

APPENDIX C
CULTURAL REPORT

January 31, 2023

Simon Bouzaglou
55555 Amargosa, LLC
5901 South Eastern Avenue
Commerce, CA 90040

Subject: Cultural and Paleontological Resources Assessment for the Cactus North Project, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California (Project Number C-0463)

Dear Mr. Bouzaglou:

At the request of the 55555 Amargosa, LLC (CLIENT), Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC (DUKE CRM) has prepared a cultural and paleontological resources assessment for the proposed construction of two industrial warehouse buildings with one office at the Cactus North project (Project), located in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The Project is 18.4 acres in size. The City of Victorville (CITY) is the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Project is located in the High Desert within APNs 3128-571-07 and -08 in Section 10, Township 5 North, Range 5 West, as shown on the USGS *Adelanto, Calif. 7.5'* quadrangle map (see Attachment 1 for Project Maps). The Project will construct two industrial warehouse buildings with a 30 foot (ft.) maximum depth of excavation.

This report includes the results of our research and field survey for cultural and paleontological resources.

Research

DUKE CRM conducted a records search conducted by the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC). The SCCIC, located at the California State University, Fullerton, is part of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). The records search included a review of all recorded cultural resources within a ½-mile radius of the Project, as well as a review of known cultural resource survey and excavation reports. In addition, the California Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) was examined, which includes the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest. The BERD did not identify cultural resources within the Project.

The records search from the SCCIC was conducted on January 18, 2023. The records search identified four (4) historic resources within ½ mile of the Project (see Table 1 below). Of these resources, the nearest is a historic refuse scatter located approximately 1,015 ft. west of the Project.

Table 1: Cultural Resources within ½ mile of the Project

Resource No.	Site Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Distance (ft.) and Direction
P-36-004018	Historic	Historic refuse scatter	Unknown	1,015 west
P-36-010316	Historic Built Environment	SCE Transmission Line Segment	2S2	1,420 west
P-36-023282	Historic	Historic Can	Unknown	2,640 south
P-36-023318	Historic	Historic Can	Unknown	1,540 northwest

2S2: Individually determined eligible for NR by consensus through Section 106 process. Listed in the CR.

Additionally, the SCCIC identified eleven cultural resource studies within ½ mile of the Project, none of which cover the Project area (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Cultural Resource Reports within ½ mile of the Project

Report No.	Year	Report Title	Authors
SB-00166	1973	Archaeological Survey of the Mojave River Aqueduct and Recharge Areas	San Bernardino County Museum Association
SB-01158	1981	Class III Cultural Resource Inventory: Adelanto-Rinaldi 500 kV T/L Corridors 1, 2, and 3, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Roberta S. Greenwood and Michael J. McIntyre
SB-01734	1987	Cultural and Paleontological Resources Survey: US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project, Rialto, California to Las Vegas, Nevada	Steven M. Shackley, Rebecca McCorkle Apple, and Robert E. Reynolds
SB-01907	1989	Archaeological Survey Report: Inyokern-Kramer 220kV Transmission Line Conducting Project: Tower Sites, Pulling Areas, Sleeve Areas and Wire Setups, Kern and San Bernardino Counties, California	Thomas T. Taylor
SB-01909	1989	Cultural Resource Assessment: Kramer-Victor 115kV Transmission Line Project	Paul R. Hampson
SB-03020	1993	(Draft) Adelanto-Lugo Transmission Project Cultural Resources Assessment	Brad Sturm, D. Mclean, K. Becker, and J. Rosenthal
SB-05766	1997	Cultural Resources Report: Bakersfield—Rialto Fiberoptic Line Project, Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, California.	Bruce Love
SB-07156	2011	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Water Supply System Improvements Projects, Fiscal Years 2010/2011 – 2014/2015, Victorville Water District, San Bernardino County, California.	Bai “Tom” Tang, Daniel Ballester, and Nina Gallardo
SB-07381	2011	Cultural Resources Class III Survey Report for the Proposed Mojave Solar Project and Lockhart Substation Connection and Communication Facilities, San Bernardino County, California.	Stacie Wilson, M.K. Meiser, and Theodore G. Cooley
SB-07899	2013	Cultural Resource and Paleontology Monitoring Report - SCE Sandlot (Water Valley) Project	Ivan Strudwick
SB-07969	2009	Phase I Archaeological Assessment for Various Water Projects in the City of Victorville San Bernardino County, California	Matthew Wetherbee

An inquiry to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was submitted to ascertain the presence of known sacred sites, Native American cultural resources, and/or human remains within the boundaries of the proposed Project. On January 15, 2023, the NAHC indicated that there have

been no Native American cultural resources identified within the Sacred Lands File for the Project location (see Attachment 2).

CRM conducted a review of online historical aerial photographs and historic USGS quad maps utilizing UCSB FrameFinder, historicaerials.com, and USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer. Neither the *Barstow* 1934 or the 1952 *San Bernadino* 1:125,000 scale maps show any roads or structures in or around the Project area. The 1968 aerial shows the construction of Highway 395 to the west of the Project; however, the Project area and its surrounding area did not have any structures until the construction of a residential track and a truck stop in 2005 to 2009 to the east of the Project. The Project area has remained vacant, with the only visible disturbances being dirt paths near Cactus Road (historicaerials.com; accessed January 18, 2023).

The geology in the vicinity of the Project has been mapped by Dibblee and Minch (2008). A review of this map indicates the proposed Project is located within alluvial sand and gravel of the Holocene epoch (*Qa*). Holocene alluvial units are considered to be of high preservation value, but fossil material is unlikely to be fossil due to the relatively modern associated dates of the deposits. However, since the development will require a substantial depth of disturbance, the likelihood of reaching Pleistocene alluvial sediments would increase.

DUKE CRM requested that the Western Science Center (WSC) perform a paleontological records search for known fossil localities within, and in the vicinity of, the Project. On January 11, 2023, the WSC reported they did not find any paleontological resources within one (1) mile of the Project. While the presence of any fossil material is unlikely, if excavation activity disturbs deeper sediment dating to the earliest parts of the Holocene or Late Pleistocene periods, the material would be scientifically significant. It is the recommendation of the WSC that excavation activity associated with the development of the project area is unlikely to be paleontologically sensitive, but caution during development should be observed.

Field Survey

Morgan Bender, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) and Lauren Biltonen, B.A., Archaeologist, conducted an intensive pedestrian survey on January 20, 2023. The survey area included the entirety of the 18.4 acres of the proposed Project. Transects began in the southeast corner of the Project boundary and were spaced no more than 15 meters apart. Ground visibility was excellent, ranging from 80-100 percent. The area has sparsely scattered creosote bushes with occasional trees and desert clover with a mean elevation of approximately 3000 feet above sea level. Sediment within the Project consists of a pale brown Bryman loamy sand with 10-20 percent sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel density (USDA 2023). Disturbances within the Project include vehicle tracks and an abundance of modern refuse throughout site. See photographs in Attachment 3. No cultural or paleontological resources were observed as a result of the field survey.

Conclusions

DUKE CRM assessed the proposed Project area for the presence of cultural and paleontological resources according to CEQA. As a result of negative findings for cultural resources during survey and within the Project area from the SCCIC, our assessment is that the Project has a low potential to impact cultural resources. Therefore, monitoring is not recommended for cultural resources.

Our research indicates that there is a moderate sensitivity for paleontological resources in the alluvial sand and gravel from the Holocene epoch (*Qa*) that underlies the Project. Since excavation activities are anticipated to go 30 ft. in depth, deeper sediment dating to the earliest parts of the Holocene or Late Pleistocene periods will likely be impacted. Therefore, significant and unique paleontological resources may be impacted by the Project during earth disturbing activities. In order to reduce the potential for impacts to paleontological resources to a level that is less than significant under CEQA, paleontological monitoring is recommended where ground disturbance exceeds 5 ft. below surface within the Project.

Paleontological Monitoring

A paleontological monitor shall be present during ground disturbing activities below five (5) feet in depth within the Project. The monitor shall work under the direct supervision of a qualified paleontologist (B.S./B.A. in geology, or related discipline with an emphasis in paleontology and demonstrated competence in paleontological research, fieldwork, reporting, and curation).

1. The qualified paleontologist shall be on-site at the pre-construction meeting to discuss monitoring protocols.
2. The paleontological monitor shall be present part-time during ground disturbance below 5 feet in depth within the Project, including but not limited to grading, trenching, utilities, and off-site easements. If, after excavation begins, the qualified paleontologist determines that the sediments is likely to produce fossil resources, monitoring efforts shall be increased.
3. The monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect grading efforts if paleontological resources are discovered.
4. In the event of a paleontological discovery the monitor shall flag the area and notify the construction crew immediately. No further disturbance in the flagged area shall occur until the qualified paleontologist has cleared the area.
5. In consultation with the qualified paleontologist, the monitor shall quickly assess the nature and significance of the find. If the specimen is not significant it shall be quickly mapped, documented, removed, and the area cleared.
6. If the discovery is significant the qualified paleontologist shall notify the CLIENT and CITY immediately.
7. In consultation with the CLIENT and CITY the qualified paleontologist shall develop a plan of mitigation which will likely include part-time monitoring, salvage excavation, scientific removal of the find, removal of sediment from around the specimen (in the laboratory), research to identify and categorize the find, curation of the find in a local qualified repository, and preparation of a report summarizing the find.

If previously unidentified cultural and/or paleontological materials are unearthed later construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist can assess the significance of the find. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur in the area of the find until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or their authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Thank you for contacting DUKE CRM on this interesting project. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (949) 356-6660, or by e-mail at morganbender@dukecrm.com.

Sincerely,

DUKE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morgan Bender".

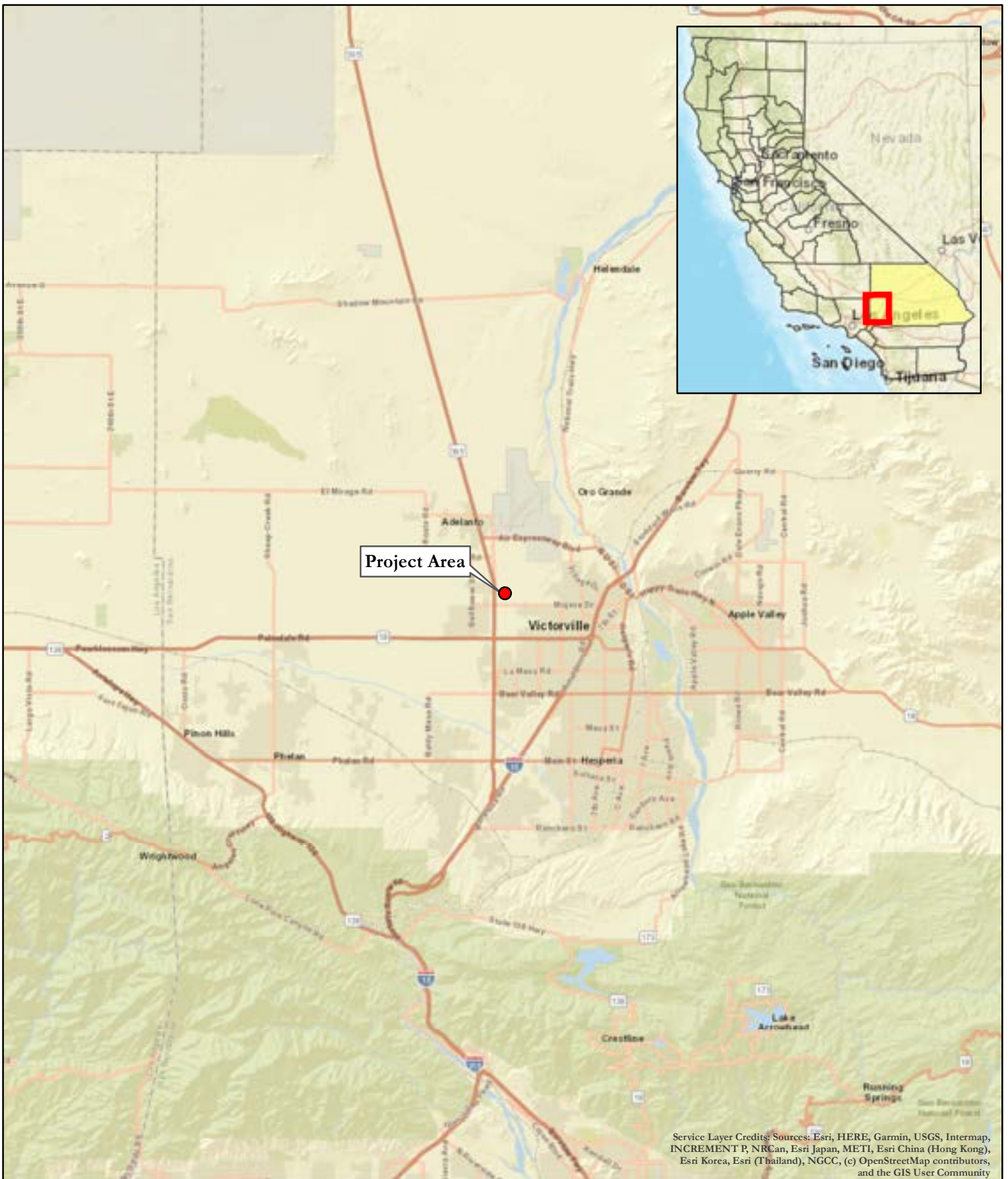
Morgan Bender, M.A., RPA
Archaeologist

Attachments

- 1: Project Maps
- 2: Native American Heritage Commission Letter
- 3: Project Photographs

ATTACHMENT 1

PROJECT MAPS

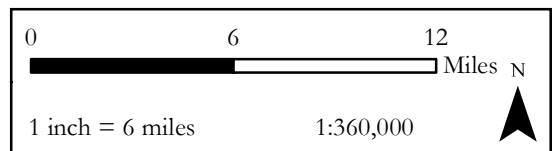


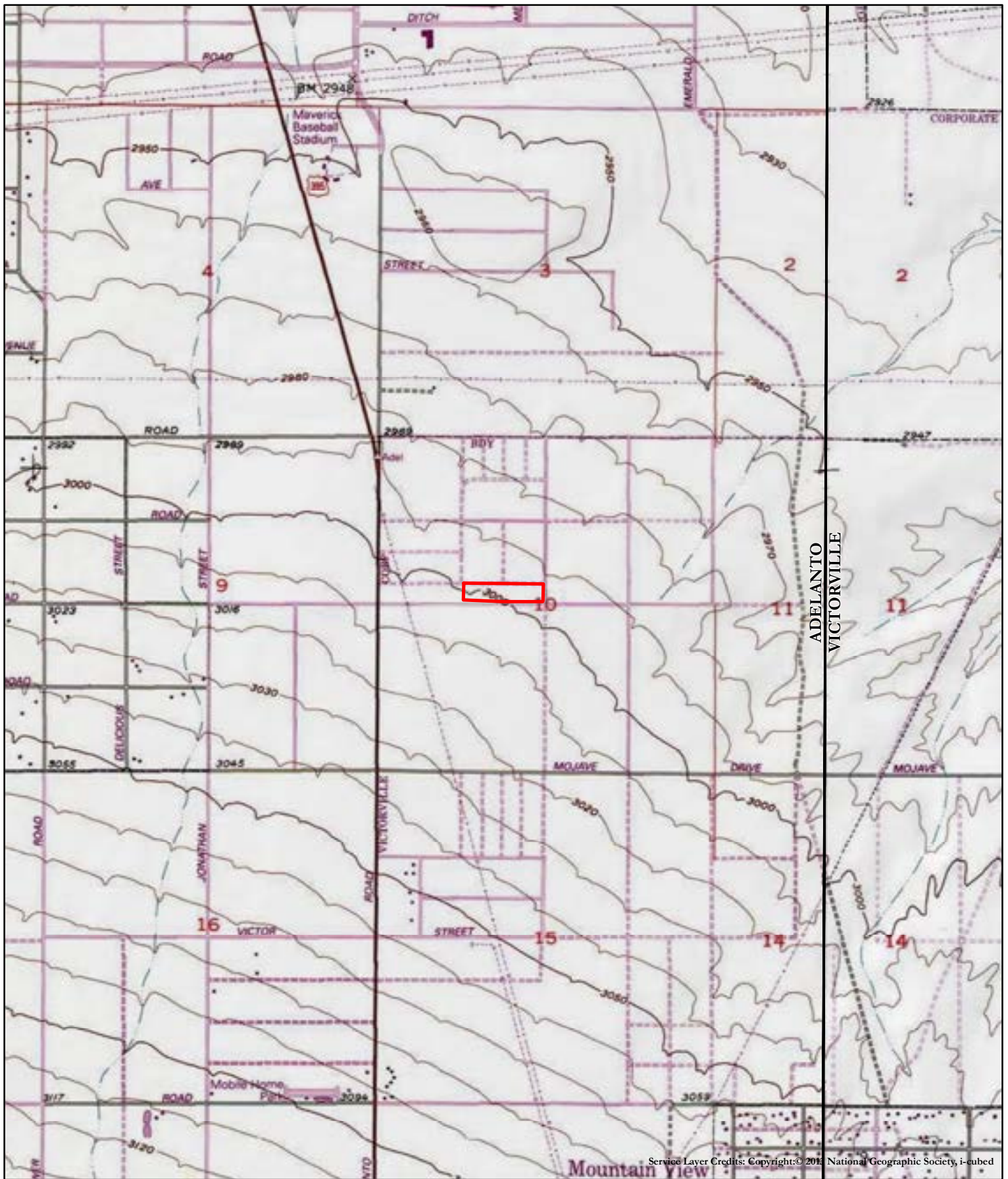
Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Map 1. Project Vicinity
Cactus North, C-0463



● Project Area

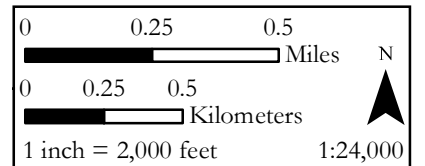




Map 2. Project Location
Cactus North, C-0463

Adelanto, Calif USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle
T5N, R5W, Section 10
Date of Map: 1956 / Photorevised: 1980

- ▭ Project Area
- USGS 7.5' Quads



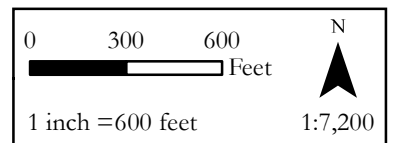
Service Layer Credits: Copyright © 2011 National Geographic Society, i-cubed



Map 3. Project Aerial Photo
Cactus North, C-0463



 Project Area



ATTACHMENT 2

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE
COMMISSION LETTER**

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

January 15, 2023

Morgan Bender
DUKE CRM

Via Email to: morganbender@dukecrm.com

Re: C-0463 Cactus North Project, San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Bender:

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: Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



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Sara Dutschke
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Nomlaki

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**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
1/15/2023**

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Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council

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Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council

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This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed C-0463 Cactus North Project, San Bernardino County.

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
1/15/2023**

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

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Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed C-0463 Cactus North Project, San Bernardino County.

ATTACHMENT 3

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Site overview. View to north.



Site overview. View to south.



Site overview. View to east.



Site overview. View to west.



Closeup of vegetation. View to east.



Closeup of ground cover. Plan view.



Modern refuse throughout site. View to north.



Modern refuse scattered throughout site. View to north.