilla, Director of Historic Preservation/THPO	5401 Dinah Shore Drive Palm Springs, CA, 92264	(760) 333-5222	(760) 699-6919	ACBCI- THPO@aguacaliente.net	Cahuilla
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Tribal Operations,	84-001 Avenue 54 Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 398-4722		info@augustinetribe-nsn.gov	Cahuilla
Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Doug Welmas, Chairperson	84-245 Indio Springs Parkway Indio, CA, 92203	(760) 342-2593	(760) 347-7880	jstapp@cabazonindians- nsn.gov	Cahuilla
Cahuilla Band of Indians	F	Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	52701 CA Highway 371 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-5549		anthonymad2002@gmail.com	Cahuilla
Cahuilla Band of Indians	F	Bobby Ray Esparza, Cultural Director	52701 CA Highway 371 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-5549		besparza@cahuilla-nsn.gov	Cahuilla
Cahuilla Band of Indians	F	Erica Schenk, Chairperson	52701 CA Highway 371 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 590-0942	(951) 763-2808	chair@cahuilla-nsn.gov	Cahuilla
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians	F	Ray Chapparosa, Chairperson	P.O. Box 189 Warner Springs, CA, 92086- 0189	(760) 782-0711	(760) 782-0712		Cahuilla Cupeno
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Ann Brierty, THPO	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5259	(951) 572-6004	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Robert Martin, Chairperson	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5110	(951) 755-5177	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman - Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 210-8739		culturalcommittee@quechantri be.com	Quechan
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jordan Joaquin, President, Quechan Tribal Council	P.O.Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(760) 919-3600		executivesecretary@quechantri be.com	Quechan

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Riverside County
11/19/2024**

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 261-0254		historicpreservation@quechan-tribe.com	Quechan
Ramona Band of Cahuilla	F	Joseph Hamilton, Chairperson	P.O. Box 391670 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-4105	(951) 763-4325	admin@ramona-nsn.gov	Cahuilla
Ramona Band of Cahuilla	F	John Gomez, Environmental Coordinator	P. O. Box 391670 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-4105	(951) 763-4325	jgomez@ramona-nsn.gov	Cahuilla
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	F	Alexandra McCleary, Senior Manager of Cultural Resources Management	26569 Community Center Drive Highland, CA, 92346	(909) 633-0054		alexandra.mccleary@sanmanuel-el-nsn.gov	Serrano
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Vanessa Minott, Tribal Administrator	P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 659-2700	(951) 659-2228	vminott@santarosa-nsn.gov	Cahuilla
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Steven Estrada, Tribal Chairman	P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 659-2700	(951) 659-2228	sestrada@santarosa-nsn.gov	Cahuilla
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(253) 370-0167		serranonation1@gmail.com	Serrano
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(909) 578-2598		serranonation1@gmail.com	Serrano
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663-6261	(951) 654-4198	jvaldez@soboba-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Luiseno
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Joseph Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663-5279	(951) 654-4198	jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Luiseno
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	F	Mary Belardo, Cultural Committee Vice Chair	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 397-0300		belardom@gmail.com	Cahuilla
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	F	Thomas Torte, Chairperson	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 397-0300	(760) 397-8146	thomas.tortez@tmdci.org	Cahuilla

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	F	Abraham Becerra, Cultural Coordinator	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 397-0300		abecerra@tmdci.org	Cahuilla
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	F	Alesia Reed, Cultural Committee Chairwoman	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 397-0300		lisareed990@gmail.com	Cahuilla
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	F	Gary Resvaloso, TMMLD	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 777-0365		grestmtm@gmail.com	Cahuilla
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	F	Sarah O'Brien, Tribal Archivist	46-200 Harrison Place Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 863-2460		sobrien@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov	Chemehuevi
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	F	Nicolas Garza, Cultural Resources Specialist	46-200 Harrison Place Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 863-2486		nicolas.garza@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov	Chemehuevi
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	F	Christopher Nicosia, Cultural Resources Manager/THPO Manager	46-200 Harrison Place Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 863-3972		christopher.nicosia@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov	Chemehuevi

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 Resources Code, or the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed MSWD Street Improvements: 19th Ave, 20th Ave, Little Morongo Rd. Project, Riverside County.

October 22, 2024

Lacy Padilla, Director of Historic Preservation/THPO
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA, 92264
Transmitted via email to ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net

RE: Cultural Resources Assessment for Mission Springs Water District Street Improvements on 19th Avenue, 20th Avenue and Little Morongo Road in the City of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County

Dear Ms. Padilla,

I am writing to bring your attention to the above-referenced project. Mojave Archaeological Consulting, LLC, is conducting a cultural resources assessment on behalf of Tom Dodson and Associates for the Mission Springs Water District (MSWD). The project will involve a small area of street improvements adjacent to MSWD's new wastewater treatment facility on Little Morongo Road in the City of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. It is anticipated that ground disturbance associated with the project will encompass approximately one mile total of linear right-of-way up to approximately 60-ft wide along 19th Avenue, 20th Avenue, and Little Morongo Road. The project is located within Section 14, T3S, R4E on the Desert Hot Springs, CA topographic quadrangle. A map is attached for your reference. Project plans and shapefiles of the project can be sent at your request.

As part of the cultural resources investigation of the project area a search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC's) Sacred Lands Files was requested. The NAHC's response is still pending at this time, however it is anticipated the project may be within ACBCI's Traditional Use Area.

I am reaching out to you to seek any information you may wish to provide regarding potential Native American cultural resources in or near the project area and would welcome any input to consider during the cultural resources investigation. Please respond at your earliest convenience with any information or knowledge you may wish to share to inform the cultural resources assessment report. Any requests for documentation or information I cannot provide will be forwarded to our client or the lead agency. Please note that as the cultural resources consultant for the project, Mojave Archaeological Consulting is not involved in government-to-government consultation or AB 52 compliance; rather, this letter is intended as early outreach to seek your input concerning cultural resources in or near the project area to help assess the cultural resource sensitivity of the project area. I look forward to your input and appreciate your time and effort to review this request.

I am planning to conduct a survey of the project site Friday October 25th, and would welcome tribal participation. If anyone from your office is available and wishes to accompany me on the survey, please let me know. I can be reached at michelle@mojavearchaeology.com or 760-821-7061.

Best Wishes,



Michelle Hart, M.A.
Cultural Resources Consultant/Principal Investigator
Mojave Archaeological Consulting, LLC
Email: michelle@mojavearchaeology.com

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION



03-067-2024-001

October 25, 2024

[VIA EMAIL TO: mojave_consulting@outlook.com]
Mojave Archaeological Consulting
Ms. Michelle Hart
PO Box 271
Joshua Tree, California 92252

Re: Street Improvement 19th ave, 20th ave, and Little Morongo Rd

Dear Ms. Michelle Hart,

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Street Improvements on 19th Ave, 20th Ave, and Little Morongo Rd project. The project area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI Reservation. However, it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. A records check of the ACBCI registry indicates this area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources but no cultural resources were identified. In consultation, the ACBCI THPO requests the following:

- *The presence of an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Office.
- *Copies of any cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with this project.
- *A copy of the records search with associated survey reports and site records from the information center.
- *The presence of an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of Interior's standards during any ground disturbing activities.
- *The APE is in a highly sensitive location, multiple TCR's have been documented within a one mile radius.

Again, the Agua Caliente appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information, please call me at (760) 883-1134. You may also email me at ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net.

Cordially,

5401 DINAH SHORE DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264
T 760/889/8800 F 760/889/8924 WWW.AGUACALIENTE-NSN.GOV

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Clarisa Duarte

Clarisa Duarte
Cultural Resources Analyst
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

5401 DINAH SHORE DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264
T 760/699/8808 F 760/699/8924 WWW.AGUACALIENTE-NSN.GOV