

May 16, 2024

Karibia Baillargeon, Project Manager
Kleinfelder
770 First Avenue, Suite 400
San Diego, CA 92101
Transmitted via email to kbaillargeon@kleinfelder.com

RE: Cultural Resource Revalidation Letter for Madison Avenue Improvement Project, City of Murrieta, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Baillargeon,

This letter report, prepared by Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) on behalf of Kleinfelder, summarizes the results of the cultural resource revalidation memorandum for the Madison Avenue Improvement Project (Project) in the city of Murrieta, Riverside County, California (Figure 1). The Project entails the development of an approximately 1.1-mile (5,900 linear feet) segment of Madison Avenue (from the intersection at Guava Street to the terminus of Sandalwood Circle). Specifically, the Project is within Township 7 South, Range 3 West, unsectioned land in the Temecula Land Grant, as shown on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Murrieta 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (Figure 2). Development associated with the proposed Project would include paved roadways, streetlights, sidewalks, utilities, and storm water drainage facilities. To minimize the need for additional area outside of the existing 88-foot right-of-way (ROW), the Project will follow the existing roadway along most of its length.

Æ completed a Phase I cultural resource assessment for the Project in September 2018 (George and Ollendorf 2018). The assessment included a records search and literature review at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) of the California Historical Resource Information System, housed at the University of California, Riverside; a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and communication with Native American tribal representatives; and an archaeological survey of the Project area. The Project was placed on hold for nearly three years. The city of Murrieta (City) has reclassified the Project, which now requires revalidation with the California Environmental Quality Act. The City is the lead agency responsible for compliance with CEQA.

CULTURAL RESOURCE RECORDS SEARCH AND LITERATURE REVIEW

The EIC was closed for an extensive period of time during and after the COVID-19 epidemic. As a result, the EIC has only recently begun to update their files with cultural resource studies from the past 4 years. Therefore, Æ did not submit an updated request to the EIC for the revalidation effort and confirms that the records and literature search in the Phase I cultural resource study (George and Ollendorf 2018) is appropriate.



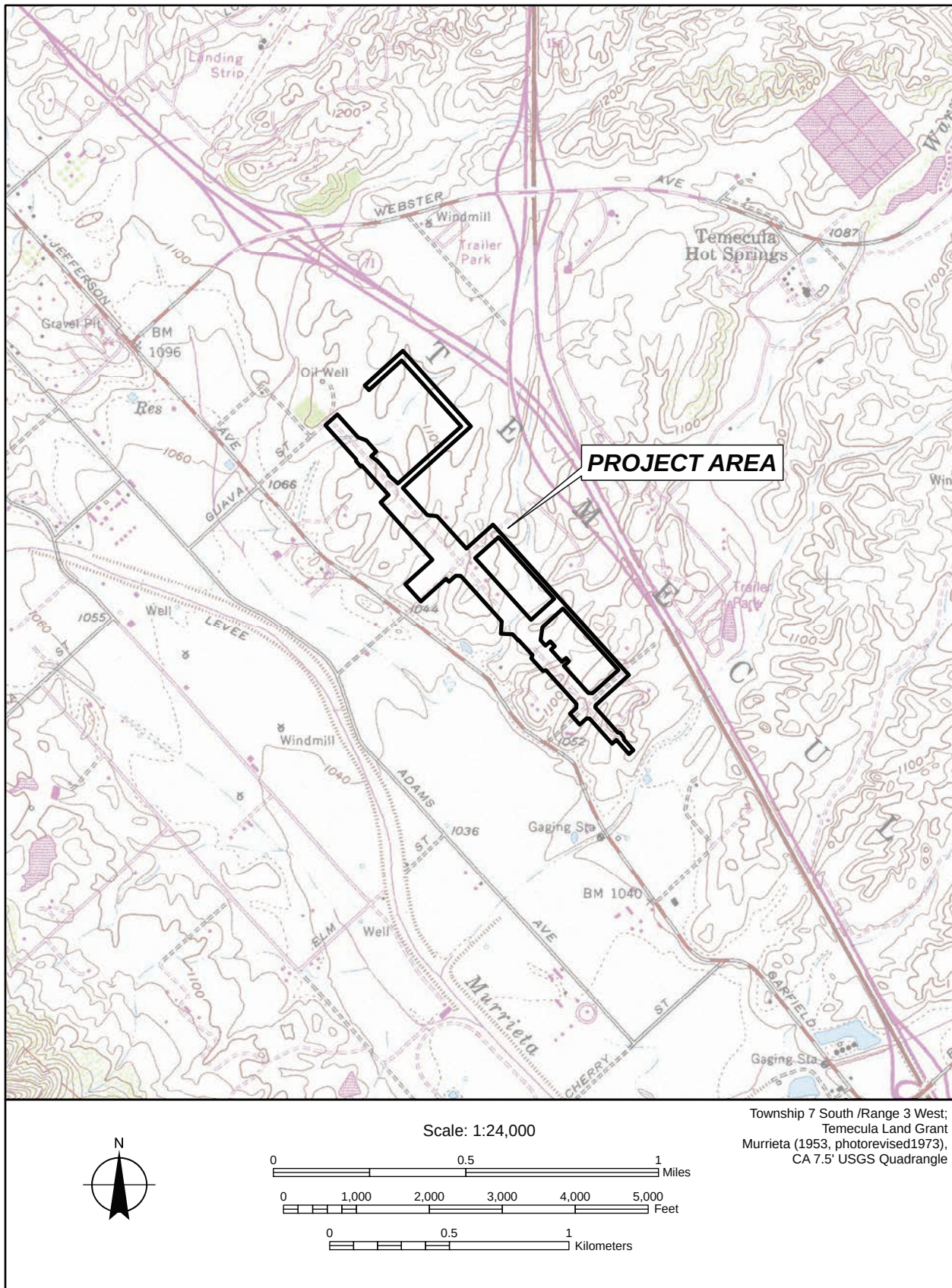


Figure 2 Project location on USGS Murrieta 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.



SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

Æ contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on February 20, 2024, for a review of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) to determine if any known Native American cultural properties (e.g., traditional use or gathering areas, or places of religious or sacred activity) are present within or adjacent to the Project area. The NAHC responded on March 4, 2024, stating the SLF search was completed with positive results. The NAHC provided a list of Native American individuals and organizations to elicit information regarding cultural resource issues related to the Project, if any. Results of the NAHC SLF search and Native American contact list were provided to the City for their formal government-to-government Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) consultation efforts.

ASSEMBLY BILL 52

The City sent out AB 52 notification letters to the following five individuals/organizations via email and certified mail on February 29, 2024, and March 1, 2024, respectively. As of May 6, 2024, the City has received four responses.

- The Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians noted that a records check of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office's cultural registry revealed that the Project is not within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. Therefore, the Tribe defers to the other tribes in the area and concluded their consultation efforts.
- Ann Brierty, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. The Band noted that the Project is not within the boundaries of the ancestral territory or traditional use area of Cahuilla and Serrano people of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Therefore, the Tribe encouraged consultation with tribes more closely associated with the lands upon which the Project is located.
- Ebru Ozdil, Cultural Analyst for the Pechanga Band of Indians. The Tribe responded that the Project is within the 'Atáaxum (Luiseño) territory, therefore, the Tribe's aboriginal territory as evidenced by the existence of cultural features associated with religious practice and an extensive artifact record in the vicinity of the Project. The Tribe formally requested to begin AB 52 consultation with the City. Copies of the 30 percent street improvement plans, the 2018 cultural report, as well as a link to the cultural resource records search data was provided to the Tribe for review.
- Cheryl Madrigal, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians noted the Project is within the Traditional Use Area of the Luiseño people and, therefore, the Tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated to the project area. The Tribe requested copies of the cultural survey report, geotechnical report, and grading plans to review. After their review, the Tribe will consult on potential project impacts to cultural resources. Copies of the 30 percent street improvement plans, a geotechnical update, the 2018 cultural report, as well as a link to the cultural resource records search data was provided to the Tribe for review.
- Joseph Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. No response was received.



Complete consultation efforts, including tribal feedback, are addressed in the environmental document prepared for the Project.

FIELD SURVEY

Æ Senior Archaeologist Andrew DeLeon conducted an archaeological field survey on February 28, 2024 (Figure 3). DeLeon visually observed the Project area from the existing road ROW, starting at the west end of Madison Avenue and moving eastward. He noted open fields designated for staging, which appeared undisturbed and covered with vegetation, including buckwheat. The visibility of the open field areas was low from the roadway due to inclined topography and vegetation cover. The remainder of the Project included developed paved and dirt roadways. No cultural resources were identified during the field survey and the current findings are consistent with those noted in the previous cultural resource study (George and Ollendorf 2018).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The previous cultural resource assessment identified no archaeological or built-environment resources within the Project area (see Attachment 1). Æ's current field survey of the Project area also did not identify cultural resources. Ground visibility was poor due to vegetation and inclined topography and paved and dirt roadways. Nonetheless, the Project area has been disturbed by residential development, utility installations, and road maintenance. Therefore, Æ's 2018 cultural resource assessment recommendations still hold, and it is unlikely that any significant buried archaeological remains are present within the Project area. Æ recommends no further cultural resource management of the Project area.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information provided above, please feel free to contact Joan George at (951) 766-2000 ext. 523.

Best regards,

Jessica Cochrane, B.A.
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

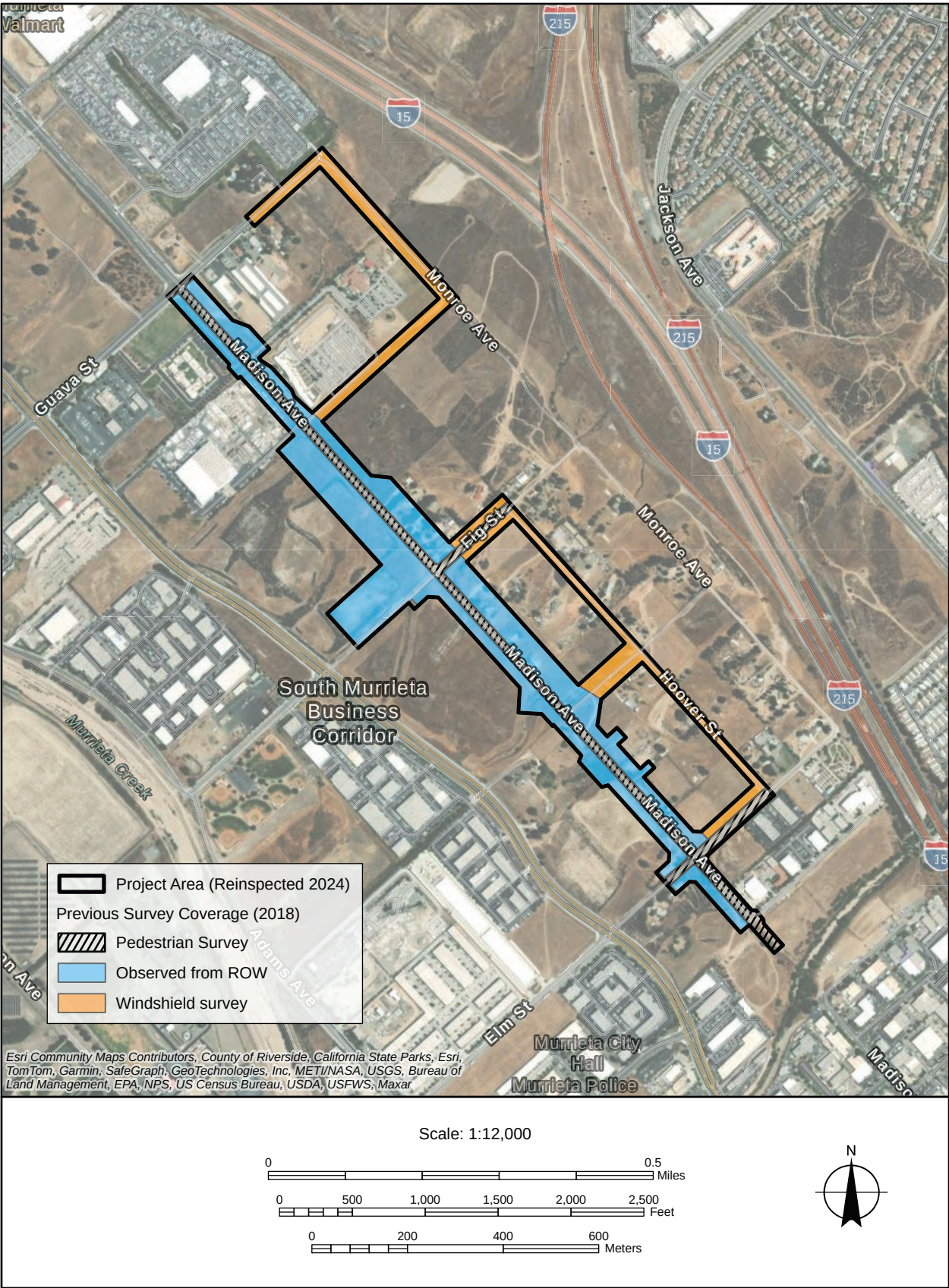


Figure 3 Aerial view of the survey area.



Edited and Approved By:

Joan George, B.S., RA 28093
Principal Archaeological
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

REFERENCE

George, Joan, and Amy L. Ollendorf

2018 *Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for the Madison Avenue Improvement Project, City of Murrieta, Riverside County, California.* Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Hemet, California.
Prepared for Kleinfelder, Inc., San Diego, California.