

APPENDIX C

PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

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Phase 1 Cultural Resources Assessment for the El Caballo Park Project

City of Escondido, San Diego County, California

Prepared for:
City of Escondido
Development Services Department
201 N. Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

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Susan Wood, PhD, RPA
Rachel Garcia, MA

December 2025

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Project No. 201617

December 2025

National Archaeological Database (NADB)
Type of Study: Literature Search, Intensive Pedestrian Survey, Significance Evaluation
New Sites: Asociación de Charros de Escondido Arena, MBI-El Caballo-01H
Updated Sites: N/A
USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Valley Center
Acreage: ~20 acres
Level of Investigation: CEQA Phase I
Keywords: Escondido; CEQA

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The City of Escondido (“City”) contracted Michael Baker International to provide cultural resources services for the El Caballo Park Project (“project”) in the City of Escondido, San Diego County, California. The El Caballo Park Master Plan aims to develop a community-focused, equestrian-oriented public facility on approximately 20 acres in Escondido, California. The park will feature a variety of amenities, including equestrian centers, therapeutic riding arenas, and natural play areas, integrated with picnic groves and a central recreational lawn. Key components include improved arenas, round pens, corrals, and connections to the Escondido Creek Trail. Designed to unite the community, the park will host diverse groups, including the Charros Association, and therapeutic equestrian programs, enhancing local cultural and recreational opportunities while fostering community engagement.

The cultural resources study includes a South Coastal Information Center (“SCIC”) records search, a Native American Heritage Commission (“NAHC”) Sacred Lands File (“SLF”) search, a review of historical aerial photographs, topographic maps, and archives, a pedestrian archaeological and built environment cultural resources survey of the project area, and an archaeological sensitivity assessment. This report details the methods and results of the cultural resources study and has been prepared to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the guidelines of the City of Escondido.

The records search obtained from the South Coastal Information Center on June 25, 2024, indicated that 23 previous cultural resources studies have been conducted within one-half mile of the project area. Of the 23, three of the previous studies cover portions of the proposed project area. The records search also indicated that 14 cultural resources have been identified within the half-mile search radius of the project area. None of the previously recorded cultural resources are within the proposed project area.

The NAHC completed its search of the Sacred Lands File and indicated in a letter dated July 1, 2024, that the results were negative. The NAHC also provided a list of tribal contacts who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the area that the City may use for the purposes of government-to-government consultation.

The review of historic maps, aeriels, and archives provided information regarding the project area's historic development, which complemented field investigations including an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area and an assessment of the built environment.

Results of the study identified two potential cultural resources: the Asociación de Charros de Escondido Arena and a series of historic period retaining walls associated with the Dixon Family (MBI-El Caballo-01H). The resources were evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (“National Register”) and the California Register of Historical Resources (“California Register”).

Michael Baker International has determined that the Asociación de Charros de Escondido Arena does not meet the criteria of a historic property and is therefore ineligible for both the National Register and California Register. Michael Baker International recommends that the resource does not meet the criteria of a historic property as defined by 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800.16(l)(1); the definition for a historical resource as defined by CEQA Section 15064.5(a); or the definition of a “unique archeological

resource” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2. As such, no further work is recommended for this resource. However, the project area has hosted Charrería activities for decades, and the practice is of recognized cultural importance to the community. This study evaluates physical resources for eligibility to the National and California Registers and the City’s local register based on significance and integrity. While the arena does not meet the criteria of a historic property, this conclusion does not diminish the community’s intangible cultural value associated with Charrería at El Caballo. Further evaluation of the resource is provided in Chapter 5 of this report.

Additionally, a series of four rock retaining wall features were identified and temporarily designated as MBI-El Caballo-01H. The resource is likely associated with the Dixon family, who once owned and operated a citrus farm that overlaps the current project area. The resource is likely associated with other archaeological ruins outside of the project area, including the ruins of the Dixon family house at the northwest corner of Beven Drive and Burnet Drive. Since the site boundaries for this resource have not been completely delineated and no project work is scheduled for this area, the site was not evaluated. Should the project have the potential to affect the resource, a delineation and formal evaluation of the site should be conducted.

Refer to the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 6.

TABLE MS-1: CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Resource Name	National/California Register Evaluation Recommendation	Historical Resource/Property	Project Plans
Asociación de Charros de Escondido Arena	Ineligible	No	Upgrade
MBI-El Caballo-01H	Not evaluated	N/A	No planned work in site boundary

1.0 INTRODUCTION

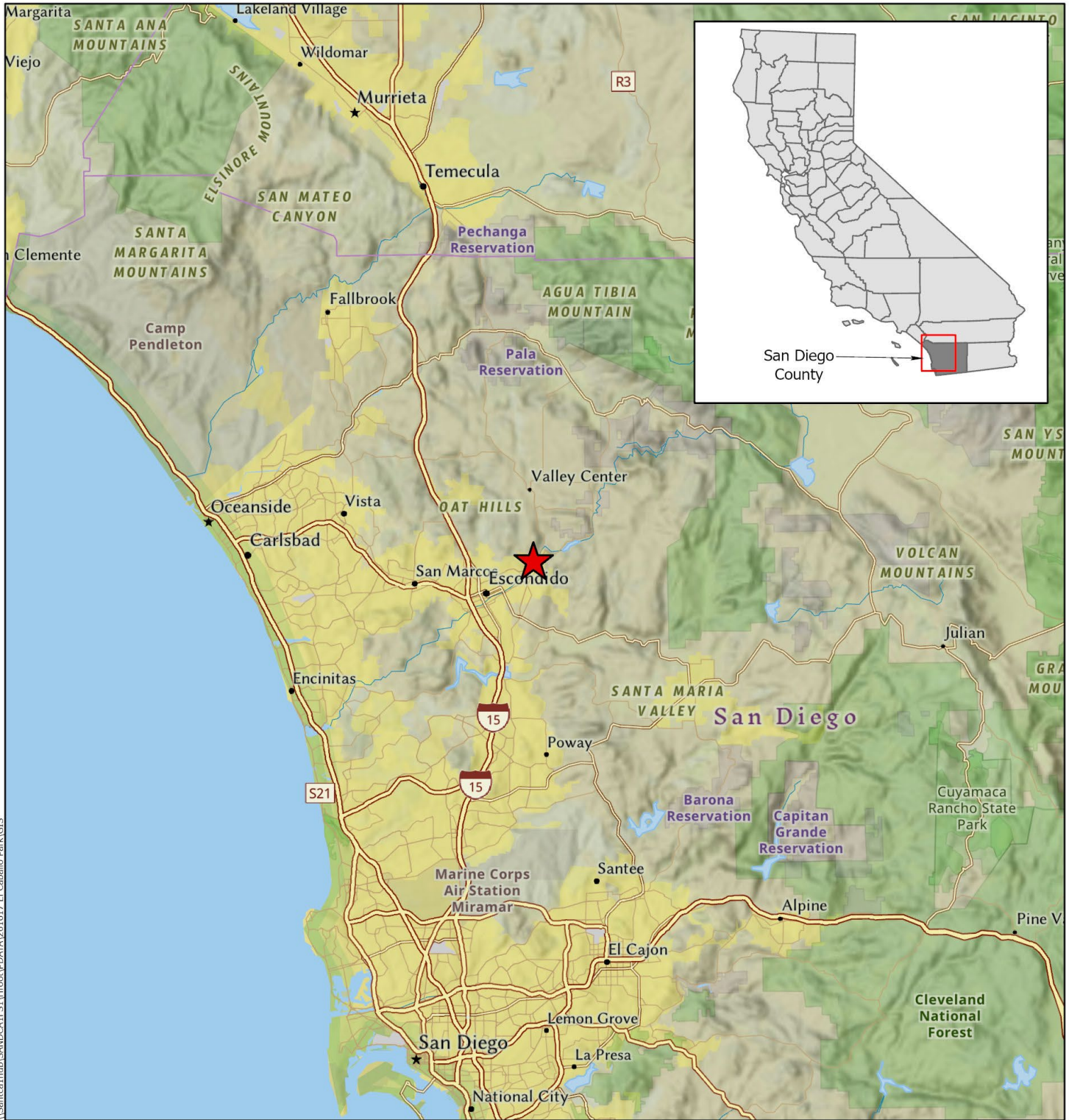
The City of Escondido (“City”) contracted Michael Baker International to provide cultural resources services for the El Caballo Park Project (“project”) in Escondido, San Diego County, California. The project proposes to develop a community-focused, equestrian-oriented public facility in Escondido, California. In support of the project, Michael Baker International conducted this study to determine whether the proposed project could result in significant impacts to historical and archaeological resources as defined by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15064.5(a).

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in Escondido, California in northern San Diego County, west of East Valley Parkway and east of Dixon Reservoir (**Figure 1**). The project is situated immediately south of the 3,000-acre Daley Ranch preserve and the Escondido Humane Society. To the west of the park is the City of Escondido Water Treatment Plant, which is adjacent to Dixon Lake. The treatment plant is approximately 300 feet above the park area in elevation. To the east is Mayflower Dog Park and the Hidden Valley Obedience Club (HVOC) which are separated from El Caballo Park by a large concrete drainage channel called Escondido Creek. There is also a 2.5-acre vacant dirt lot between HVOC and Beven Drive and will be included in the park boundaries of development. South of the park is the 340-unit housing development Eureka Springs. The project site is approximately 20 acres in size and is mapped on the US Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Valley Center quadrangle in Township 12 South, Range 2 West, Section 1 and Township 12 South Range 1 West, Section 6 (**Figure 2**). The project study area surveyed for this cultural resources assessment is at the northwestern corner of the East Valley Parkway and Beven Drive intersection, with Save A Life Way running through the center of the project area (**Figure 3**).

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

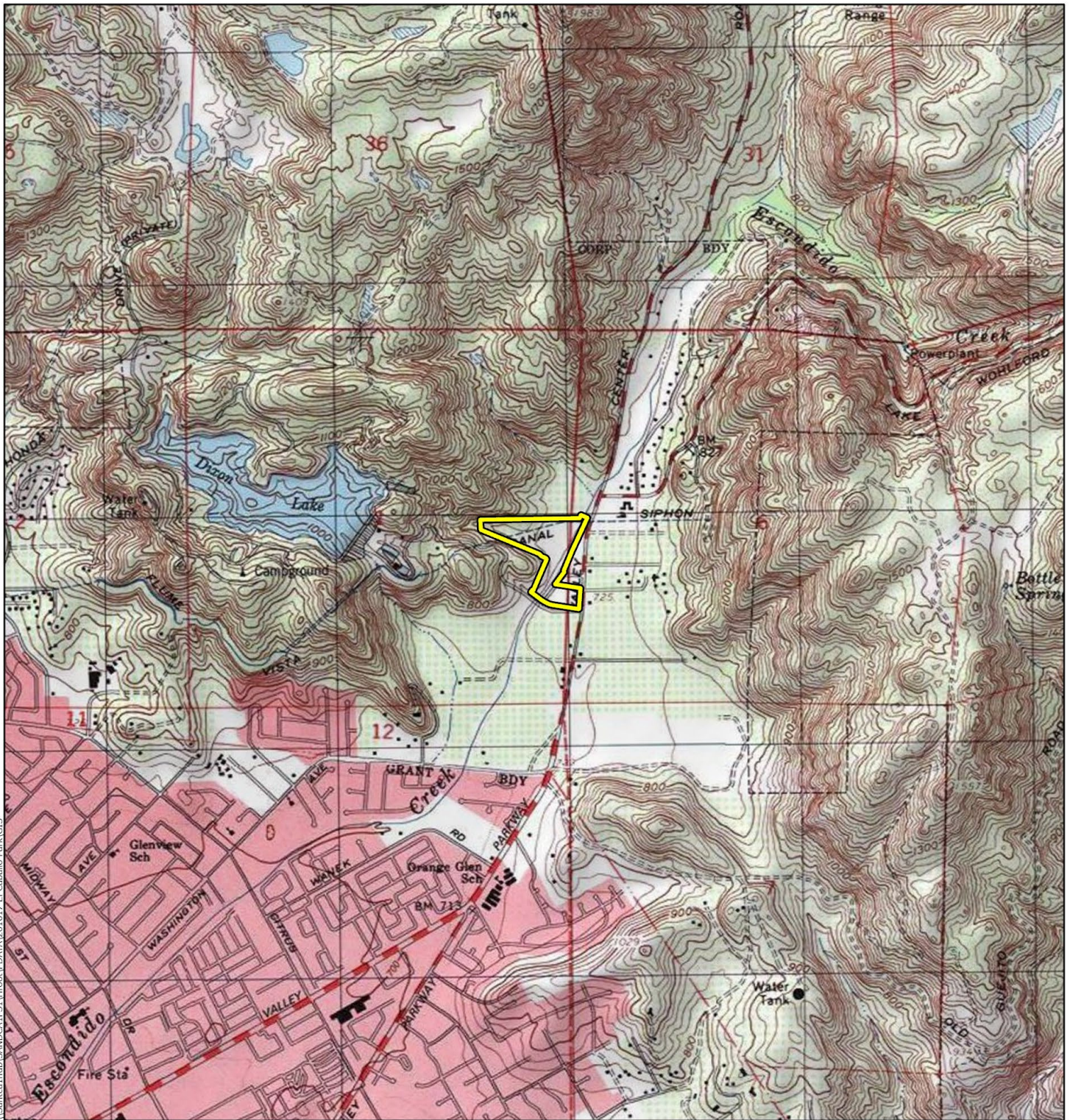
The El Caballo Park Master Plan aims to develop a community-focused, equestrian-oriented public facility on approximately 20 acres in Escondido, California. The park will feature a variety of amenities, including equestrian centers, therapeutic riding arenas, and natural play areas, integrated with picnic groves and a central recreational lawn. Key components include improved arenas, round pens, corrals, and connections to the Escondido Creek Trail. Designed to unite the community, the park will host diverse groups, including the Charros Association, and therapeutic equestrian programs, enhancing local cultural and recreational opportunities while fostering community engagement.



\\Sanitcon1\hub\SANDCA\TFS1\Work\PD\DATA\201617 El Caballo Park\GIS

Legend

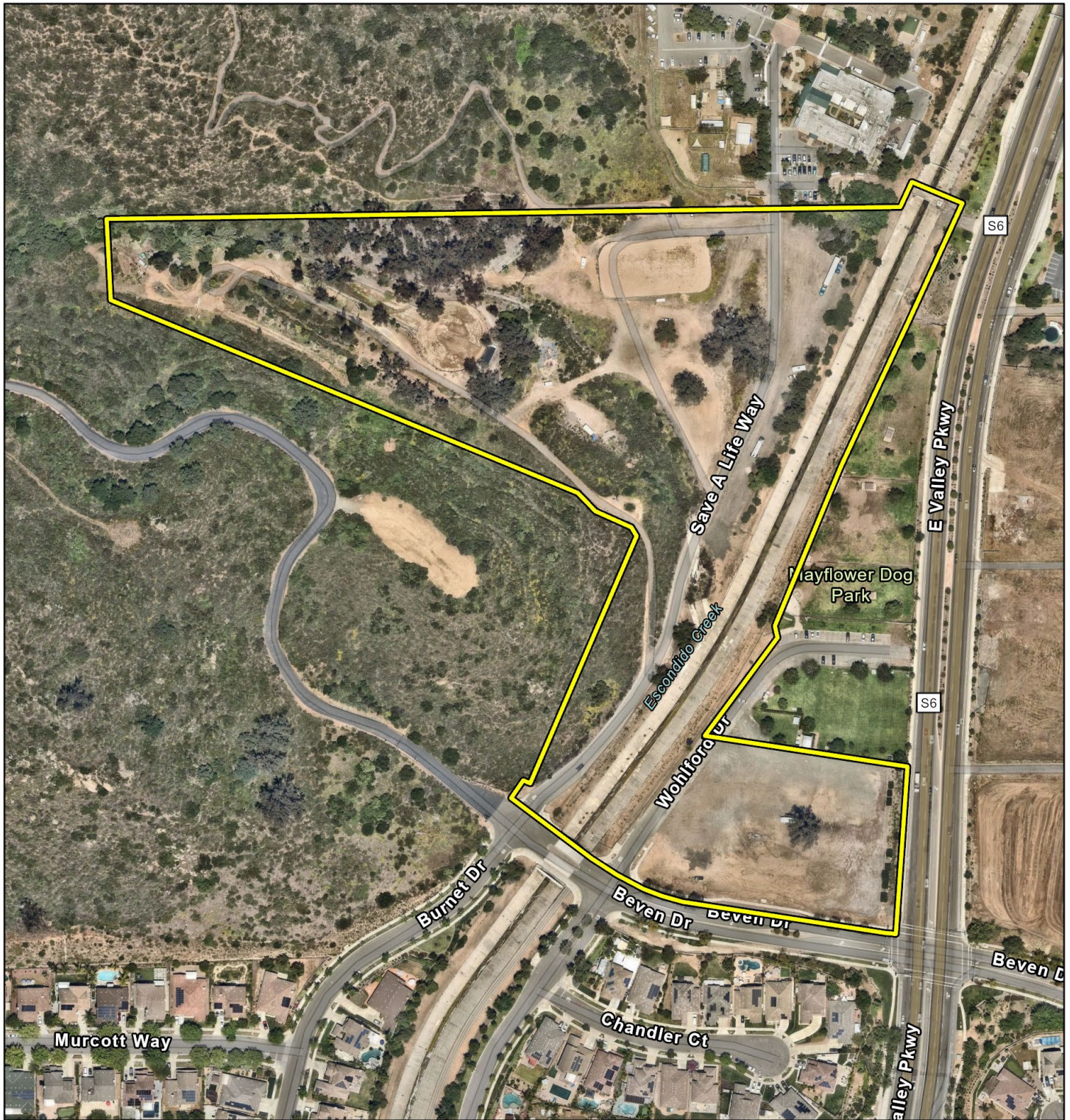
Project Location



Legend

 El Caballo Park Project Area

VALLEY CENTER USGS 7.5-MINUTE TOPO QUAD
T 12 S R 02 W, SECTION 1 AND T 12 S R 01 W SECTION 6



Legend

 El Caballo Park Project Area



2.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Cultural resources are defined as buildings, sites, structures, or objects, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance. Significant resources are those resources that have been found eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources or National Register of Historic Places, as applicable.

2.1 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Federal regulations would be applicable to the project if there is a federal nexus, such as permitting or funding from a federal agency. Federal regulations would consist of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (16 United States Code 470 et seq., 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800). Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on "historic properties," that is, properties (either historic or archaeological) that are eligible for the National Register. To be eligible for the National Register, a historic property must be significant at the local, state, or national level under one or more of the following four criteria:

- Criterion A. is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- Criterion B. is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- Criterion C. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and/or
- Criterion D. has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

2.2 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CEQA applies to all discretionary projects undertaken or subject to approval by the State of California's public agencies (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14[3] Section 15002[i]). CEQA policy conditions public agencies to "take all action necessary to provide the people of this State with historic environmental qualities and preserve for future generations examples of the major periods of California history" (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21001[b], [c]). Under the provisions of CEQA, "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[b]).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) defines a "historical resource" as a resource that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register.
- Listed in a local register of historical resources (as defined in PRC Section 5020.1[k]).
- Identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting PRC Section 5024.1(g) requirements.
- Determined to be a historical resource by a project's lead agency (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[a]).

A historical resource consists of "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. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be 'historically significant' if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources" (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[a][3]).

The CEQA planning process requires projects to consider historical resources and unique archaeological resources (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5; PRC Section 21083.2). If feasible, adverse effects to the significance of historical resources must be avoided or mitigated (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[b][4]). The significance of a historical resource is impaired when a project demolishes or materially alters adversely those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and justify its eligibility for the California Register. If there is a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, the preparation of an environmental impact report may be required (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15065[a]).

If the cultural resource in question is an archaeological site, CEQA (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[c][1]) requires that the lead agency first determine if the site is a historical resource as defined in CCR Title 14(3) Section 15064.5(a). If the site qualifies as a historical resource, potential adverse impacts must be considered in the same manner as a historical resource (California Office of Historic Preservation [OHP] 2001). If the archaeological site does not qualify as a historical resource but does qualify as a unique archaeological site, then the archaeological site is treated in accordance with PRC Section 21083.2 (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15069.5[c][3]). In practice, most archaeological sites that meet the definition of a unique archaeological resource will also meet the definition of a historical resource. CEQA defines a "unique archaeological resource" as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- Has a special and particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC Section 21083.2[g]).

If an impact to a historical or archaeological resource is significant, CEQA requires feasible mitigation measures to minimize the impact (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15126.4[a][1]). Mitigation must lessen or eliminate the physical impact that the project will have on the resource. Generally, drawings, photographs, and/or displays do not mitigate the physical impact on the environment caused by the demolition or the destruction of a historical resource. However, CEQA (PRC Section 21002.1[b]) requires that all feasible mitigation be undertaken even if it does not mitigate impacts to a less than significant level (OHP 2001: 9).

2.2.1 California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register is a guide to cultural resources that must be considered when a government agency undertakes a discretionary action subject to CEQA. The California Register helps government agencies identify and evaluate California's historical resources (OHP n.d.-a) and indicates which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (PRC Section 5024.1[a]). Any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register is to be considered during the CEQA process (OHP 2001: 7).

A cultural resource is evaluated under four criteria to determine its historical significance. A resource must be significant in accordance with one or more of the following criteria:

- Criterion 1: Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of California's history and cultural heritage.
- Criterion 2: Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- Criterion 3: 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.
- Criterion 4: Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Age

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the California Register requires that sufficient time must have passed to allow a "scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource." Fifty years is used as a general estimate of the time needed to understand the historical importance of a resource (OHP n.d.-b: 3). The OHP recommends documenting, and taking into consideration in the planning process, any cultural resource that is 45 years or older (OHP 1995: 2).

Period of Significance

The period of significance for a property is "the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, persons, or attained the characteristics which qualify it for National Register listing" (NPS 1997: 42). The period of significance begins with the date of the earliest important land use or activity that is reflected by historic characteristics tangible today. The period closes with the date when events having historical importance ended. The period of significance for an archaeological property is "the broad span of time about which the site or district is likely to provide information" (NPS 1997: 42). Archaeological properties may have more than one period of significance.

Integrity

The California Register also requires a resource to possess integrity, which is defined as "the authenticity of a historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. Integrity is evaluated with regards to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association" (OHP n.d.-b: 2).

Archaeologists use the term “integrity” to describe the level of preservation or quality of information contained within a district, site, or excavated assemblage. Integrity is relative to the specific significance that the resource conveys. Although it is possible to correlate the seven aspects of integrity with standard archaeological site characteristics, those aspects are often unclear for evaluating the ability of an archaeological resource to convey significance under Criterion 4. The integrity of an archaeological resource is judged according to the site’s ability to yield scientific and cultural information that can be used to address important research questions (NPS 1997: 44–49).

2.3 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5097.5

PRC Section 5097.5 prohibits excavation or removal of any “vertebrate paleontological site ... or any other archaeological, paleontological or historical feature, situated on public lands, except with express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over such lands.” Public lands are defined to include lands owned by or under the jurisdiction of the state or any city, county, district, authority, or public corporation, or any agency thereof. Section 5097.5 states that any unauthorized disturbance or removal of archaeological, historical, or paleontological materials or sites located on public lands is a misdemeanor.

2.4 CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 7050.5

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that in the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the remains are discovered has determined whether or not the remains are subject to the coroner’s authority. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of this identification. The NAHC will identify a Native American most likely descendant to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods.

2.5 CITY OF ESCONDIDO GENERAL PLAN

The City of Escondido’s General Plan (2012a: VII-12) notes:

Conserving archaeological, cultural, and agricultural resources helps foster an appreciation of Escondido’s past and provides an important perspective and economic opportunity for future planning efforts. Increased awareness of the economic benefits of preservation has also been recognized in the visitor and tourism industry. Interest in statewide heritage tourism and Escondido’s ordinances offering economic incentives for preservation have benefited owners of historical, archeological and architecturally significant properties.

The following policies in the City of Escondido General Plan describe the specific actions the City requires of new development with regards to cultural resources.

GOAL 5: Preservation of important cultural and paleontological resources that contribute to the unique identity and character of Escondido.

Cultural Resources Policy 5.1: Maintain and update the Escondido Historic Sites Survey to include significant resources that meet local, State, or federal criteria.

Cultural Resources Policy 5.2: Preserve significant cultural and paleontological resources listed on the national, State, or local registers through maintenance or development of appropriate ordinances that protect, enhance, and perpetuate resources; incentive programs; and/or the development review process.

Cultural Resources Policy 5.3: Consult with appropriate organizations and individuals (e.g., South Coastal Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, Native American Heritage Commission, Native American groups and individuals, and San Diego Natural History Museum) early in the development process to minimize potential impacts to cultural and paleontological resources.

Cultural Resources Policy 5.4: Recognize the sensitivity of locally significant cultural resources and the need for more detailed assessments through the environmental review process.

Cultural Resources Policy 5.5: Preserve historic buildings, landscapes, and districts with special and recognized historic or architectural value in their original locations through preservation, rehabilitation (including adaptive reuse), and restoration where the use is compatible with the surrounding area.

Cultural Resources Policy 5.6: Review the proposed new development and/or remodels for compatibility with the surrounding historic context.

Cultural Resources Policy 5.7: Comply with appropriate local, State, or federal regulations governing historical resources.

Cultural Resources Policy 5.8: Consider providing financial incentives, and educational information on existing incentives provided by the federal government to private owners and development in order to maintain, rehabilitate, and preserve historic resources.

Cultural Resources Policy 5.9: Educate the public on the City's important historic resources to increase awareness for protection.

2.6 CITY OF ESCONDIDO LOCAL REGISTER/LOCAL LANDMARK CRITERIA

The procedures and criteria for register listing or local landmark designation are provided in the City's Municipal Code, Chapter 33, Article 40, Section 33-794(c):

Prior to granting a resource local register or historical landmark status, the zoning administrator shall consider the definitions for historical resources and historical districts and shall find that the resource conforms to one (1) or more of the criteria listed in this section. A structural resource proposed for the local register shall be evaluated against criteria number one (1) through seven (7) and must meet at least two (2) of the criteria. Signs proposed for the local register shall meet at least one (1) of the criteria numbered eight (8) through ten (10). Landscape features proposed

for the local register shall meet criterion number eleven (11). Archaeological resources shall meet criterion number twelve (12). Local register resources proposed for local landmark designation shall be evaluated against criterion number thirteen (13). The criteria are as follows:

- (1) Escondido historical resources that are strongly identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture, history, prehistory, or development of the City of Escondido, region, state, or nation;
- (2) Escondido building or buildings that embody distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type, specimen, or are representative of a recognized architect's work and are not substantially altered;
- (3) Escondido historical resources that are connected with a business or use that was once common but is now rare;
- (4) Escondido historical resources that are the sites of significant historic events;
- (5) Escondido historical resources that are fifty (50) years old or have achieved historical significance within the past fifty (50) years;
- (6) Escondido historical resources that are an important key focal point in the visual quality or character of a neighborhood, street, area, or district;
- (7) Escondido historical building that is one of the few remaining examples in the city possessing distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type;
- (8) Sign that is exemplary of technology, craftsmanship or design of the period when it was constructed, uses historical sign materials and is not significantly altered;
- (9) Sign that is integrated into the architecture of the building, such as the sign pylons on buildings constructed in the Modern style and later styles;
- (10) Sign that demonstrates extraordinary aesthetic quality, creativity, or innovation;
- (11) Escondido landscape feature that is associated with an event or person of historical significance to the community or warrants special recognition due to size, condition, uniqueness, or aesthetic qualities;
- (12) Escondido archaeological site that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory;
- (13) Escondido significant historical resource that has an outstanding rating of the criteria used to evaluate local register requests. (Ord. No. 2000-23, §4, 9-13-00; Ord. No. 2008-16, §4, 7-16-08; Ord. No. 2016-15, §4, 10-26-16).

2.7 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE VALUES

Federal and state laws mandate that consideration be given to the concerns of contemporary Native Americans with regard to potentially ancestral human remains, associated funerary objects, and items of cultural patrimony. Consequently, an important element in assessing the significance of the study site has been to evaluate the likelihood that these classes of items are present in areas that would be affected by the proposed project.

Potentially relevant to prehistoric archaeological sites is the category termed Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) in discussions of cultural resource management performed under federal auspices. According to Parker and King (1998), “traditional” in this context refers to those beliefs, customs, and practices of a living community of people that have been passed down through the generations, usually orally or through practice. The traditional cultural significance of a historic property, then, is significance derived from the role the property plays in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices. Cultural resources can include TCPs, such as gathering areas, landmarks, and ethnographic locations, in addition to archaeological districts. Generally, a TCP may consist of a single site, or group of associated archaeological sites (district or traditional cultural landscape), or an area of cultural/ethnographic importance.

In California, the Traditional Tribal Cultural Places Bill of 2004 requires local governments to consult with Native American tribes during the project planning process, specifically before adopting or amending a general or specific plan, or when designating land as open space for the purpose of protecting Native American cultural places. The intent of this legislation is to encourage consultation and assist in the preservation of Native American places of prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial importance. State Assembly Bill 52, effective July 1, 2015, introduced the Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR) as a class of cultural resources and additional considerations relating to Native American consultation into CEQA. As a general concept, a TCR is similar to the federally defined TCP; however, it incorporates consideration of local and state significance and the required mitigation under CEQA. A TCR may be considered significant if included in a local or state register of historical resources; determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC §5024.1; is a geographically defined cultural landscape that meets one or more of these criteria; is a historical resource described in PRC Section 21084.1 or a unique archaeological resource described PRC Section 21083.2; or is a non-unique archaeological resource if it conforms with the above criteria.

3.0 PROJECT SETTING

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

El Caballo Park is located in Escondido, California, within the coastal plain and foothills of the Peninsular Ranges. The region experiences a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters (Pryde 2004). The park's elevation ranges from approximately 600 to 650 feet above mean sea level. The Peninsular Ranges rise sharply to an elevation of 6,140 feet above mean sea level at nearby Palomar Mountain, which is situated approximately 25 miles northeast of the park. Escondido Creek runs

adjacent to the park, providing a riparian habitat within 2 miles north, and Lake Hodges Reservoir lies about 4 miles southwest. The Pacific coastline is roughly 20 miles west of El Caballo Park.

Geologically, the park is predominantly underlain by granitic bedrock from the middle Cretaceous Woodson Mountain Granodiorite Formation (Kennedy and Tan 2005). Soils in the park primarily consist of Visalia sandy loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes (64.9%) and Vista coarse sandy loam with 9 to 15 percent slopes (27.2%). Cieneba-Fallbrook rocky, sandy loams with 30 to 65 percent slopes cover 5.3 percent of the project area, and Friant rocky fine sandy loam with 30 to 70 percent slopes cover 2.6 percent of the project area (USDA 2024). This soil series features a thick surface layer and gentle to moderate slopes (2%-9%) (Bowman 1973).

El Caballo Park is surrounded by a mix of residential, recreational, and natural areas. To the south and west of the park lie residential neighborhoods with single-family homes. These areas provide a suburban feel with local amenities and schools. The park itself is designed for equestrian activities and includes arenas, bull corrals, and pens. Nearby, there are other recreational facilities like the Escondido Humane Society and various trails for hiking and horseback riding. To the north and east, the landscape becomes more natural with open spaces and undeveloped land. This provides a scenic backdrop and opportunities for outdoor activities. A bit further out, especially along Valley Center Road, there are some commercial establishments, including shops and restaurants, catering to the local community.

Historically, the native vegetation in and around the park included coastal sage scrub, riparian woodland, and grassland communities. Key species in the coastal sage scrub community include California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), and buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) (Beauchamp 1986). The riparian zones were dominated by species such as sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), willow (*Salix* spp.), and mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) (Munz 1974). The grassland areas were primarily composed of native grasses like *Stipa*, *Elymus*, and *Muhlenbergia* species. Additionally, the freshwater marsh areas within and around Escondido Creek featured species such as cattail (*Typha latifolia*), bulrush (*Scirpus* spp.), and marsh mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*) (Beauchamp 1986).

The park's wildlife includes a variety of species that were historically present in the region. Common animals include coyote (*Canis latrans*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), and various small mammals such as the California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) and dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*) (Burt and Grossenheider 1976). Reptiles such as the western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) and the gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*) are also native to the area (Stebbins 2003).

Native American populations historically used the plant and animal resources found in the park for food, medicine, tools, and ceremonial purposes (Bean and Saubel 1972; Bean and Shipek 1978). Species like cottontail rabbits, jackrabbits, and mule deer were significant for both sustenance and the crafting of tools and clothing (Christenson 1990).

3.2 CULTURAL SETTING

3.2.1 Prehistoric Archaeology

Archaeological investigations in southern California have documented a diverse range of human adaptations extending from the late Pleistocene up to the time of European contact (e.g., Erlandson and Colten 1991; Erlandson and Glassow 1997; Erlandson and Jones 2002; Jones and Klar 2007). To describe and discuss this diversity, local investigators have proposed a variety of different chronologies and conceptual categories (periods, horizons, stages, phases, traditions, cultures, peoples, industries, complexes, and patterns), often with confusingly overlapping or vague terminology. The current study area sits at an intersection of the traditionally use areas of the Luiseño and the Kumeyaay (Diegueño, Ipai).

The prehistory of San Diego County is most frequently divided chronologically into three or four major periods. An Early Man stage, perhaps dating back tens of thousands of years, has been proposed. More generally accepted divisions include a Terminal Pleistocene/Early Holocene period (ca. 12,000-6000 BC) (Paleo-Indian stage; Clovis and San Dieguito patterns), a Middle/Late Holocene period (ca. 6000 BC-AD 800) (Archaic stage; La Jolla, Millingstone, Encinitas, and Pauma patterns), and a Late Prehistoric period (ca. AD 800-1769) (Archaic stage; San Luis Rey, Palomar, and Peninsular patterns for northern San Diego County and Yuman, Cuyamaca, Patayan, or Hakataya pattern for southern San Diego County).

Hypothetical Early Man (pre-ca. 12,000 BC)

The antiquity of human occupation in the New World has been the subject of considerable interest and debate for more than a century. At present, the most widely accepted model is that humans first entered portions of the western hemisphere lying to the south of Alaska between about 13,000 and 12,000 BC, either along the Pacific coastline or through an ice-free corridor between the retreating Cordilleran and Laurentide segments of the continental glacier in Canada, or along both routes. While there is no generally accepted evidence of human occupation in coastal southern California prior to about 11,000 BC, ages estimated at 48,000 years and even earlier sometimes have been reported (e.g., Bada et al. 1974). However, intensive interest and a long history of research into the early occupation of North America has begun to reveal sites with widely accepted evidence dating prior to 13,000 BC, such as Cooper's Ferry, ID (Davis et al. 2019) and White Sands, NM (Bustos et al. 2018).

Local claims for Early Man discoveries have generally been based either on the apparent crudeness of the lithic assemblages that were encountered or on the finds' apparent Pleistocene geological contexts (Carter 1957, 1980; Minshall 1976, 1989; Reeves, Pohl, and Smith 1986). The amino acid racemization technique was used in the 1970s and early 1980s to assign Pleistocene ages to coastal southern California sites (Bada et al. 1974), but the technique's findings have been discredited by more recent accelerator mass spectrometry radiocarbon dating (Taylor et al. 1985).

Terminal Pleistocene/Early Holocene Period (ca. 12,000-6000 BC)

The earliest chronologically distinctive archaeological pattern recognized in mainland California is the Clovis pattern. Dated to around 11,500 BC, Clovis assemblages are distinguished by fluted projectile points and other large bifaces, as well as extinct large mammal remains. At least three isolated fluted points have

been reported within San Diego County, but their occurrence is very sparse and their dating and contexts are uncertain (Davis and Shutler 1969; Kline and Kline 2007; Rondeau, Cassidy, and Jones 2007).

The most widely recognized archaeological pattern within this period is termed San Dieguito and has been dated from at least as early as 8500 BC to perhaps around 6000 BC (Rogers 1966; True and Bouey 1990; Warren 1966; Warren, Siegler, and Dittmer 2008). The San Dieguito pattern was originally defined near the central coast of San Diego County, and its presence has been reported through extensive areas to the east, but few traces are recognized on or near the northern coast of San Diego County. Proposed characteristics to distinguish San Dieguito flaked lithic assemblages include large projectile points (Lake Mojave, Silver Lake, and other, less diagnostic forms), bifaces, crescents, scraper planes, scrapers, hammers, and choppers. The San Dieguito technology involved well-controlled percussion flaking and some pressure flaking.

Malcolm Rogers (1966) suggested that three successive phases of the San Dieguito pattern (San Dieguito I, II, and III) could be distinguished in southern California, based on evolving aspects of lithic technology. However, subsequent investigators have generally not been able to confirm such changes, and the phases are not now generally accepted.

A key issue has concerned ground stone, which was originally suggested as having been absent from San Dieguito components but has subsequently been recognized as occurring infrequently within them. It was initially suggested that San Dieguito components, like other Paleo-Indian manifestations, represented the products of highly mobile groups that were organized as small bands and focused on the hunting of large game. However, in the absence of supporting faunal evidence, this interpretation has increasingly been called into question, and it has been suggested that the San Dieguito pattern represented a more generalized, Archaic-stage lifeway, rather than a true Paleo-Indian adaptation.

A vigorous debate has continued for several decades concerning the relationship between the San Dieguito pattern and the La Jolla pattern that succeeded it and that may have also been contemporaneous with or even antecedent to it (e.g., Gallegos 1987; Warren, Siegler, and Dittmer 2008). The initial view was that San Dieguito and La Jolla represented the products of distinct ethnic groups and/or cultural traditions (e.g., Rogers 1945; Warren 1967, 1968). However, as early Holocene radiocarbon dates have been obtained for site components with apparent La Jolla characteristics (shell middens, milling tools, and simple cobble-based flaked lithic technology), an alternative interpretation has gained some favor: that the San Dieguito pattern represented a functional pose related in particular to the production of bifaces, and that it represents activities by same people who were responsible for the La Jolla pattern (e.g., Bull 1987; Hanna 1983).

Middle/Late Holocene Period (ca. 6000 BC-AD 800)

Archaeological evidence from this period in the San Diego region has been characterized as belonging to the Archaic stage, Millingstone horizon, Encinitas tradition, or La Jolla and Pauma patterns (Moratto 1984; Rogers 1945; Sutton and Gardner 2010; True 1958, 1980; True and Beemer 1982; True and Pankey 1985; Wallace 1955; Warren 1968; Warren, True, and Eudey 1961). Adaptations during this period apparently emphasized gathering, in particular the harvesting of hard plant seeds, as well as small-game hunting. Distinctive characteristics of the La Jolla pattern include extensive shell middens, portable ground stone

metates and manos, crudely flaked cobble tools, occasional large expanding-stemmed projectile points (Pinto and Elko forms), and flexed human burials. The inland Pauma pattern has variously been interpreted as a separate culture that was broadly similar to the contemporaneous La Jolla pattern on the coast or as a different functional pose of the same culture.

Investigators have called attention to the apparent stability and conservatism of the La Jolla pattern throughout this long period, as contrasted with less conservative patterns observed elsewhere in coastal southern California (Hale 2009; Sutton 2011; Sutton and Gardner 2010; Warren 1968). However, distinct chronological phases within the pattern have also been suggested, based on changes in the flaked lithic and ground stone technologies, the shellfish species targeted, and burial practices (Harding 1951; Moriarty 1966; Rogers 1945; Shumway, Hubbs, and Moriarty 1961; Sutton and Gardner 2010; Warren 1964; Warren, Siegler, and Dittmer 2008).

Late Prehistoric Period (ca. AD 800-1769)

A Late Prehistoric period in San Diego County has been distinguished, primarily on the basis of three major innovations: the use of small projectile points (Desert Side-notched, Cottonwood triangular, and Dos Cabezas forms), associated with the adoption of the bow and arrow in place of the atlatl as a primary hunting tool and weapon; brownware pottery, presumably supplementing the continued use of basketry and other containers; and the practice of human cremation in place of inhumation. Uncertainty remains concerning the exact timing of these innovations, and whether they appeared simultaneously or sequentially (e.g., Griset 1996; Yohe 1992).

Labels applied to the archaeological manifestations of this period in the northern reaches of San Diego County include San Luis Rey, Palomar, and Peninsular (Meighan 1954; Sutton 2011; True 1970; True, Meighan, and Crew 1974; True, Pankey, and Warren 1991; Waugh 1986). These remains have generally been associated with the ethnohistorically known Luiseño, Cupeño, and Cahuilla and have been seen as perhaps marking the initial local appearance of those groups in a migration from the north. Traits characterizing the Late Prehistoric period include greater reliance on acorns as an abundant but labor-expensive food resource, a greater emphasis on hunting of both large and small game (particularly deer and rabbits), a greater amount of interregional exchange (seen notably in more use of obsidian), more elaboration of nonutilitarian culture (manifested in more frequent use of shell beads, decorated pottery, and rock art), and possibly denser regional populations. Settlement may have become more sedentary during this period, as compared with the preceding period.

Labels applied to the archaeological manifestations of this period in central and southern San Diego County include Yuman, Cuyamaca, Patayan, and Hakataya (Rogers 1945; True 1970; Schroeder 1978; Waters 1982). These remains have generally been associated with the ethnohistorically known Kumeyaay (Diegueño, Tipai, Ipai) and have been seen as perhaps marking the initial local appearance of that group in a migration from the lower Colorado River region. Traits characterizing the Late Prehistoric period include a shift toward greater use of inland rather than coastal settlement locations, greater reliance on acorns as an abundant but labor-expensive food resource, a greater emphasis on hunting of both large and small game (particularly deer and rabbits), a greater amount of interregional exchange (seen notably in more use of obsidian), more elaboration of nonutilitarian culture (manifested in more frequent use of shell beads, decorated pottery and the distinctive Rancho Bernardo and La Rumorosa rock art styles), and

possibly denser regional populations (Christenson 1990; McDonald and Eighmey 2008). Whether settlement became more or less sedentary during this period, as compared with the preceding period, is uncertain.

3.2.2 Ethnographic Evidence

In ethnohistoric times, northern San Diego County was occupied by speakers of the closely related Luiseño, Cupeño, and Cahuilla languages. Luiseño territory extended from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, Escondido, and Lake Henshaw northward into southern Orange and Riverside Counties. The Cupeño occupied a relatively small territory in the vicinity of Warner's Ranch. The extensive Cahuilla lands extended east from Luiseño territory into the Colorado Desert and north as far as San Geronimo Pass. To the south lay the territory of the unrelated Kumeyaay (Diegueño, Ipai) (Heizer 1978; Kroeber 1925).

Linguistic evidence links the Luiseño, Cupeño, and Cahuilla with the Uto-Aztecan family of languages (Golla 2007; Laylander 2010). A hierarchy of relationships within that family likely mirror a sequence of separations reflecting territorial expansions or migrations, leading the linguistic ancestors of the Luiseño, Cupeño, and Cahuilla from a still-debated Uto-Aztecan homeland to a northern Uto-Aztecan base somewhere in western North America and ultimately south to their ethnohistoric homes. Splits within the ancestral family included the differentiation of Takic (also termed Southern California Shoshonean) (ca. 1000 B.C.?), the separation of the Luiseño from Cahuilla-Cupeño (ca. A.D. 1?), and the separation of the Cahuilla and Cupeño (ca. A.D. 1000?).

While Luiseño, Cupeño, and Cahuilla cultural patterns, as recorded subsequent to European contact, cannot necessarily be equated with Late Prehistoric patterns, at a minimum, they provide indispensable clues to cultural elements that would be difficult or impossible to extract unaided from the archaeological record alone. A few important ethnohistoric accounts are available from Franciscan missionaries and others (Geiger and Meighan 1976; Harrington 1933; Harrington and Boscan 1934; Henshaw 1972; Laylander 2000). Many accounts by ethnographers, primarily recorded during the early and middle twentieth century, are available (Bean 1972, 1978; Bean and Shippek 1978; Bean and Smith 1978; Drucker 1937).

The Luiseño, Cupeño, and Cahuilla inhabited a diverse environment that included littoral, valley, foothill, mountain, and desert resource zones. The violent imposition of the mission system on coastal Luiseño people—where Spanish missionaries, accompanied by military forces, enslaved and displaced Indigenous communities—has led most twentieth-century ethnographic information to emphasize inland Luiseño groups in the Peninsular Ranges and Colorado Desert (Shippek 1978; Geiger and Meighan 1976; Madrigal 2025). Ethnohistoric knowledge remains present within Luiseño communities; however, generations of exploitation and misrepresentation have led many communities to protect this knowledge within their own circles (Bean and Shippek 1978; Parker and King 1998; Madrigal 2025).. Acorns were a key resource for inland groups, but a wide range of other mineral, plant, and animal resources were exploited (Bean and Saubel 1972; Sparkman 1908). Some degree of residential mobility seems to have been practiced; one classic fission/fusion pattern involved annual seasonal shifts between consolidated winter and spring settlements in the upper San Luis Rey River valley and smaller, dispersed groups living on Palomar Mountain in the summer and fall (Oxendine 1983). The fundamental Luiseño social units above the family were patrilineal, patrilocal clans, the latter ideally coinciding with the winter-spring village communities.

The Cahuilla and Cupeño also had patrilineal Coyote and Wildcat moieties, serving primarily to impose exogamous marriage and to conduct ceremonies. Hereditary leaders performed ceremonial, advisory, and diplomatic functions, rather than judicial, redistributive, or military ones. There seems to have been no national level of political unity among the Luiseño or Cahuilla, and perhaps little sense of commonality within the language group.

Luiseño, Cahuilla, and Cupeño material culture was effective, and was characterized by meticulous, individualized production. Tools were carefully shaped to fit the specific hands and tasks of their makers, with equal emphasis on selecting appropriate stone, shell, or wood. These implements should be understood as precision instruments and expressions of deep, place-based knowledge rather than merely utilitarian objects (Sparkman 1908; Bean and Shipek 1978; True and Beemer 1982; Rondeau, Cassidy, and Jones 2007; Madrigal 2025).. Structures included houses with excavated floors, ramadas, sweathouses, ceremonial enclosures, and acorn granaries. Hunting equipment included bows and arrows, curved throwing sticks, nets, and snares. Processing and storage equipment included a variety of flaked stone tools, milling implements, ceramic vessels, and baskets.

Nonutilitarian culture was not neglected. A range of community ceremonies were performed, with particular emphases placed on individuals coming of age and on death and mourning. Oral literature included, in particular, an elaborate creation myth that was shared with the Takic-speaking Serrano as well as with Yuman speakers (Kroeber 1925; Laylander 2001; Waterman 1909).

In ethnohistoric times, central and southern San Diego County was occupied by speakers of a Yuman language or languages, variously referred to as Kumeyaay, Diegueño, Tipai, and Ipai. Kumeyaay territory extended from south of Agua Hedionda Lagoon, Escondido, and Lake Henshaw to some distance south of Ensenada in northern Baja California, and east nearly as far as the lower Colorado River. Linguistic evidence (e.g., Golla 2007; Laylander 2010) suggests that the Yuman-Cochimí families of languages may have been affiliated with a widespread Hokan phylum, represented by scattered languages and families around the periphery of California and extending south into Mexico, and probably dating back at least as far as the early Holocene. Subsequent separations within the Yuman-Cochimí group may represent territorial expansions or migrations: the separation of Yuman and central Baja California's Cochimí (ca. 2000 B.C.?); the differentiation of Core Yuman from Kiliwa (ca. 1000 B.C.?); of Core Yuman into Delta-California, River, and Pai branches (ca. A.D. 1?); of Delta-California Yuman into Diegueño and Cocopa (ca. A.D. 500?); and of Diegueño into Kumeyaay proper, Ipai, Tipai, and Ku'ahl languages or dialects (ca. post-A.D. 1000?). The boundary between Ipai and Kumeyaay proper (or Tipai) languages or dialects on the San Diego coast has generally been put just south of the San Diego River (Luomala 1978).

While Kumeyaay cultural patterns, as recorded subsequent to European contact, cannot necessarily be equated with Late Prehistoric patterns, at a minimum they provide indispensable clues to cultural elements that would be difficult or impossible to extract unaided from the archaeological record alone. A few important ethnohistoric accounts are available from Hispanic-period explorers and travelers, Spanish administrators, and Franciscan missionaries, primarily in coastal areas (Fages 1937; Geiger and Meighan 1976; Laylander 2000). Many accounts by ethnographers, primarily recorded during the early twentieth century, are available (Almstedt 1982; Drucker 1937, 1941; Gifford 1918, 1931; Hicks 1963; Hohenthal 2001; Kroeber 1925; Laylander 2004; Luomala 1978; Shipek 1982, 1991; Spier 1923; Waterman 1910).

The Kumeyaay inhabited a diverse environment that included littoral, valley, foothill, mountain, and desert resource zones. Because of the early incorporation of coastal Kumeyaay into the mission system, most of the available ethnographic information relates to inland groups that lived in the Peninsular Range or the Colorado Desert. There may have been considerable variability among the Kumeyaay in settlement and subsistence strategies and in social organization (Laylander 1991, 1997; Luomala 1978; Spier 1923; but cf. Shipek 1982). Acorns were a key resource, but a wide range of other mineral, plant, and animal resources were exploited (Hedges 1986; Shipek 1991; Wilken 2012). Pre-contact practices of land management and agriculture west of the Colorado Desert have been suggested but not confirmed (Shipek 1993; cf. Laylander 1995). Some degree of residential mobility seems to have been practiced, although its extent and nature (e.g., within patterns of community fission and fusion) may have varied considerably among different communities and settings. The fundamental Kumeyaay social unit above the family was the *šimuʔ* (patrilineage) and the residential community or band, to the extent that those two units were not identical. Leaders performed ceremonial, advisory, and diplomatic functions, rather than judicial, redistributive, or military ones. There seems to have been no national level of political unity and perhaps little sense of commonality within the language group (but cf. Shipek 1982).

Kumeyaay material culture was effective, but it was not highly elaborated. Structures included houses with excavated floors, ramadas, sweathouses, ceremonial enclosures, and acorn granaries. Hunting equipment included bows and arrows, curved throwing sticks, nets, and snares. Processing and storage equipment included a variety of flaked stone tools, milling implements, ceramic vessels, and baskets.

Nonutilitarian culture was not neglected. A range of community ceremonies were performed, with particular emphases placed on making individuals' coming of age and on death and mourning. Oral literature included, in particular, an elaborate creation myth that was shared with other Yuman groups as well as with Takic speakers (Luiseño, Cupeño, Cahuilla, and Serrano) to the north (Kroeber 1925; Laylander 2001; Waterman 1909).

Indigenous Place Acknowledgment

The immediate study area lies within lands traditionally used by Luiseño communities and, according to the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, is traditionally known as *húlvumay* (Madrigal 2025). This acknowledgment situates the project within a long-lived Indigenous cultural landscape centered on Escondido Creek and adjacent valleys. Historical and archaeological work in the surrounding vicinity—including the Northeast Gateway Specific Planning Area 5—has documented numerous prehistoric and historic resources (e.g., multiple bedrock milling features, a prehistoric campsite with subsurface potential at BDR-4, and several historic ranch complexes), illustrating the persistence of cultural use in the broader area (Gilmer and Berryman 2002). In addition, ethnographic sources record *Mixeelum Pompávo* as a Luiseño placename for the Escondido area (Kroeber 1925, 648), further underscoring the cultural depth of this landscape. The closest recorded Kumeyaay placename to the project area lies in the San Pasqual Valley and was documented by J. P. Harrington as *muukalhhkahlh* ("slender-necked sheep"), associated with a rock feature still present in the 1930s (Field et al. 2024). Together, these lines of evidence highlight the layered Luiseño and Kumeyaay histories connected to the immediate study area.

3.2.3 History

European exploration of the San Diego area began in 1542 with the arrival of a maritime expedition under Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, followed by a similar reconnaissance in 1602 by Sebastián Vizcaíno (Pourade 1960). It is possible that additional, brief, unrecorded contacts with the crews of the Manila galleons may have occurred during the following century and a half, and that other influences, such as an awareness of alien technologies or the introduction of diseases, may have reached the region overland from earlier outposts of the Spanish empire in Baja California or Sonora.

The historic period proper did not begin until 1769, when multiple seaborne and overland expeditions under the leadership of the soldier Gaspar de Portolá and the Franciscan missionary Junípero Serra reached the region from Baja California and passed northward along the coastal plain to seek Monterey. To the south, a royal presidio and a mission were established that year in San Diego. Additional missions were founded among the Luiseño/Juaneño at San Juan Capistrano in 1776 and San Luis Rey de Francia in 1798. An *asistencia* or satellite mission for San Luis Rey was established at Pala in 1816.

As Spanish attention was consumed by the Napoleonic wars in Europe, California and its government and missions were increasingly left to their own devices. In 1821, Mexico consummated its independence from Spain, and the region became more open to outside visitors and influences (Pourade 1961). The loyalty to Mexico of the European Franciscans was considered to be in doubt, and private secular interests clamored for a greater share of the region's resources. The missions were secularized by an act of the Mexican Congress in 1833. Native Americans released from the missions at San Diego, San Luis Rey, and San Juan Capistrano returned to their native villages, moved east to areas lying beyond Mexican control, or sought work on ranchos or in the towns of San Diego and Los Angeles. Numerous large land grants were issued to private owners during the Mexican period, including El Rincon del Diablo, Monserrate, Guejito y Cañada de Palomia, Cuca, Pauma, Valle de San José, and San José del Valle in inland northern San Diego County (Pourade 1963).

The conquest and annexation of California by the United States in the Mexican-American War between 1846 and 1848 ushered in many more changes (Pourade 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1977; Pryde 2004). Faced with debts and difficulties in confirming land grants, many Californio families lost their lands to outsiders. Cultural patterns that were brought by immigrants from the eastern U.S. gradually supplanted old Californio customs. Native American reservations were established at Pala, Mission Reserve, Pauma-Yuima, Los Coyotes, La Jolla Rincon, and San Pasqual (Shipek 1978).

The region experienced cycles of economic and demographic booms and busts, with notable periods of growth in the mid-1880s, during World Wars I and II, and on more sustained basis throughout the postwar decades. Aspects of development included the creation of transportation networks based on port facilities, railroads, highways, and airports; more elaborate systems of water supply and flood control; grazing livestock and growing a changing array of crops; supporting military facilities, including the extensive Camp Pendleton facility established in 1942; limited amounts of manufacturing; and accommodating visitors and retirees. After false starts, San Diego converted itself to a substantial city, and then into a metropolis. Escondido was incorporated as a city in 1888; unincorporated North County communities include Fallbrook, Bonsall, Valley Center, Pala, and Pauma Valley (Pryde 2004).

Escondido

From the late eighteenth century to the early nineteenth century, the region of Escondido was under Spanish control, and missions were constructed to convert the indigenous people. In 1821, Mexico gained its independence from Spain and the land was divided into large “ranchos.” In the decades following the Mexican-American war, the Escondido rancho experienced multiple ownership transfers. In 1886, investors purchased the rancho and formed the Escondido Land and Town Company. On October 8, 1888, Escondido was incorporated as San Diego County’s fourth municipality. During its first 70 years, Escondido was a small, agriculturally based town. However, its position grew to become the North County’s center for retail, services, health care, and cultural facilities. (City of Escondido 2012).

4.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS

This section includes the methods and results of the South Coastal Information Center (“SCIC”) records search, the Native American Heritage Commission (“NAHC”) Sacred Lands File search, the archaeological and built environment field survey and evaluations, and the archaeological sensitivity assessment.

4.1 SCIC RECORDS SEARCH

On June 10, 2024, Michael Baker International archaeologist Rachel Garcia, MA, requested a records search at the SCIC. The SCIC is one of nine California Historical Resources Information System (“CHRIS”) Centers. Housed within San Diego State University, the SCIC is an affiliate of the California Office of Historic Preservation (“OHP”) and is the official state repository of cultural resource records and reports for San Diego, Imperial, and Riverside Counties in southern California. The records search included the project area and a half-mile buffer. It included archaeological and historical resources, locations, and citations for previous cultural resources studies and a review of the state OHP historic properties directory. The records search summary and map are included in **Appendix A** (confidential appendices, bound separately).

4.1.1 Previous Studies

The SCIC records search results identified 23 previous cultural resources studies completed within the records search limits, three of which intersect the proposed project area (**Table 1**).

TABLE 1: PREVIOUS STUDIES WITHIN A HALF MILE OF PROJECT AREA

Report Number	Date	Author	Firm	Title/Description	Intersects APE?
SD-00211	1976	Carrico, Richard	Westec Services, Inc.	Archaeological Survey of the Daley Ranch North of Escondido, San Diego County	No
SD-00343	1978	Carrico, Richard	Westec Services, Inc.	Phase I Archaeological Investigation at Rancho Viejo Escondido, California	No
SD-00435	1977	Chace, Paul G.	Paul G. Chace & Associates	The Friendly Hills Ranch, An Historic & Architectural Study	No
SD-00691	1974	Fink, Gary R.	San Diego County Engineer Department	Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Realignment of Valley Center Road, Valley Center, California	No
SD-00765	1987	Chace, Paul G. and Donna Collins	Paul G. Chace & Associates	1987 Addendum, A Cultural Resources Survey for the Central Valley Center Sewer	No
SD-01541	1979	Thesken, Jay and Richard L. Carrico	Westec Services, Inc.	Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Interland Project, Escondido, California	No

Report Number	Date	Author	Firm	Title/Description	Intersects APE?
SD-02942	1994	Smith, Brian, F.	Brian F. Smith and Associates	Results of an Archaeological Survey and An Evaluation of Cultural Resources at the East Grove Specific Plan Project	No
SD-03691	1999	Brown, Joan C.	Brg Consulting, Incorporated	A Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of the Valley Center Road-Escondido Portion	No
SD-04120	1990	Wade, Sue	Recon	Cultural Resources Testing of the Community Lutheran Church Property, Escondido, California	No
SD-04274	1984	Fulmer, Scott	Scott Fulmer	Request for Determination of Effect Ca-Sdi-5589	No
SD-04276	1984	Fulmer, Scott	Caltrans	Request for Determination of Eligibility for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places Sdi-5589	No
SD-04306	1976	Westec Services and Richard Carrico	Westec Services, Inc.	Archaeological Survey of the Daley Ranch North of Escondido, San Diego County	No
SD-04837	1977	Chace, Paul G.	Paul G. Chace & Associates	The Friendly Hills Ranch: A Historical & Architectural Study	No
SD-07848	2001	Affinis	Affinis	Historic Property Survey Report Bear Valley/East Valley Parkways, Escondido, San Diego County, California	Yes
SD-08014	2002	Smith, Brian F., James Clifford, and Johnna Buysse	Brian F. Smith and Associates	An Archaeological Evaluation of Cultural Resources for the Ryan Park Project: Escondido, California	No
SD-08588	1980	City of Escondido	City Of Escondido	Draft Environmental Impact Report for Expansion of Wastewater Treatment Facility	Yes
SD-09700	2004	Clifford, James and Brian F. Smith	Brian F. Smith and Associates	An Archaeological Survey for the Washington Street Project, Escondido, California	No

Report Number	Date	Author	Firm	Title/Description	Intersects APE?
SD-12180	2009	Bonner, Wayne, Sarah Williams, and Kathleen Crawford	Michael Brandman Associates	Cultural Resource Records Search Results and Site Visit for Cricket Communications Candidate San-255a (Frances Ryan Park), 390 North Hidden Trails Road, Escondido, San Diego County, California	No
SD-12655	2009	Robbins-Wade, Mary, Andrew Giletti, and Stephen Van Wormer	Affinis	Historic And Archaeological Resources Survey, Vista Flume Study, Vista, San Marcos, And Escondido San Diego County, California	No
SD-13700	2009	Whitaker, James E.	E2m	Ets #7991, Cultural Resources Review for the Replacement of Pole P314757 In Escondido	No
SD-14705	2013	HDR Engineering, Inc.	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Historic Properties Treatment Plan Escondido Hydroelectric Project San Diego County, California	Yes
SD-16996	2015	Cooley, Theodore G., Roy, Julie, and Wilson, Stacie	AECOM	Cultural Resources Phase I Survey and Inventory, Bottle Peak Property, San Diego County, California	No
SD-17989	2019	Garrison, Andrew J. and Brian F. Smith	Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.	Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for the Apollo Assisted Living Facility Project, City Of Escondido	No

4.1.2 Previously Identified Resources

The SCIC records search results indicated that 14 previously recorded cultural resources have been identified and recorded within the half-mile radius of the project area (**Table 2**). None intersect with the project area.

TABLE 2: PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESOURCES WITHIN A HALF MILE OF THE PROJECT AREA

Resource Number (P-19-#)	Trinomial (CA-SDI-#)	Description	Date, Recorder	Distance to Project Area
001038	001038	Deep basin metate or mortar recovered by property owner.	D.L. True 1962	729 meters
001044	001044	Mano fragments hammerstones, and portable metate.	D.L. True 1962	347 meters
004973	004973	Two bedrock milling elements including one oval basin and one milling slick.	R.V. May 1977	795 meters
010973	010973	Flakes and flake stone tools scatter and <i>Chione sp.</i> shell scatter	Jeff Pantaleo, Mac Davis, and Susan Hector 1988	501 meters
011003	011003	Two bedrock milling features	Sue A. Wade and Jeffrey Pantaleo 1988; N. Yerka and C. Zepeda-Herman 2022	209 meters
011020	011020	Bedrock milling features with midden soils, shell, and flaked stone tools and debitage	Jeff Pantaleo, Mac Davis, and Susan Hector 1988	287 meters
015590	014336	Sparse lithic scatter	Alex N. Kirkish 1996	428 meters
023700		Single-family house	Stephen Van Wormer 2000	237 meters
024014		Farmhouse	Stephen Van Wormer 2000	764 meters
024483	016259	Six bedrock milling features	Judy Berryman 2002	620 meters
030889		Gunitite bench flumes water conveyance system	Stephen Van Wormer 2009; Lucas Piek and Matthew DeCarlo 2015	451 meters
037611	022452	Bedrock milling feature, groundstone, and lithic scatter	Shelby Castells 2018	474 meters
040531		Isolate chert utilized flake	N. Yerka and C. Zepeda-Herman 2022	298 meters
040532	023446	Water conveyance system	N. Yerka and C. Zepeda-Herman 2022	414 meters

4.2 NAHC SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

On June 10, 2024, Michael Baker International emailed a letter to the NAHC requesting a Sacred Lands File search to identify any Native American cultural resources that the project might impact. The NAHC responded with a letter sent via email dated July 1, 2024. The letter stated that the results of the Sacred Lands File were negative (see **Appendix B**). The NAHC also provided a list of tribes and Native American contacts that may have knowledge of cultural resources in or near the proposed project that the City may use for the purposes of government-to-government consultation.

4.3 REVIEW OF HISTORICAL MAPS, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, AND ARCHIVES

Historical topographic maps, aerial photographs, and archival sources were examined to provide historical information about the proposed project area to assist in assessing the historical occupation and development of the area. The following resources were reviewed to identify how the project area was used and developed through time.

4.3.1 Historical Maps and Aerial Photography

- *Escondido, California*, 1:62,500 scale topographic quadrangle (USGS 1893)
- *Escondido, California*, 1:62,500 scale topographic quadrangle (USGS 1901)
- *Escondido, California*, 1:62,500 scale topographic quadrangle (USGS 1913)
- *Escondido, California*, 1:62,500 scale topographic quadrangle (USGS 1929)
- *Escondido, California*, 1:62,500 scale topographic quadrangle (USGS 1937)
- Single-frame aerial photograph: C-5750, Frame 212-4 (UCSB 1938)
- Single-frame aerial photograph: SD-74, Frame 7034 (UCSB 1974)
- Single-frame aerial photograph: SD-76, Frame 8402 (UCSB 1976)
- Single-frame aerial photograph (NETR 2024: 1893, 1946, 1953, 1967, 1978, 1989, 2000, 2003, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018)

4.3.2 Historical Databases

- Ancestry.com (n.d.)
- Newspapers.com (n.d.)
- Survey Records System. (n.d.)

A review of the above-mentioned historic aerials, maps, and archives demonstrates that the project area is first depicted in area maps beginning in 1893 (USGS 1893). However, archival evidence documents that in 1888, Benjamin Franklin Dixon moved to Escondido Valley and acquired the 50 acres of land that encompasses the project area (Dixon Family Collection, n.d.). On the 1893 map, the City of Escondido, established in 1888, is visible approximately 30 miles to the north. Three distantly spaced, no longer extant structures hug the Escondido River in the surrounding area, and an unnamed road runs along Escondido Creek. There is a structure near today's Beven Road and Burnet Drive that is possibly the original Dixon house whose foundational remnants are still visible today (**Figure 4**) (USGS 1893; Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture 2014:8; NETR 1893). Oral tradition sources note that in 1889, the Mayflower tree was planted on the property, within the project area across from the ranch (Channel 39 News). The planted oak seeds

came from an English White Oak planted by the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts (Daily Times Advocate. 1969).

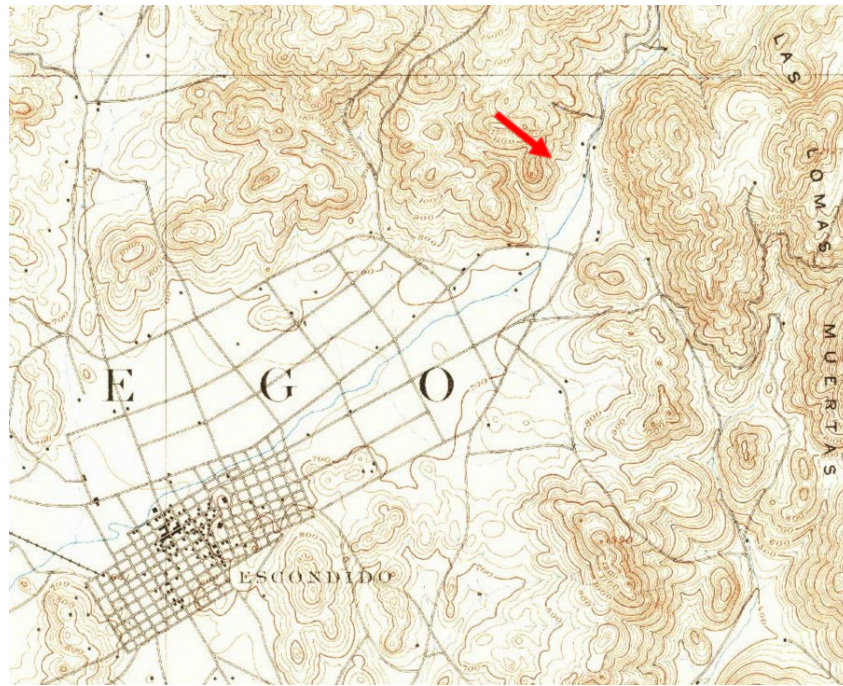


Figure 4: USGS 1893 map of Escondido with red arrow pointing to the future site of El Caballo Park (USGS 1893).

Maps of the area show no significant changes to the project area's vicinity between 1901 and 1937 (USGS 1901; 1913, 1929, 1937). However, this is likely due to a lack of detailed map updating during this period. The first available aerial photograph in 1938 shows the Dixon ranch house at the end of today's Beven Drive and surrounded by citrus groves that extend up through the project area. Additionally, the Mayflower Tree, then approximately fifty years old, is visible across the creek (**Figure 5**) (UCSB 1938).



Figure 5: 1938 aerial photograph showing locations of Dixon Ranch, the Mayflower Tree, and the project area (UCSB 1938).

A 1946 aerial photograph shows the orchards still in place around the Dixon ranch. Just north of the Dixon Ranch, south of the project area, there is a large, approximately one-half acre of barren land, possibly a water reservoir. The reservoir is connected to a dirt road, now Beven Drive, that continues towards the future site of the Dixon Dam (NETR 1946). 1953 and 1967 aerial photographs of the project area show there were no significant changes to that area (NETR 1953, 1967). In 1971, the Dixon Dam was constructed and filled (Escondido Times-Advocate 2024). Up until 1974, aerial photographs show the project area was still being used as an orchard with minimal road or land work done until the area was developed (UCSB 1974). Development of the area included the removal of citrus orchards, paving of former dirt roads, and the construction of three new rodeo arenas (**Figure 6**). (UCSB 1974). From 1976 to 1978, the project area appeared the same as in 1974, with no noticeable changes (UCSB 1976; NETR 1978).



Figure 6: The 1974 aerial showing center of the three arenas used by the Charros de Escondido to conduct charreadas (UCSB 1974).

The aerial map from 1982 shows slight changes to the area where the arenas were located. One of the arenas no longer has a visible fence and looks overgrown; however, the other arena still maintains a fence and a well-cleared dirt area and appears in active use. The smaller, round arena also appears intact and still in use. The open areas along Beven Drive and Valley Center Road leading to the project area appear watered and maintained. Aerial photographs of the project area in 1989 show that the more northern arena is no longer extant. The rest of the property is reminiscent of the view from 1982 and does not have any remarkable differences (NETR 1989).

In 2000, an aerial photograph of the project area shows that only the small, round arena remains, and the site of the former arenas had been cleared and graded (NETR 2000). By 2003 the project area appears under new construction and development. The major roads were paved, whereas the smaller property roads remained as dirt. The portion of the project area that shared a border with what is now the Mayfair Dog Park also appears graded for development (NETR 2003). Aerials from 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 show no other striking changes (NETR 2012; 2014; 2016; 2018). As of 2024, an aerial photograph shows a newly erected arena and the still-extant round arena (Google Maps 2024) (**Figure 7**).

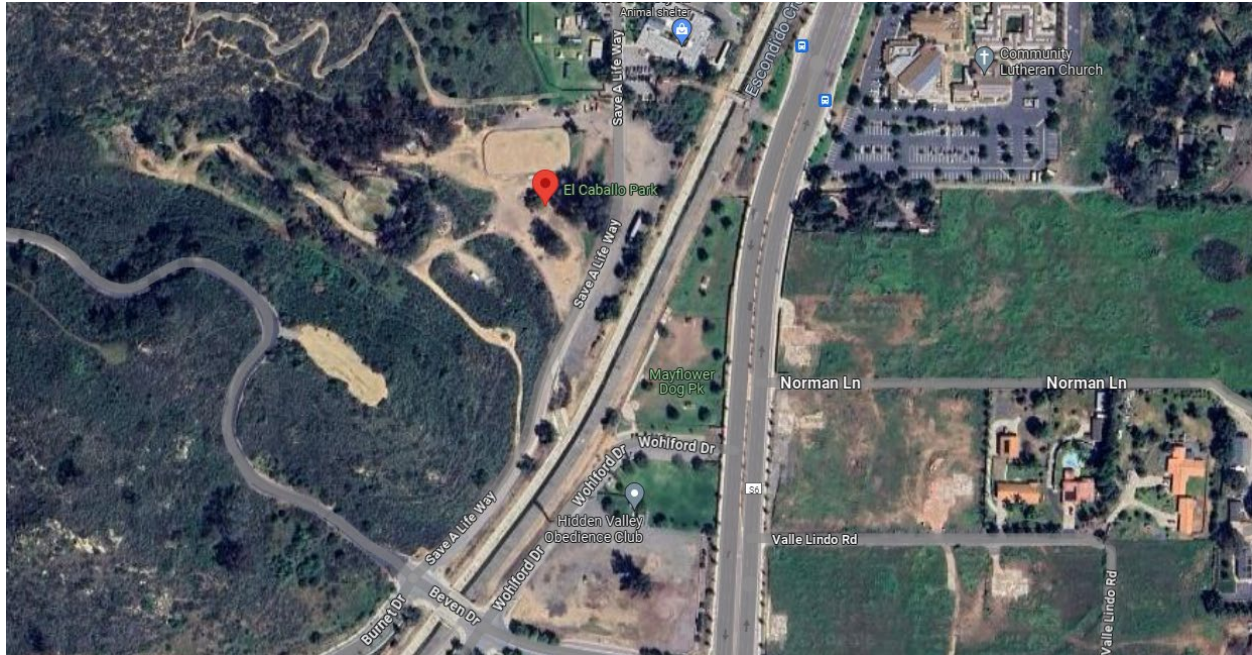


Figure 7: A current aerial view of El Caballo Park and the surrounding area (Google Maps 2024).

4.3.3 Dixon Family

Benjamin Franklin Dixon moved to Escondido Valley from Kansas with his family in 1888 and acquired the 50 acres of land on which the Charros de Escondido Arena is located (Dixon Family Collection, n.d.). Dixon was considered a pioneering nurseryman who brought with him a boxcar of bare-root citrus stock and founded the Orange Glen Nursery (North County Times 1977). It is believed that many of the local orchard groves today in San Diego began from the stock of Dixon's family nursery (Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture 2014: 8). Additionally, oral traditions document that Benjamin Dixon brought acorns from oak trees that the Massachusetts pilgrims planted, and that he planted one near his ranch house. The tree, which died in 1996, became known as the Mayflower Oak Tree (Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture 2014: 8). Dixon was married to Eva E Dixon, and they had three sons, Charles, Joseph, and James Dixon, and one daughter, Pearl Dixon. James B. Dixon inherited the property after his father passed away in 1928 (FindaGrave n.d.a.; Survey Records System n.d.). James Dixon was an important local citizen in his own right. He was an avid collector and studier of bird eggs and amassed a collection of 5,000 eggs which were donated to Palomar Collect in San Marcos, California (Dixon Family Collection, n.d.). James also served as superintendent of Escondido Mutual Water Company, and the Escondido Dixon Dam was named in his honor (Dixon Family Collection, n.d.). James Dixon married Ethel Melvina Young Dixon, and they had Ralph Eugene Dixon together in 1911 (FindaGrave n.d.b.). James Dixon sold all but 7 acres of the ranch in 1972 to the City of Escondido (Daily Times Advocate 1972). He died in 1978 (FindaGrave n.d.b.)

4.3.4 Mayflower Tree

The year after Benjamin Franklin Dixon moved his family to Escondido, he planted three acorn seeds in his Orange Glen Nursery, in the project area across from the ranch. However, only one of them took root, which became known as the Mayflower Oak Tree. These acorn seeds were from an English white oak

planted by the pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, which Dixon collected while attending a Quaker meeting (*Daily Times Advocate* 1969). Archival sources note that the Mayflower tree was planted in 1889, but they are based on oral tradition; the 100-year celebration of the tree was held in 1987 (Channel 39 News; *Times Advocate* 1987). In 2012, the tree still stood but was no longer alive, and by 2023, the oak tree had fallen (Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture 2014; Google Maps 2023; Google Maps 2014).

4.3.5 Charros de Escondido

The Charros de Escondido group (Asociación de Charros Rancho Escondido) is one of the oldest Charros groups in California that competes in charrerías with teams from California and Mexico. Charrerías, has been recognized as the national sport of Mexico since 1933 (International Arts & Artists n.d.). The Charros de Escondido has been using the El Caballo Park arenas to conduct charreadas (equestrian herding sport) and escaramuzas (choreographed female equestrian events) for five decades (Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture 2014: 5). Since 1972 the Charros de Escondido has been leasing the land from the City. In partnering with the Valley Riders, the group has acquired and built three arenas (two built by the Charros de Escondido and one built by the Valley Riders) on the property to host Mexican style rodeos and choreographed horse shows (Wright 2014; Stine 2014; *Times Advocate* 1975). In 2010, the City of Escondido announced a plan to relocate public works operations to the project area, which required the eviction of the Charros de Escondido from the site. The eviction notice took effect on January 17th, 2011 (North County Times. 2011a). This ignited a land-use issue between the Charros de Escondido community and the City, with group members lobbying the City Council to find other solutions (North County Times. 2011b). Eventually, the City canceled its plans to develop the project area for public works after a coalition of citizens, including members of Eureka Springs Homeowners Association, Friends of Daley Ranch, Friends of the Escondido Humane Society, Charros de Escondido, and other community organizations persuaded them to renew the lease and look for alternate locations for the public works facility. In that same month, the City of Escondido approved financial support for the development of El Caballo Park Master Plan (El Caballo Park. n.d.).

4.3.6 Charreadas

Charrería is a traditional practice of livestock herding in Mexico. Initially, it was used to help herders manage their livestock from different estates. These techniques were passed down generationally and became a cultural tradition for identity and heritage (UNESCO n.d.; International Arts & Artists n.d.) Today, charrería is considered a sport and involves training members up to a competition level. The various charrería categories performed for an audience are called charreadas (UNESCO. n.d.). Charrería extends beyond just livestock and horse riding, and it also includes costume, food, and music (International Arts & Artists. n.d.). Trained participants dress in traditional costumes, with male herders wearing wide-brimmed hats and female herders wearing a colorful shawl (UNESCO. n.d.).

4.3.7 Escaramuzas

Escaramuzas are the only female event in charrerías, and they consist of teams of eight women who wear colorful dresses and ride their horse sidesaddle in synchronized patterns (Smithsonian Museum n.d.; Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture 2014: 8). Their outfits are inspired by Adelitas fighters in the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) (Smithsonian Museum. n.d.). Their outfits aim for historical and cultural

authenticity, requiring that their skirts must cover the horse's haunches and that they wear a broad-brimmed hat, the sombrero charro (Smithsonian Museum. n.d.).

4.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

4.4.1 Survey Methodology

Michael Baker International archaeologists and cultural resource specialists James T. Daniels Jr., PhD, RPA, and Rachel Garcia, MA, conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area on July 18, 2024. The study area was walked in transects spaced approximately 10 meters apart where possible. Slopes greater than 30 degrees were visually assessed but were not systematically surveyed. Areas of dense vegetation were inspected as access permitted using natural breaks in the vegetation and animal paths. Bedrock outcrops were inspected for Native American milling elements.

Before fieldwork, a map was created in ArcGIS Online that includes the project area and GIS feature classes, including point, line, and polygon features for collecting data in the field. The maps were then downloaded in Esri's Field Maps app on Apple iPads and coupled via Bluetooth with a Trimble DA2 Catalyst GNSS GPS receiver with submeter accuracy. The field crews used the tablets and GPS units to accurately locate and survey the APE and map newly discovered cultural resources. Photographs of features, artifacts, and overviews were attached to GIS points, lines, and polygons recorded in the field and remained attached to the GIS feature classes in the companion geodatabase submitted with this report. After the fieldwork, this information was imported into Esri's ArcGIS Pro to create digital maps.

The pedestrian survey was a non-collection survey. Michael Baker International archaeologists recorded artifacts and built environment features in the field using appropriate descriptions, drawings, and photos to facilitate interpretations of site character. All resources were recorded using DPR 523 series forms to OHP standards. Site recordings included the definition of site boundaries, features, and formed artifacts. Detailed sketch maps were prepared to demonstrate the relationship of the location of each resource to topographic features and other landmarks. Digital photographs documented the environmental associations, specific features, and the general character of the survey area.

A daily survey summary form was completed at the end of the survey to convey the conditions of the survey area and summarize survey findings. This form included a description of vegetation cover (including contextual photographs), as well as estimates of ground surface visibility, rated as poor (0-25 percent), fair (26-50 percent), well (51-75 percent), or excellent (76-100 percent). Evidence for buried cultural deposits was opportunistically sought by inspecting natural or artificial erosional exposures and the spoils from rodent burrows. In the daily survey notes, the archaeologists assessed the potential for buried sites based on geomorphology.

4.4.2 Survey Results

Visibility during the survey was approximately 25 percent in the areas with the least amount of modern disturbance due to dense sage scrub vegetation. Visibility in those areas of heavy foot or vehicle traffic was 90 to 100 percent. Access to some of the hillside areas was limited due to steep slopes and dense vegetation. Vegetation in the survey areas consisted predominantly of California sagebrush, California

buckwheat, desert broom, branching phacelia, and castor bean. The north side of the keyhole arena consisted of an invasive eucalyptus grove. Organ pipe cacti and Euphrates poplar trees were also identified and have likely been planted by the Charros de Escondido.

During the survey, two historic period resources were identified: one built environment resource, the Charros de Escondido Arena (arena) site, and one historic period archaeological site consisting of the ruins of rock retaining wall features associated with the Dixon family farm. This latter resource was given the temporary site number of MBI-El Caballo-01H. Below is a description of each resource. DPR 523 series forms were completed for the arena site and MBI-El Caballo-01H to submit to the SCIC and are available in a confidential and separately bound appendix (**Appendix C**).

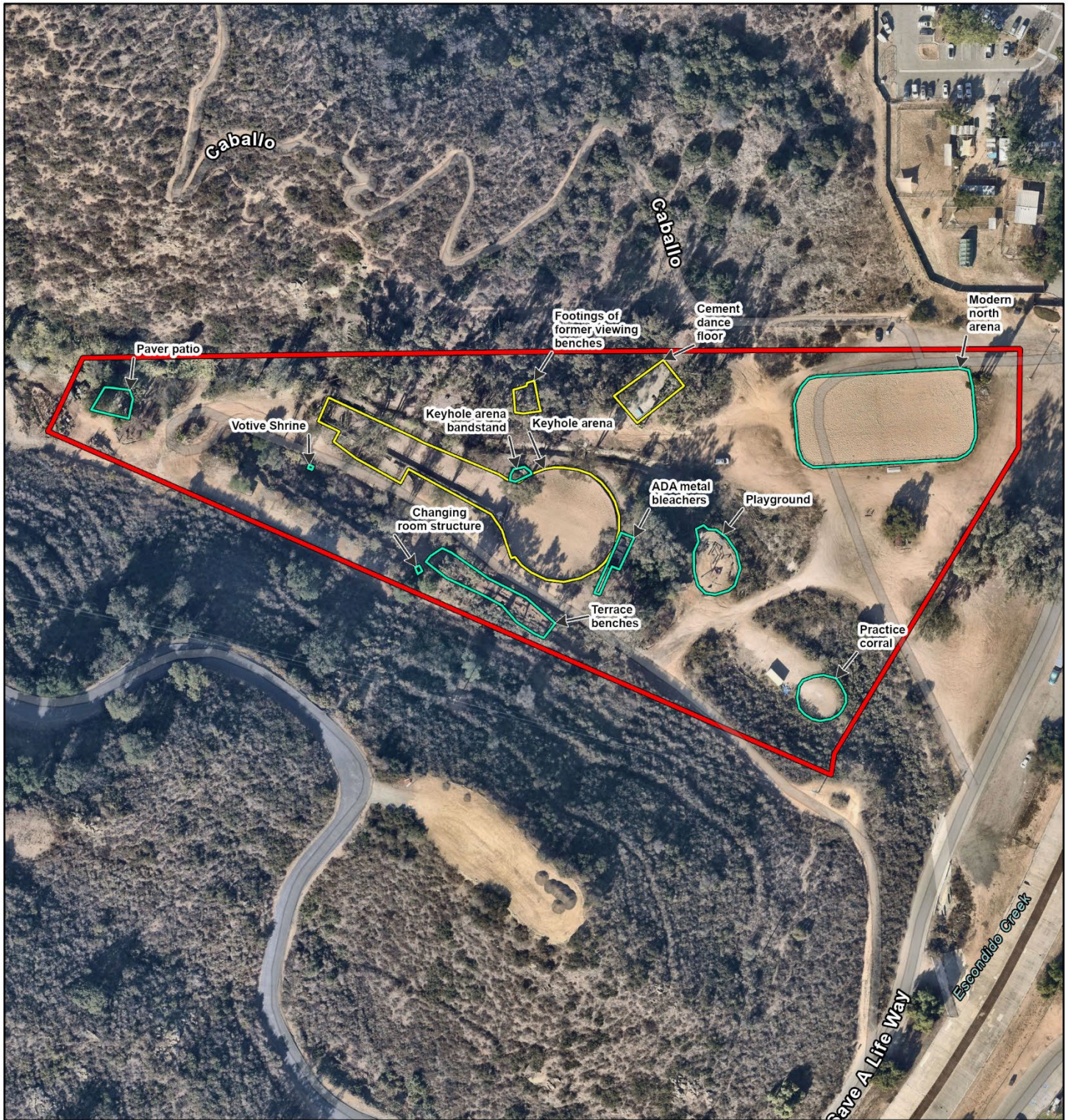
Asociación de Charros de Escondido Arena

During the pedestrian survey, photographs and GPS data were taken of the arena site and its associated features to illustrate the site's current conditions and to identify all of the associated components of the resource. **Table 3** lists the features associated with the arena site recorded and photographs during the pedestrian survey. **Figure 4** is a map of the arena site showing the associated features recorded during the pedestrian survey.

TABLE 3: ASOCIACIÓN DE CHARROS DE ESCONDIDO ARENA STRUCTURES

Name/Use/Identifier	Construction Date	Photograph/s
Keyhole arena	Circa 1974	Photograph 1
Cement dance floor	Circa 1974	Photograph 2
Former bleacher footings*	Circa 1974	Photograph 3
Practice corral*	Circa 2016	Photograph 4
Playground*	Circa 2017	Photograph 5
Metal bleachers	1995-1996	Photograph 6
Terrace bench seating*	Circa mid-1990s	Photograph 7
Changing room*	Circa 2016	Photograph 8
Paver patio*	Circa 2020s	Photograph 9
Bandstand stage*	Circa 1999	No Photograph
Modern arena	Circa 2020	Photograph 10
Votive shrine	Circa 2017	Photograph 11

*Modern-age structures less than 45 years old are documented as part of the arena site but not evaluated as a historic resource.



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Historic Feature
- Modern Feature

The arena was constructed approximately 50 years ago (Wright 2014). The arena is within the boundaries of El Caballo Park, which can currently be accessed via vehicle by Save A Life Way off the corner of Beven and Burnet Drive. The area primarily consists of two large arenas, one keyhole in shape (circa 1974) and one semi-rectangular in shape (circa 2020). The east end of the keyhole arena has metal bleachers. The south end has amphitheater seating (Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture 2014: 20). Foundation blocks on the northern slope of the keyhole arena are architectural remnants of benches installed by the City of Escondido to provide viewers with a vantage point for enjoying the charrería events (historic, circa 1970-1980s) (conversation with Sergio Contreras, President of the Charros de Escondido, July 17, 2024). Just northeast of the keyhole arena is a cement stage and children's playground. The modern arena has recently installed bleachers along the south wall. The project area's southeast end has an empty dirt lot generally used as overflow parking. The Charros de Escondido Arena and surrounding area is a part of Escondido's *El Caballo Park Master Plan*, whose goal is to turn the area into a public facility that incorporates equestrian-oriented activities, open space, community relations center, learning center, and fun park (Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture 2014: 5, 15).

Initially, there were three arenas built circa 1970-1974, two located in the northern area and one keyhole in shape to their left on the western side. By 1982, one northern arena was not extant. In 1989, the remaining northern arena was still standing, but not in use, and by 1998 it was no longer extant. As of 2024, a new arena had been built in the center of the park area; the original keyhole arena remains.

During the survey, several features associated with the events of El Caballo Park and the Charros de Escondido were identified. The first three features are of historic age, but the remaining features are modern. Feature 1 consists of the keyhole arena constructed in 1974 (**Photograph 1**). Feature 2 consists of the cement dance floor northeast of the keyhole arena, constructed at approximately the same time as the keyhole arena (**Photograph 2**). Feature 3 consists of the footings of a previous bench seating area underneath the eucalyptus trees on the north side of the keyhole arena, presumably constructed at the same time as the arena (**Photograph 3**). The remaining features recorded in association with the arena are more recent additions, including Feature 4, the practice corral erected in 2016 (**Photograph 4**). Feature 5 is a playground that was built in 2017 (**Photograph 5**). Feature 6 is the ADA-compliant bleachers on the east end of the keyhole arena constructed in 1995 or 1996 based on historical aerials (**Photograph 6**). Feature 7 consists of a terrace bench seating area south of the keyhole arena, constructed possibly in the mid-1990s (**Photograph 7**). Feature 8 consists of a small makeshift changing room built in 2016 (**Photograph 8**). Feature 9 is a paver patio on the west end of the park that appears to have been built relatively recently (**Photograph 9**). Feature 10 is the bandstand stage on the north side of the keyhole arena, possibly built in 1999 or 2000 based on aerial photography. Feature 11 is the modern large riding and competition arena built in 2020 in the same area as the previous historic northmost arena (**Photograph 10**). Feature 12 is a votive shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe, likely built in 2017 based on aerial photography (**Photograph 11**).



PHOTOGRAPH 1: OVERVIEW OF THE KEYHOLE ARENA CONSTRUCTED CIRCA 1974. VIEW NORTH, JULY 17, 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH 2: OVERVIEW OF CEMENT STAGE DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE KEYHOLE ARENA, CONSTRUCTED CIRCA 1974. VIEW SOUTH, JULY 17, 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH 3: OVERVIEW OF FOOTINGS FOR BENCHES INSTALLED IN 1974 FOR KEYHOLE ARENA.
RED ARROWS POINT TO INDIVIDUAL FOOTINGS. VIEW SOUTHEAST, JULY 17, 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH 4: PRACTICE CORRAL, CONSTRUCTED IN 2016. VIEW SOUTHEAST, JULY 17, 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH 5: OVERVIEW OF THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND WOODEN DECK, CONSTRUCTED IN 2017.
VIEW NORTHEAST, JULY 17, 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH 6: OVERVIEW OF THE METAL BLEACHERS INSTALLED AROUND 1995-1996. VIEW SOUTH, JULY 17, 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH 7: TERRACE BENCH SEATING AREA SOUTH OF KEYHOLE ARENA, CONSTRUCTED POSSIBLY IN THE MID-1990S.
VIEW WEST, JULY 17, 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH 8: SMALL MAKESHIFT CHANGING ROOM, BUILT IN 2016. VIEW NORTHEAST, JULY 17, 2024



PHOTOGRAPH 9: RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED PATIO ON THE WEST END OF THE PARK. VIEW NORTHEAST, JULY 17, 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH 10: OVERVIEW OF THE SEMI-RECTANGULAR ARENA (MODERN) BUILT IN 2020. VIEW EAST, JULY 17, 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH 11: VOTIVE SHRINE TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, LIKELY BUILT IN 2017 BASED ON AERIALS.
VIEW SOUTH, JULY 17, 2024.

MBI-El Caballo-01H

This site consists of the ruins of four stone retaining walls associated with the Dixon family citrus farm operated during the early twentieth century (**Photograph 12**). Four terraced segments were identified along a hillslope west of Save A Life Way. The stone walls appear to have been used to prevent erosion along the hillslope and support the growth of citrus trees and a dirt road near the edge of the hillside, as seen on several early aerial images of the area (NETR 1947; UCSB 1938). The retaining walls are likely associated with the Dixon family citrus farm and nursery started by Benjamin Franklin Dixon and inherited by his son James Dixon in 1928. The ruins of the Dixon family home are located west of Beven Drive, as seen on the sketch maps on the associated DPR form in confidential **Appendix C**.



PHOTOGRAPH 12: ROCK RETAINING WALL FEATURE 3, ONE OF FOUR FEATURES IDENTIFIED DURING THE SURVEY.

A total of four wall segments were identified during the pedestrian survey, ranging in height from approximately 40 centimeters to 100 centimeters. The visible portion of Feature 1, the westernmost wall, was approximately 11 meters long but looks to extend further along the hillslope in the aerial imagery. The Feature 2 wall segment east and downslope is approximately 22 meters long, and the visible portions of the lower two segments, Features 3 and 4, are each approximately 42 meters long. Aerial imagery from 1938 and 1947 and even modern-day aerials appear to show terracing all the way around the hillside over to the north-facing side, where the present-day bench seating area is above the keyhole arena of El Caballo Park (UCSB 1938; NETR 1947). However, no stone wall remnants were noted on that side of the landform during the survey. Features 3 and 4 are the only two within the proposed project boundaries. Features 1 and 2 lie outside of the proposed project boundaries (see DPR record in confidential **Appendix C**). However, these features may extend back into the project area boundaries but were not visible either due to erosion of sediments or vegetation covering additional portions of the features.

The DPR 523 series forms for the arena and MBI-El Caballo-01H will be submitted to the SCIC to obtain permanent site numbers. Once the site numbers are assigned, this report will be updated to include the permanent designation for the resources.

4.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The archaeological sensitivity for potential unknown precontact archaeological sites within the project area is moderate. The closest Kumeyaay placename to the project area lies in the San Pasqual Valley and was recorded by Harrington as *muukalhkalh*, which he records as meaning “slender-necked sheep” and was associated with a rock which was still there in the 1930s (Field et al. 2024). Water is among the most important resources determining the placement and intensity of settlement in southern California. The closest source of water to the project area is Escondido Creek, which runs through the eastern portion of

the project area. Four soil types are mapped within the project area: Visalia sandy loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes (64.9%), Vista coarse sandy loam with 9 to 15 percent slopes (27.2%), Cienega-Fallbrook rocky, sandy loams with 30 to 65 percent slopes (5.3%), and Friant rocky fine sandy loam with 30 to 70 percent slopes (2.6%) (USDA 2024). The horizons of these soils go no deeper than 18 to 20 inches; thus, any potentially buried subsurface archaeological deposits would likely be relatively shallow. The project area was under agricultural development, and a portion of the project area was graded during the 1970s for the construction of the horse arenas. Despite past disturbances, the proximity of known precontact archaeological sites, with the closest site being approximately 200 meters from the project area's boundary, suggests the archaeological sensitivity of the project area for precontact sites is moderate.

The project area lies within the Traditional Use Area of the Luiseño people and, according to the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, is traditionally known as *húlvumay* (Madrigal 2025). This acknowledgment reflects the enduring presence of the Luiseño people in the region. In addition, water-proximate settings like Escondido Creek are well documented to correlate with higher probabilities of cultural resources in coastal southern California, supporting a moderate sensitivity rating when considered alongside nearby findings from the Northeast Gateway SPA-5 study (relocated prehistoric/historic resources, milling features with subsurface potential, and corridor-adjacent historic eligibilities (Moratto 1984; Warren, Siegler, and Dittmer 2008; Gilmer and Berryman 2002; Madrigal 2025).

The archaeological sensitivity for potentially unknown buried historic period archaeological sites is similarly moderate due to the previous Dixon Ranch that once encompassed the project area.

5.0 RESOURCE EVALUATION

In support of the project, Michael Baker International staff evaluated the arena for eligibility for inclusion in the National Register and California Register. Additional documentation of the resource is located in the DPR 523 forms (see **Appendix C**). An evaluation of the rock retaining walls, MBI-El Caballo-01H, was not conducted as the site's boundaries have not been completely delineated, and it is considered a component of a larger historic period site associated with the Dixon family farm, including the farmhouse ruins west of the project area. Furthermore, the master plan does not indicate any impacts will occur to the rock retaining walls.

5.1 CHARROS DE ESCONDIDO ARENA SITE

The following evaluates the Charros de Escondido Arena for its eligibility for the National Register and the California Register. The property has not previously been evaluated for either register.

Criterion A/1 – The Charros de Escondido Arena site was constructed approximately 50 years ago, showing up in aerial photography by 1974. The structures in the arena were built for the association to host charrería community events at the park's site. However, since their construction, two of the three original arenas have been entirely disassembled (by 2000) and have since been replaced. These three arenas were built to provide an outdoor recreational space for the charrería community, similar to other arenas built throughout California for this competitive sport. Research has not yielded information to suggest the arenas themselves are associated with important historical events or patterns of events.

Therefore, the arena site does not meet the threshold for historical significance under National Register Criteria A or California Register Criteria 1.

Criterion B/2 – Research indicates that the Charros de Escondido Arena was built on the property once owned by James Franklin Dixon, whose family was one of the pioneering families of Escondido. Benjamin Dixon, James Dixon's father, was known for his citrus farming. James Franklin Dixon was the superintendent of the Escondido Mutual Water Company and namesake of Escondido's Dixon Dam. However, despite the arenas being located on the previous Dixon property, there is no research or evidence that indicated the Dixons were involved in the building of the Charros de Escondido arenas. Additionally, community sites such as the arena site often have associations with various people, and although such individuals may have contributed to aspects of local and regional history, there is insufficient evidence to establish a substantive connection between their specific contributions and the arena site under analysis. Therefore, the arena site does not meet the threshold for historical significance under National Register Criteria B or California Register Criteria 2.

Criterion C/3 – The three Charros de Escondido arenas were constructed by 1974, but only a few decades later, in 2000, the two central arenas had been deconstructed. The last remaining arena on the west side of the site stands as the sole remaining original arena. While the west arena is an originally built arena, the style follows the general structure of a horse arena, not possessing any unique construction techniques. Additionally, the builder of the arena is credited to the Charros de Escondido, but no specific individual architect was identified. Therefore, the arena site does not meet the threshold for historical significance under National Register Criteria C or California Register Criteria 3.

Criterion D/4—The built environment of the Charros de Escondido Arena is not likely to yield valuable information that will contribute to our understanding of human history because the property is not and never was the principal source of important information pertaining to subjects such as late twentieth-century horse arena developments or twenty-first-century park development. Therefore, the arena site does not meet the threshold for historical significance under National Register Criteria D or California Register Criteria 4.

Integrity

The Charros de Escondido Arena site does not meet the threshold for historical significance under any of the National Register or California Register criteria. Therefore, an integrity analysis is not required.

Conclusion – The Charros de Escondido Arena site is recommended ineligible for listing in the National Register and California Register under all four criteria. Therefore, it is not a historic property as defined by 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800.16(l)(1) or a historical resource as defined by CEQA Section 15064.5(a). The evaluation herein applies the NRHP/CRHR and City local-register criteria to built features. Those criteria require not only an association with important events or cultural patterns but also sufficient integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association) to convey that significance. As documented in Section 5.1, two of the three original arenas have been removed and the surviving features have been altered over time; the property's integrity is not sufficient to support listing under Criteria A/1, B/2, C/3, or D/4. At the local level, the City's ordinance similarly requires conformance with defined criteria for listing, and the arena does not meet those thresholds. At the same time, the

practice of Charrería at El Caballo Park is widely recognized in City materials and the public record and is inscribed by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage; such intangible value can be acknowledged and stewarded through interpretation and programming even where a built resource is not eligible for listing. The City retains discretion to revisit eligibility should substantial, new information about associative significance be presented through its consultation process.

6.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the cultural resources assessment for the proposed El Caballo Park Project identified two previously unrecorded cultural resources: the Charros de Escondido Arena and a series of rock retaining walls given the temporary site designation of MBI-El Caballo-01H. The arena was evaluated and recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register. Further work would be needed to adequately evaluate site MBI-El Caballo-01H, as the rock retaining walls are presumed to be a part of the much larger Dixon family farm operated in the late 1800s and early 1900s, including the ruins of the farmhouse outside of the project boundary. However, the proposed plans for El Caballo Park in the Master Plan indicate that there are no plans for construction in the area of retaining walls associated with MBI-El Caballo-01H; therefore, no adverse effects should impact the resource.

During the pedestrian survey, no precontact or ethnohistoric period Native American sites were identified. However, due to the proximity of other Native American precontact sites in the vicinity, the project area has moderate sensitivity for potential unknown precontact archaeological sites. Other potentially buried historic sites or features may also be present in the project area.

Based on the results of this cultural resources assessment, the following non-regulatory recommendations should be considered during the planning and construction phases of the project.

6.1 AVOIDANCE OF MBI-EL CABALLO-01H

Avoidance of the rock retaining walls, MBI-El Caballo-01H, is recommended during project construction. If project designs change and there is a potential for impact or avoidance is not possible, a formal evaluation is recommended for the site, which may include an evaluation of the ruins of the Dixon family farmhouse.

6.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP

6.2.1 Interpretive Program

In collaboration with the City, consulting tribes, and community stakeholders, develop interpretive elements that document and celebrate the history of Charrería at El Caballo Park (e.g., signage, digital content, and exhibit panels co-developed with the Asociación de Charros de Escondido), drawing on published sources already cited in this report and City files. These actions would not confer historic-register status but would recognize community value consistent with CEQA's policy goals to foster public understanding of cultural resources.

6.2.2 Interpretive Panels on Luiseño Heritage

In response to tribal input, incorporate interpretive panels that acknowledge the Luiseño people's enduring presence and cultural contributions to the region. Panels should reference the traditional name of the project area (húlvumay), its significance as part of the Luiseño homeland, and summarize archaeological findings from nearby projects (e.g., Northeast Gateway) that underscore the cultural importance of this landscape. Content should be developed in consultation with consulting tribes to ensure accuracy and cultural sensitivity.

6.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATIVE AMERICAN MONITORING

An archaeological monitor meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (48 Federal Register 44738) and a Native American monitor representing one of the consulting tribes shall be present during ground-disturbing activities for the project, or until the archaeological monitor, in consultation with the Native American monitor, determines full-time monitoring is no longer necessary (e.g., ground disturbance is complete or soils are sterile for cultural resources) and may reduce monitoring frequency or cease monitoring altogether. Ground-disturbing activities include, but are not limited to, site clearing, grubbing, boring, trenching, grading, excavation, and the demolition of building foundations.

The archaeological and Native American monitor shall log all monitoring activity and provide monitoring logs to the City on a minimum bi-weekly basis during the active construction phase. If a discovery is made, the archaeological monitor shall notify the City of the finding within 24 hours by email and/or phone. Additional work may be required in accordance with the terms specified in a cultural resources monitoring and discovery plan.

At the completion of grading, excavation, and ground-disturbing activities on the site, a final, compiled monitoring report shall be submitted to the City that documents monitoring activities conducted by the archaeological and Native American monitors within 60 days of completion of monitoring. This report shall document the impacts to the known resources on the property; describe how each mitigation measure was fulfilled; document the type of cultural resources recovered and the disposition of such resources; and, in a confidential appendix, include the monitoring logs. The final monitoring report shall be submitted to the City, the SCIC, and any consulting tribes.

6.4 UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERIES

If unanticipated archaeological resources are discovered during construction, all work within a 100-foot perimeter of the discovery will be halted while the archaeological monitor and tribal monitor document the discovery.

If a potentially significant archaeological resource is unearthed during excavation activities, work shall stop immediately within 100 feet of the find and the discovery shall be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (48 Federal Register 44738), in consultation with the tribal monitor, pursuant to the procedures set forth at CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Depending on the nature of the find, the determination of

significance may require additional excavation, potentially including the preparation and execution of a Phase II archaeological testing plan and excavation. Any archaeological testing plan or further investigation shall be consulted on with the affiliated tribe(s) identified through state-mandated consultation. If the resource is determined not significant, no further work is needed. The preferred approach shall be to preserve the resource in place; if the resources cannot be preserved in place, an alternative solution shall be identified through consultation between the City and the affiliated consulting tribe(s). If the resource is determined significant, then impacts must be mitigated.

If the find is deemed to be potentially significant, the City shall make a determination of significance on the basis of the recommendations of the affiliated consulting tribe(s) and the qualified archaeologist. The City shall engage in consultation with the affiliated tribe(s) to identify avoidance, minimization, and mitigation for the impacts to the significant resource, and if applicable, to its final disposition.

The consulting tribe(s) shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery via email and phone. The developer shall provide the City with evidence of notification to the consulting tribe(s). The consulting tribe(s) shall be allowed access to the discovery, in order to assist with the significance evaluation. Depending on the nature of the find, the determination of significance may require additional excavation, potentially including the preparation and execution of a Phase II archaeological testing plan and excavation.

6.5 INADVERTENT DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

If human skeletal remains are found, those remains would require proper treatment in accordance with State of California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5-7055. Specifically, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 describes the requirements if any human remains are discovered during excavation of a site. As required by state law, the requirements and procedures set forth in PRC Section 5097.98 would be implemented, including notification of the County coroner, notification of the Native American Heritage Commission, and consultation with the individual identified by the NAHC to be the “most likely descendant.” If human remains are found during excavation, excavation must stop in the vicinity of the find and any area that is reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the County coroner has been called out, and the remains have been investigated and appropriate recommendations have been made for the treatment and disposition of the remains.

7.0 PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Michael Baker International Senior Archaeologist James T. Daniels Jr., PhD, RPA, Architectural Historian Susan Wood, PhD, Associate Archaeologist Rachel Garcia, MA, and Senior Archaeologist Marc Beherec, PhD, RPA, prepared this report. Mr. Daniels and Ms. Garcia conducted the pedestrian survey. The report was reviewed for quality control by Dr. Beherec.

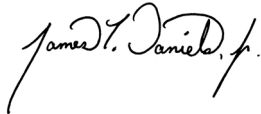
James T. Daniels Jr., PhD, RPA, has 18 years of cultural resources management experience in California, Nevada, and North Carolina. His experience includes archaeological surveys, evaluations of historic and precontact sites for listing in the California and National Registers, site mitigation data recoveries, mitigation monitoring, and preparation of archaeological resource management reports and cultural resources technical reports. As a senior archaeologist, he supports projects needing compliance with CEQA, National Environmental Policy Act, NHPA Section 106, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Assembly Bill 52, US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permits, and local cultural resource regulations. He assists with environmental impact statements/reports and alternative mitigation measures for clients, including interpretive signage, informative website design, brochures, and ethnographic studies. He also assists in Native American consultation and coordination of Native American monitoring. Mr. Daniels provides advanced technical services for clients, including geophysical surveys with ground-penetrating radar, obsidian and ceramic sourcing using portable X-ray fluorescence, photogrammetry, and GIS predictive modeling and data collection using Esri Field Maps. He meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology and historic preservation.

Susan Wood, PhD, is a senior architectural historian experienced in historic preservation and cultural resource management in California. She meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for architectural history, history, and archaeology. Dr. Wood's professional activities include historical resource evaluations, significance evaluations, integrity assessments, effects analysis, mitigation documentation, design review, archival and historical research, architectural and archaeological field surveys, and project management. As an architectural historian, she has performed numerous historical property assessments and National Register and California Register evaluations. Her archaeological expertise includes site significance assessments and determination of project impacts pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA. She has conducted years of ethnohistorical research focused on decolonization and prehistoric archaeology in the San Bernardino National Forest and the history of anthropology in California. She has organized and curated several historical- and anthropological-themed interoperative events for the Los Angeles County Fair in collaboration with tribal elders. In this capacity, she has worked extensively in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles Counties.

Rachel Garcia, MA, is an archaeologist specializing in prehistoric and historical archaeology with cultural resource management experience in California and the American Southwest, notably New Mexico. Her experience encompasses archaeological surveys, mapping, and excavation techniques. Additionally, she earned her MA in history where she has honed her skills in historical pedagogy, critical source analysis, research methodologies, and historical documentation interpretation. Ms. Garcia meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for history.

Marc A. Beherec, PhD, RPA, has more than 20 years of experience in prehistoric and historical archaeology and cultural resources management. His experience includes writing technical reports, including National Environmental Policy Act, NHPA, and CEQA compliance documents. He has supervised and managed all phases of archaeological fieldwork, including survey, Phase II testing and evaluations and Phase III data recovery, and monitoring at sites throughout Southern California. Dr. Beherec meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology.

Sincerely,



James Daniels, PhD, RPA
Senior Archaeologist



Susan Wood, PhD
Senior Architectural Historian



Rachel Garcia
Staff Archaeologist



Marc Beherec, PhD, RPA
Senior Archaeologist

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Appendix A

SCIC Records Search Results

Confidential and Bound Separately

Appendix B

NAHC Sacred Lands File

Search Results

June 10, 2024

Laura Miranda
California Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Re: Cultural Resources Inventory for the El Caballo Park Project, Escondido, California

Dear Chairperson Miranda,

Michael Baker International is conducting a cultural resources inventory for the proposed El Caballo Park Project in Escondido, CA. The cultural resources inventory will be conducted in compliance with both the California Environmental Quality Act and Section 106. The existing park and horse arenas are over 50 years old and are proposed for improvements, therefore, they will be evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), and the City of Escondido's Local Register of Historic Places. The park will be recorded and evaluated as a whole on the appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 series forms.

Michael Baker International will conduct a cultural resources records search of the project area and a 0.5-mile search radius surrounding it at the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC), a Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search, literature, historic map and aerial photo review, local historical society consultation, a built environment and archaeological pedestrian survey, and an archaeological sensitivity analysis of the project site. Michael Baker International will also subcontract a Native American monitor to accompany the archaeologist during the pedestrian survey.

We would also like to request a list of Native American tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area or who may wish to be notified of the investigation. Please submit your response to me via e-mail at Rachel.Garcia@mbakerintl.com.

Sincerely,

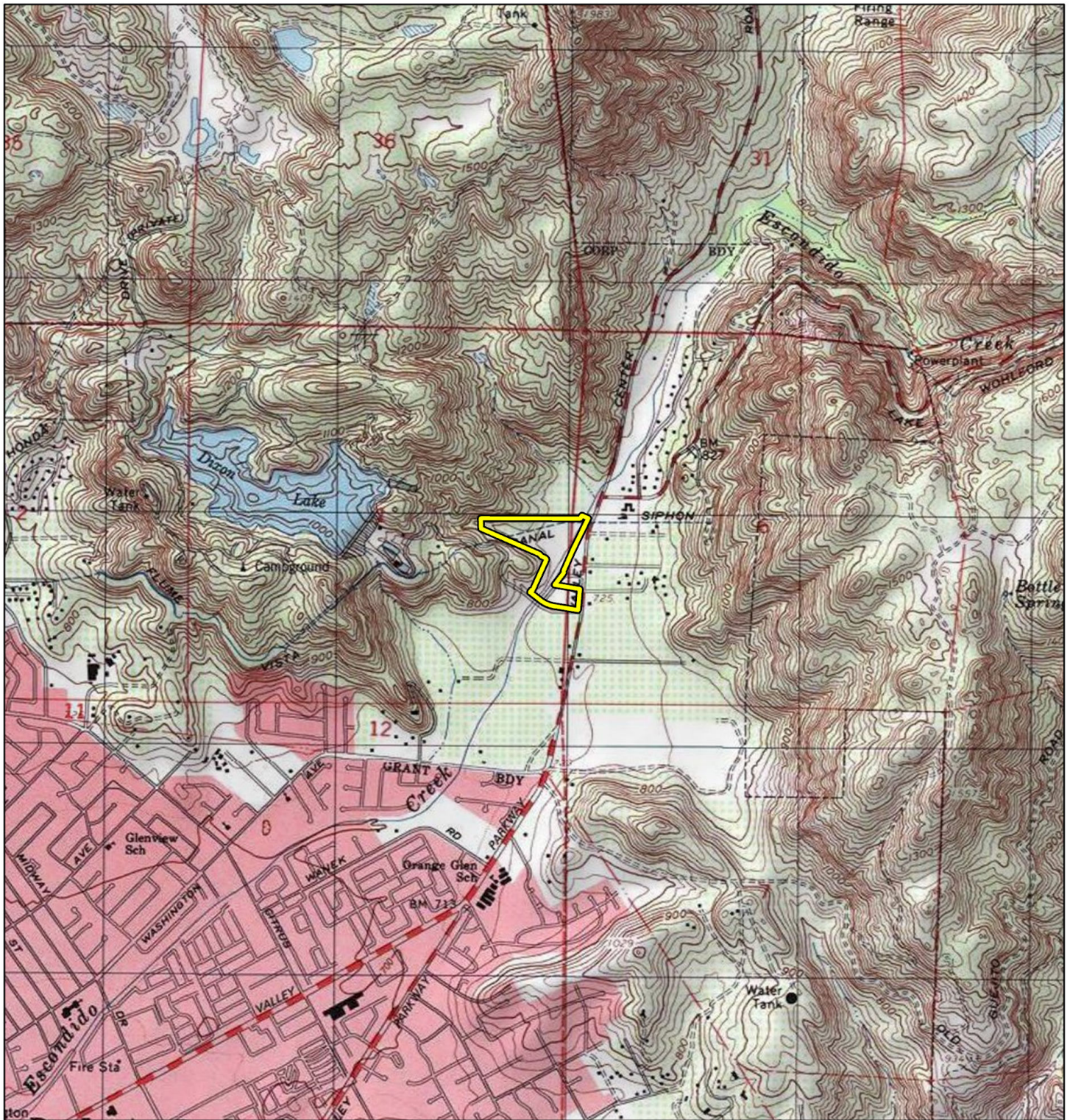


Rachel Garcia, MA
Archaeologist
Rachel.Garcia@mbakerintl.com

Your Requested Information:

County – San Diego
USGS Quad – Valley Center
Township and Range – T12S R02W Sec. 1
and T12S R01W Sec. 6

Attachments: 1. 1:24,000 Scale Location Map of Project Area
2. Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request



Legend

 El Caballo Project Area

VALLEY CENTER USGS 7.5-MINUTE TOPO QUAD
T 12 S R 02 W, SECTION 1 AND T 12 S R 01 W SECTION 6

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100

West Sacramento, CA 95691

916-373-3710

916-373-5471 – Fax

nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search

Project: El Caballo Park Project

County: San Diego County

USGS Quadrangle Name: Valley Center

Township: 12S&12S **Range:** 2W&1W **Section(s):** 1 & 6

Company/Firm/Agency: Michael Baker International

Street Address: 5050 Avenida Encinas Suite 260

City: Carlsbad, CA **Zip:** 92008

Phone: (760) 603-6251

Fax: _____

Email: Rachel.Garcia@mbakerintl.com

Project Description:

Michael Baker International is conducting a cultural resources inventory for the proposed El Caballo Park Project in Escondido, CA. The cultural resources inventory will be conducted in compliance with both the California Environmental Quality Act and Section 106. The existing park and horse arenas are over 50 years old and are proposed for improvements, therefore, they will be evaluated for eligibility for listing in the 'National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), and the City of Escondido's Local Register of Historic Places. The park will be recorded and evaluated as a whole on the appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 series forms.



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

July 1, 2024

Rachel Garcia
Michael Baker InternationalVia Email to: Rachel.Garcia@mbakerintl.com

Re: El Caballo Park Project, San Diego 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: Murphy.Donahue@NAHC.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Murphy Donahue
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
ChumashVICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
NomlakiSECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
MiwokPARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
LuiseñoCOMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-CostanoanCOMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
KumeyaayCOMMISSIONER
Laurena Bolden
SerranoCOMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
CahuillaCOMMISSIONER
Bennae Calac
Pauma-Yuima Band of
Luiseño IndiansEXECUTIVE SECRETARY
**Raymond C.
Hitchcock**
Miwok, NisenanNAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Diego County
7/1/2024

County	Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
San Diego	Barona Group of the Capitan Grande	F	Art Bunce, Attorney		(760) 489-0329		buncelaw@aol.com	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	7/25/2023
	Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	F	Daniel Tsosie, THPO	36190 Church Road, Suite 1 Campo, CA, 91906	(619) 760-6480		dtosie@campo-nsn.gov	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	5/24/2024
	Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	F	Ben Dyche, Vice Chairperson	36190 Church Road, Suite 1 Campo, CA, 91906	(619) 478-9046		bdyche@campo-nsn.gov	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	5/24/2024
	Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	F	Marcus Cuero, Chairperson	36190 Church Road, Suite 1 Campo, CA, 91906	(619) 478-9046		marcuscuero@campo-nsn.gov	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	5/15/2024
	Ewilaapaayp Band of Kumeeyaay Indians	F	Michael Garcia, Vice Chairperson	4054 Willows Road Alpine, CA, 91901	(619) 933-2200	(619) 445-9126	michaelg@leaningrock.net	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	
	Ewilaapaayp Band of Kumeeyaay Indians	F	Robert Pinto, Chairperson	4054 Willows Road Alpine, CA, 91901	(619) 368-4382	(619) 445-9126	ceo@ebki-nsn.gov	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	
	Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel	F	Clint Linton, Director of Cultural Resources	P.O. Box 507 Santa Ysabel, CA, 92070	(760) 803-5694		clinton@redtailenvironmental.com	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	11/30/2023
	Inaja-Cosmit Band of Indians	F	Rebecca Osuna, Chairperson	2005 S. Escondido Blvd. Escondido, CA, 92025	(760) 737-7628	(760) 747-8568		Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	
	Jamul Indian Village	F	Erica Pinto, Chairperson	P.O. Box 612 Jamul, CA, 91935	(619) 669-4785	(619) 669-4817	epinto@jiv-nsn.gov	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	
	Jamul Indian Village	F	Lisa Cumper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 612 Jamul, CA, 91935	(619) 669-4855		lcumper@jiv-nsn.gov	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	9/5/2018
	Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Indians	N	Carmen Lucas, Chairperson	P.O. Box 775 Pine Valley, CA, 91962	(619) 709-4207			Kwaaymii Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	6/20/2023
	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Norma Contreras, Chairperson	22000 Highway 76 Pauma Valley, CA, 92061	(760) 742-3771			Luiseno	Orange, Riverside, San Diego	
	La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	F	Gwendolyn Parada, Chairperson	8 Crestwood Road Boulevard, CA, 91905	(619) 478-2113	(619) 478-2125	LP13boots@aol.com	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	
	Manzanita Band of Kumeeyaay Nation	F	Angela Elliott Santos, Chairperson	P.O. Box 1302 Boulevard, CA, 91905	(619) 766-4930	(619) 766-4957		Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	
	Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	F	Michael Linton, Chairperson	P.O. Box 270 Santa Ysabel, CA, 92070	(760) 782-3818	(760) 782-9092	mesagrandeband@msn.com	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	
	Pala Band of Mission Indians	F	Shasta Gaughen, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Road Pala, CA, 92059	(760) 891-3515		sgaughen@palatribe.com	Cupeno Luiseno	Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	11/27/2023
	Pala Band of Mission Indians	F	Alexis Wallick, Assistant THPO	PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Road Pala, CA, 92059	(760) 891-3537		awallick@palatribe.com	Cupeno Luiseno	Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	11/27/2023
	Pala Band of Mission Indians	F	Christopher Nejo, Legal Analyst/Researcher	PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Road Pala, CA, 92059	(760) 891-3564		cnejo@palatribe.com	Cupeno Luiseno	Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	11/27/2023
	Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Temet Aguilar, Chairperson	P.O. Box 369 Pauma Valley, CA, 92061	(760) 742-1289	(760) 742-3422	bennaecalac@aol.com	Luiseno	Orange, Riverside, San Diego	
	Pechanga Band of Indians	F	Steve Bodmer, General Counsel for Pechanga Band of Indians	P.O. Box 1477 Temecula, CA, 92593	(951) 770-6171	(951) 695-1778	sbodmer@pechanga-nsn.gov	Luiseno	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ventura	8/2/2023
	Pechanga Band of Indians	F	Tuba Ebru Ozdil, Pechanga Cultural Analyst	P.O. Box 2183 Temecula, CA, 92593	(951) 770-6313	(951) 695-1778	eozydil@pechanga-nsn.gov	Luiseno	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ventura	8/2/2023
	Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Cheryl Madrigal, Cultural Resources Manager/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	One Government Center Lane Valley Center, CA, 92082	(760) 648-3000		cmadrigal@rincon-nsn.gov	Luiseno	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ventura	5/31/2023
	Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Joseph Linton, Tribal Council/Culture Committee Member	One Government Center Lane Valley Center, CA, 92082	(760) 803-3548		jilinton@rincon-nsn.gov	Luiseno	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ventura	5/31/2023
	Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Denise Turner Walsh, Attorney General	One Government Center Lane Valley Center, CA, 92082	(760) 689-5727		dwalsh@rincon-nsn.gov	Luiseno	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/7/2023
	Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Laurie Gonzalez, Tribal Council/Culture Committee Member	One Government Center Lane Valley Center, CA, 92082	(760) 484-4835		lgonzalez@rincon-nsn.gov	Luiseno	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ventura	5/31/2023
	San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians	N	Carmen Mojado, Secretary of Government Affairs	1889 Sunset Drive Vista, CA, 92083	(760) 724-8505	(760) 724-2172	cmojomado@slrmissionindians.org	Luiseno	Orange, Riverside, San Diego	4/15/2024

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Diego County
7/1/2024**

County	Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
	San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	F	Allen Lawson, Chairperson	P.O. Box 365 Valley Center, CA, 92082	(760) 749-3200	(760) 749-3876	allenl@sanpasqualtribe.org	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	
	San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	F	John Flores, Environmental Coordinator	P. O. Box 365 Valley Center, CA, 92082	(760) 749-3200	(760) 749-3876	johnf@sanpasqualtribe.org	Diegueno	Imperial, San Diego	8/16/2016
	Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 654-5544	(951) 654-4198	ivivanco@soboba-nsn.com	Cahuilla Luiseno	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	7/14/2023
	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	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	7/14/2023
	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	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	7/14/2023
	Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	F	Bernice Paipa, Cultural Resource Specialist	Sycuan Cultural Center: 910 Willow Glen Drive El Cajon, CA, 92019	(619) 445-6917		bpaipa2@sycuan-nsn.gov	Kumeyaay	Imperial, San Diego	8/7/2023
	Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	F	Cody Martinez, Chairman	Sycuan Tribal Office: 1 Kwaaypaay Court El Cajon, CA, 92019	(619) 445-2613		cmartinez@sycuan-nsn.gov	Kumeyaay	Imperial, San Diego	8/7/2023
	Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians	F	Ernest Pingleton, THPO	1 Viejas Grade Road Alpine, CA, 91901	(619) 445-3810		epingleton@viejas-nsn.gov	Kumeyaay	Imperial, San Diego	6/29/2023
	Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians	F	Ray Teran, Resource Management Director	1 Viejas Grade Road Alpine, CA, 91901	(619) 659-2312		rteran@viejas-nsn.gov	Kumeyaay	Imperial, San Diego	6/29/2023

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 El Caballo Park Project, San Diego County.

Record: PROJ-2024-003279
Report Type: List of Tribes
Counties: San Diego
NAHC Group: All

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Appendix C

DPR 523 Series

Record Forms

Confidential and Bound Separately