

**Appendix D Cultural Resources Investigation Report,
Solana Residential Development, within the
City of Torrance, Los Angeles County,
California**

Appendices

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CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION REPORT

**SOLANA RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Paleo Solutions, Inc. (Paleo Solutions) was retained by Reylenn Properties, LLC (Reylenn) to conduct a cultural resources assessment for the Solana Development Project (Project) in the City of Torrance, Los Angeles County, California. This assessment included a records search and literature review, a cultural resources survey, and the preparation of this technical report. The study was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and all pertinent state and local regulations.

Reylenn plans to construct a multi-family residential development, which will include three multi-family residential buildings, a six-story parking structure, and a community area. The Project is located in an abandoned quarry near the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Via Valmonte in the City of Torrance within Los Angeles County. Of the approximately 24.7-acre property, approximately 5.7 acres will be developed (hereafter, referred to as the “Project area”), and 19 acres of open-space preserve. Note that this assessment only applies to the 5.7-acre Project area planned for development and not the 19-acre open-space preserve.

A records search of a 0.5-mile (805-meter [m]) radius around the Project area was performed at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), California State University (CSU), Fullerton. The records search results indicate a total three previously recorded archaeological resources are within the 0.5-mile (805-m) radius of the Project area. None of the three resources overlap, or are within, the Project area. All three are historic-age built environment features: two utility pole structures (P-19-189774 and P-19-189747) and the location of the Jose Dolores Sepulveda adobe home (P-19-186563). An intensive pedestrian survey of the Project area was performed on September 4, 2018. The intensive level survey methods consisted of a pedestrian survey of the accessible areas of the Project area in parallel transects spaced no more than 10 meters apart. Deviations from transects only occurred in areas containing steep slopes. The overall visibility within the Project area was approximately 80 to 95 percent. No cultural resources were identified within the Project area as a result of the survey.

A review of historic maps indicates that between 75 and 311 feet of the top original (i.e., native) sediments of the project area were removed during mining operations between 1942 and 1966. Additionally, the majority of the Project area is underlain with up to 75 feet of overfill.

Because no cultural resources were identified within the project area as a result of this study and the potential for intact deposits to exist in this highly disturbed setting where the top 75 to 311 feet of native sediments have been removed, the Project is assessed as having a low sensitivity for cultural resources. No further management recommendations are necessary beyond standard protection measures under CEQA and the applicable State of California Public Resources Codes to address unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources and human remains, as described below.

In the unanticipated event that archaeological resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during construction activities, the resource must be evaluated for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Upon identification, all construction work occurring within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology, can evaluate the significance of the find and determine whether additional study is warranted.

In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered, the County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery, with procedures implemented to comply with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e), California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(b), and California Public Resources Code (PRC) 5097.98. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until authorization has been granted by the Coroner or City.



2.0 INTRODUCTION

Paleo Solutions was retained by Reylenn to conduct a cultural resources assessment for the Solana Development Project in the City of Torrance, Los Angeles County, California. This assessment included a cultural resources records search and literature review, a cultural resources survey, and the preparation of this cultural resources technical report. This study was completed in compliance with, and in satisfaction of, CEQA and all pertinent state and local regulations.

2.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The Project is located in an abandoned quarry near the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Via Valmonte in the City of Torrance within Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1). The Project area is bounded by Via Valmonte to the north and west, Hawthorne Boulevard to the east, and a 200- to 250-foot-high, north-facing slope with gradients steeper than 1:1 (horizontal to vertical) to the south (Figure 2). Specifically, the Project is within Section 28 of Township 4 South, Range 14 West as depicted on the Torrance U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle. The Project is located within Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 7547-001-018 through -021, 7547-001-024 through -026, and 7547-002-005 through -011.

Reylenn plans to construct a multi-family residential development, which will include three multi-family residential buildings, a six-story parking structure, and a community area. Each multi-family residential building will consist of four-stories of residential units overlying a parking area. Earthwork associated with this Project will include grading the topographically higher southeastern portion and filling the central and northern low areas to create one level surface for construction of the multi-family residential development. Additionally, an access road will be graded through the site connecting the southeastern portion of the Project area to Hawthorne Boulevard. Of the approximately 24.7-acre property, approximately 5.7 acres will be developed (hereafter, referred to as the "Project area"), and 19 acres will be maintained as open-space preserve. Note that this assessment only applies to the 5.7-acre Project area planned for development and not the 19-acre open-space preserve.

Previous diatomite and diatomaceous soil mining activities have significantly altered the site topography, such that the existing site topography generally slopes toward the center of the site, creating a shallow basin. Along the perimeter of the site, existing slopes located on the northwest and east-northeast have been graded during previous mining operations. The majority of the Project area is underlain by up to 75 feet of mining backfill materials.

3.0 REGULATORY CONTEXT

This investigation was completed under the provisions of CEQA. Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 of the Statutes of CEQA, Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 5024.1, and Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines were also used as basic guidelines for the cultural resource study (Governor's Office of Planning and Research 1998). This investigation was also completed in compliance with Section 3.1 (Historic Preservation) of the City of Torrance General Plan (City of Torrance 2009).

3.1 STATE REGULATIONS

3.1.1 California Environmental Quality Act

A cultural resource is considered "historically significant" if the resource is 50 years old or older, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets the requirements for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) under any one of the following criteria (Title 14 CCR, § 15064.5):

SOLANA RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE
 LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

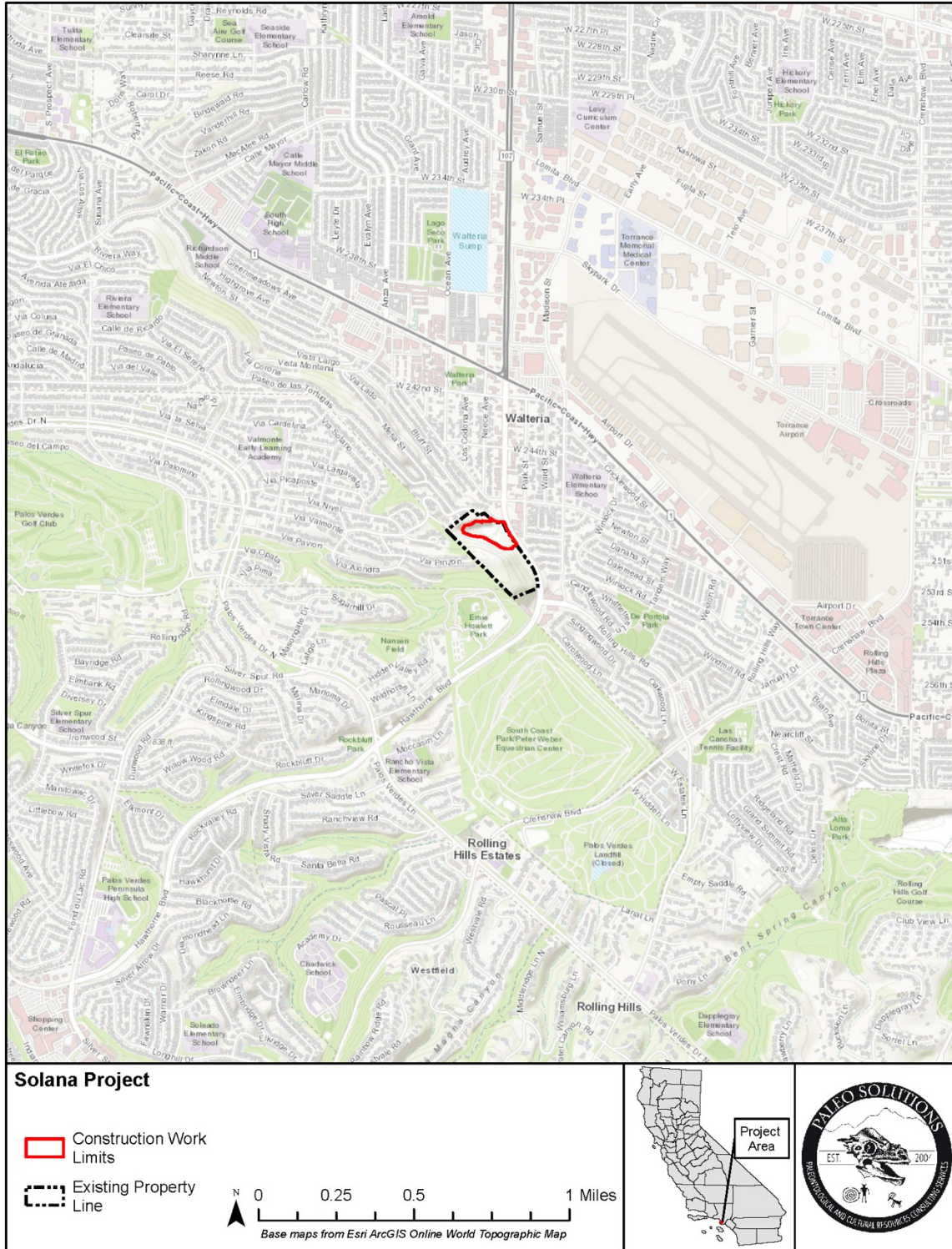


Figure 1. Project Overview Map



Figure 2. Project Location Map



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

Additionally, the CRHR consists of resources that are listed automatically and those that must be nominated through an application and public hearing process. The CRHR automatically includes the following:

- California properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and those formally Determined Eligible for the NRHP.
- California Registered Historical Landmarks from No. 770 onward.
- Those California Points of Historical Interest that have been evaluated by the Office of Historic Preservation and have been recommended to the State Historical Commission for inclusion on the CRHR.

Other resources that may be nominated to the CRHR include:

- Historical resources with a significance rating of Category 3 through 5 (Those properties identified as eligible for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, and/or a local jurisdiction register).
- Individual historical resources.
- Historical resources contributing to historic districts.
- Historical resources designated or listed as local landmarks, or designated under any local ordinance, such as an historic preservation overlay zone.

The fact that a resource is not listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR or is not included in a local register of historical resources, does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be a historical resource.

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5;
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5;
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) requires that excavation activities be stopped whenever human remains are uncovered and that the County Coroner be called in to assess the remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are those of Native Americans, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted within 24 hours. At that time, the lead agency must consult with the most likely descendant (MLD), if any, as identified by the NAHC. Section 15064.5 directs the lead agency (or project proponent), under certain circumstances, to develop an agreement with the MLD for the treatment and disposition of the remains, or to rebury the remains in an area not subject to further disturbance, if the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 48 hours of being granted access to the remains.



3.1.2 State of California Public Resources Code

Archaeological and historical sites are managed pursuant to policies and regulations enumerated under the California PRC. The following PRC Sections apply to activities related to this Project:

- California PRC Sections 5020–5029.5 continue the former Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee as the State Historical Resources Commission. The commission oversees the administration of the CRHR and is responsible for the designation of State Historical Landmarks and Historical Points of Interest.
- Should Native American resources be uncovered during excavation, California PRC Sections 5097.9–5097.993 provide protection to Native American historical and cultural resources and sacred sites and details the powers and duties of the NAHC. These may include notification to descendants of discoveries of Native American human remains and the treatment and disposition of human remains and associated grave goods.
- PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines an “unique archaeological resources” as an archaeological artifact, object, or site with a high probability of:
 - 1) Containing information needed to answer important scientific research questions with a demonstrable public interest in that information.
 - 2) A special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
 - 3) Being directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC Section 21083.2(g)).
- If it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that they cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (PRC Sections 21083.2(a)–(c)).

3.1.2.1 California State Assembly Bill (AB) 52

AB 52 of 2014 amended PRC Section 5097.94 and added PRC Sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 21084.3. AB 52 established that “tribal cultural resources” (TCRs) must be considered under CEQA and also requires that the lead agency engage in consultation. Section 21074 describes a TCR as a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place, or object that is considered of cultural value to a California Native American Tribe and that is either:

- On or determined to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources or a local historic register; or
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1.

AB 52 formalizes the lead agency–tribal consultation process, requiring the lead agency to initiate consultation with California Native American groups that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project site, including tribes that may not be federally recognized. Lead agencies are required to begin consultation prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report. Unlike Section 106, AB 52 does not contain provisions for agencies to delegate this responsibility to others.

Section 1 (a)(9) of AB 52 establishes that “a substantial adverse change to a tribal cultural resource has a significant effect on the environment.” Effects on TCRs should be considered under CEQA. Section 6 of AB 52 adds Section 21080.3.2 to the PRC, which states that parties may propose mitigation measures “capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or



alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource.” Further, if a California Native American tribe requests consultation regarding project alternatives, mitigation measures, or significant effects to tribal cultural resources, the consultation shall include those topics (PRC Section 21080.3.2[a]). The environmental document and the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (where applicable) shall include any mitigation measures that are adopted (PRC Section 21082.3[a]).

3.1.3 California Health and Safety Code

The California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(b) specifies protocol when human remains are discovered outside a dedicated cemetery. 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 human remains are discovered has determined the appropriate course of action.

3.2 LOCAL REGULATIONS

3.2.1 City of Torrance General Plan

3.2.1.1 Chapter 3: Community Resources Element

The goals, objectives, and polices in the Community Resources Element Chapter in the City of Torrance General Plan focus on the enhancement of community qualities that distinguish Torrance. These resources contribute tremendously to the quality of life in Torrance and allow residents to enjoy and experience features not found in many urban environments.

Section 3.1: Historic Preservation

Goal: The careful conservation and managed use of resources to ensure a quality environment for Torrance residents.

Subsection 3.1.3: Historic Preservation Objectives and Policies

To encourage and support a growing public awareness and interest in Torrance’s history and architectural heritage, the City is committed to shared endeavors with local historic groups that will promote preservation and public education. Preservation of structures identified as historically significant should be achieved whenever feasible, consistent with the interests of individual property owners. Over time, additional neighborhoods and districts or structures within them may be recognized as historic and representative of specific architectural periods or events. The City will continue to encourage historic preservation efforts and make it an integral part of the community's planning process.

Objective

- **CR.12:** Preservation of sites of local historical or cultural importance

Policies

- **CR.12.1:** Encourage the preservation of public and private buildings which are of local, historical, or cultural importance.
- **CR.12.2:** Support the work of local historic groups to identify and preserve local structures and sites of historical interest and importance.
- **CR.12.3:** Balance historic preservation goals with the interests of private property owners.
- **CR.12.4:** Work toward the establishment of a citywide historic policy and programs for recognition of historical assets within the City.



4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is located within the northern foothills of the Palos Verdes Hills, approximately 2.5 miles (4.2 kilometers) southeast of the Pacific Ocean. The City of Torrance has a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters and warm, dry summers (U.S. Climate Data 2018). August and September are the average warmest months with an average high temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and December is the coolest month on average with a low of 65°F. Rainfall occurs primarily between November and March, with the maximum average precipitation occurring in February. The mean annual rainfall for the region is 14.46 inches of rain per year.

The Project area extends into a hillside with a top height of 461 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Previous mining activities have significantly altered the site topography, such that the existing site topography generally slopes toward the center of the site, creating a shallow basin. The central basin area was previously mined to an elevation approximately 150 feet AMSL and subsequently backfilled to create two staggered, gently sloping pads. Of the two pads, the lower pad ranges in elevation from 150 to 220 feet AMSL; whereas, the relatively higher pad ranges in elevation from 235 to 245 feet AMSL. Along the perimeter of the site, existing slopes located on the northwest and east-northeast have been previously graded during previous mining operations.

4.2 CULTURAL SETTING

4.2.1 Regional Prehistory

Humans have lived in the region of southern California for at least 10,000 years, and several chronologies have been proposed to divide different periods of habitation and development. The commonly used chronology (Wallace 1955, 1978) divides this time span into the Early Period (8,000 to 6,000 years Before Common Era (B.C.E.), the Milling Stone Period (6,000 to 1,000 B.C.E.), the Intermediate Period (1,000 B.C.E. to anno Domini [A.D.] 1000), and the Late Prehistoric Period (A.D. 1000 to 1779). Different patterns and types of material culture represent each of these periods.

Large projectile points from the Early Period indicate subsistence on large animals. The diet likely included smaller game and harvested plants. Sites representing this period have been found mostly inland at prehistoric lakebeds (e.g., China Lake, Tulare Lake).

The Milling Stone Period is characterized by milling stones and manos used in the preparation of plant and seed-based foods. Terrestrial game supplemented the diet during this time but did not include coastal resources (Wallace 1978:28).

During the Intermediate Period, subsistence expanded to marine resources and a greater diversity of plant foods. Tools used during this period included mortars and pestles to process plant-based foods (Wallace 1978:30).

During the Late Prehistoric Period, semi-permanent villages were established. Subsistence was based primarily on terrestrial and maritime fauna, supplemented by some plant foods, including acorns. Larger villages served as trade centers. Shell beads were introduced as currency for the exchange of goods, which was supported by a strong artistic tradition in bone, shell, stone, and basketry (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:181; Moratto 1984; McCawley 1996).



4.2.2 Ethnography

The Project is in an area historically occupied by the Gabrieleno. At the time of European contact, the Gabrieleno inhabited the Los Angeles basin and the southern Channel Islands of Santa Catalina, San Nicolas, and San Clemente (Bean and Smith 1978; McCawley 1996).

The Gabrieleno are descended from a Takic-speaking, Uto-Aztecan group that likely entered the Los Angeles Basin from the southern Great Basin or interior California deserts. The date of their arrival in southern California is debated, but is believed to range from 1,500 to more than 4,000 years before present (BP) (Kroeber 1925; Bean and Smith 1978; McCawley 1996). It has been proposed that Uto-Aztecan speakers displaced the local occupants of the southern coast (Kroeber 1925:578–580; Moratto 1984:165), represented by the Hokan-speaking Diegueño to the south and the Chumash to the north. Much of the review of the Gabrieleno presented here is based on William McCawley's book, *The First Angelinos* (1996).

The Gabrieleno lived in an area that covered more than 1,500 square miles and included the watersheds of the Los Angeles River, San Gabriel River, Santa Ana River, and Rio Hondo, as well as the southern Channel Islands. There were at least 50 residential communities or villages, each with 50 to 150 individuals. Each community consisted of one or more lineages associated with a permanent territory. Each territory was represented by a permanent central settlement, with associated hunting, fishing, gathering, and ritual areas. A typical settlement would have had a variety of structures used for daily living, recreation, and rituals. In the larger communities, the layout was more intricate. A ritualistic or sacred enclosure was surrounded by the residences of the chief and community leaders, which were in turn surrounded by the smaller homes of the rest of the community.

Sweathouses, cemeteries, and clearings for dancing and playing were also common at larger settlements (McCawley 1996:32–33). Gabrieleno subsistence consisted of terrestrial and marine resources. These included mule deer, pronghorn, rabbits, small rodents, freshwater and marine fish and shellfish, sea mammals, snakes, lizards, insects, quail and mountain sheep. Botanical resources included native grass seeds, pine nuts, acorns, berries, and fresh greens and shoots. Food resources were managed by the chief, who was in charge of food reserves, and families were known to store surplus resources to supplement their diet during times of resource stress. The Gabrieleno were among the most materially wealthy groups in California, due to a complex trade network between the Gabrieleno and neighboring groups (McCawley 1996:141).

The Gabrieleno were artistic people who made various cultural objects including beads, baskets, bone and stone tools and weapons, shell ornaments, wooden bowls and paddles, and steatite ornaments and cooking vessels (Blackburn 1963). These items were also traded regularly with neighboring groups, who often exchanged Olivella shell beads as currency for Gabrieleno goods.

Like many other Native American groups, the settlement of Europeans in California brought conflict and disease as the Spanish colonized the west coast, decimating the Native American population. Today, the Gabrieleno continue their traditions in Southern California, with approximately 2,000 individuals.

4.2.3 History

The first documented Euro-American exploration of California was in 1542 with a Spanish expedition led by the Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. The next two centuries saw gradually increased exploration by Spanish, Russian, and French explorers and trappers. In 1769, Spain began to establish a system of pueblos, presidios, ranchos, and missions along the California coast to bolster Spanish settlement and political presence. The Spanish Franciscan missionaries established a system of 21 missions along El Camino Real, and incorporated much of the Native American population during the process, leading to the decline of



the Native population and increasingly hostile relationships between the Europeans and the Native Americans (Castillo 1978).

After Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821, what is now California became the Mexican province of Alta California. The Mexican government closed the missions and former mission lands were granted to retired soldiers and other Mexican citizens. Much of the land along the coast and in the interior valleys became part of Mexican land grants or “ranchos,” which were used primarily as cattle ranches (Robinson 1948).

The American period of California history began when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed between Mexico and the United States in 1848. As a result of the treaty, Alta California became part of the United States as the territory of California. The Gold Rush of 1849 led to a rapid population increase and allowed California to become a state in 1850. Most Mexican land grants were confirmed to the original grantees by U.S. courts, but usually with more restricted boundaries. Land that was not part of a land grant was owned by the U.S. government until it was acquired by individuals through purchase or homesteading. Floods and drought in the 1860s greatly reduced the cattle herds on the ranchos, making it difficult to pay the new American taxes on the thousands of acres they owned. As a result, most of the land grants were sold or transferred to Anglo-Americans (Cleland 1941:137-138).

By the late 1860s, the Los Angeles area was one of the top dairy production centers in the country and was a regional center for the development of citriculture (Caughey and Caughey 1977, Rolle 2003). These factors, along with the expansion of port facilities and railroads throughout the region, contributed to a real estate boom in the 1880s (Caughey and Caughey 1977; Dumke 1944).

By the late 1800s, government leaders recognized the need for water to sustain the growing population in the Los Angeles area. Irish immigrant William Mulholland personified the city’s efforts for a stable water supply (Dumke 1944; Nadeau 1997). By 1913, the City of Los Angeles had purchased large tracts of land in the Owens Valley and Mulholland planned and completed the construction of the 240-mile aqueduct that brought the valley’s water to the area (Nadeau 1997).

Los Angeles and the surrounding communities continued to grow in the twentieth century, in part due to the discovery of oil in the area and its strategic location as a wartime port. The county’s mild climate and successful economy continued to draw new residents in the 1900s, with much of the county transformed from ranches and farms into residential subdivisions surrounding commercial and industrial centers. Hollywood’s development into the entertainment capital of the world and southern California’s booming aerospace industry were key factors in the county’s growth in the twentieth century.

The area that is now the City of Torrance was part of Rancho San Pedro, the first California land grant, which the governor of California awarded to Juan Jose Dominguez in 1784 (Gillingham 1961). The Dominguez family retained ownership of the rancho when Mexico won independence from Spain, and again when the United States took control of California in 1848, although the size of the land grant diminished significantly in the process (Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum 2018). In 1911, Jared Sidney Torrance purchased approximately 3,000 acres of the Rancho. Mr. Torrance envisioned a city in which people could come to an awaiting job (City of Torrance n.d.). The city would be a “workman’s paradise,” which would be established with paved streets, utility lines, and built houses with fully landscaped yards. The City of Torrance was formally incorporated in May 1921 with a population of 180 residents. Since then, the city has seen exponential growth and now has a population of more than 140,000 residents (Torrance Historical Society n.d.).



5.0 METHODS

5.1 RECORDS SEARCH METHODS

On August 30, 2018, Paleo Solutions completed a records search of the Project area and 0.5-mile (805-m) buffer at the at the SCCIC, CSU, Fullerton. The records search was conducted to identify previously-recorded cultural resources within the Project area and within a 0.5-mile (805-m) radius. The records search reviewed technical reports and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) site records. Additional consulted sources included the Historic Property Data File, which identifies resources listed on or determined eligible for listing on the NRHP, the CRHR, local registers, and the lists of California State Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and the Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility. Paleo Solutions also reviewed pertinent portions of historic USGS Torrance, California 15-minute quadrangles (1896, 1925, 1942, 1953, 1966, and 1975) (NETR 2018).

5.2 FIELD METHODS

A qualified Paleo Solutions archaeologist completed an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project area on September 4, 2018 using standard archaeological procedures and techniques. All field practices met the Secretary of Interior’s standards and guidelines for a cultural resources inventory. The intensive level survey methods consisted of a pedestrian survey conducted in parallel transects spaced no more than 10 meters apart within the accessible portions of the Project area. Deviations from transects only occurred in areas containing steep slopes. Any sloped areas not fully accessible were visually inspected.

Within each transect, the ground surface was examined for the presence of prehistoric artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, ceramics, fire-affected rock), historic artifacts (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics, building materials), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, roads and trails, and depressions and other features that might indicate the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., post holes, foundations). Ground disturbances such as burrows, cut banks, and drainages were also visually inspected for exposed subsurface materials.

All data was collected at submeter accuracy using a Trimble unit. Field conditions and survey results were photo-documented using a Sony Cyber-shot DSC-W800. Survey results were also documented on forms using the Kordata, Version 3.2.2, on an Apple iPad. All photographs and documentation are on file at Paleo Solutions’ headquarters in Monrovia, California.

6.0 RESULTS

6.1 RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

6.1.1 Previously-Conducted Cultural Resources Investigations

The record search results indicate nine previous cultural resources investigations have been completed between 1981 and 2010 within 0.5 mile (805 m) of the Project area (Table 1). Of the nine previous studies, three, completed in 1981, 1995, and 2003, overlap the Project area.

Table 1. Summary of Previous Reports Within the 0.5-Mile Records Search Area

Report No. (LA-)	Year	Author(s)	Title	Proximity to Project Area
01033	1981	Van Horn, David M. and William A. Sawyer	Archaeological Survey Report: a 5 Acre Parcel Located in La Canada/Flintridge in Los Angeles County, California	Within



Report No. (LA-)	Year	Author(s)	Title	Proximity to Project Area
03165	1995	McKenna, Jeanette A. and Tamara L. Farris	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of the Proposed Butcher Mountain Project Area Tentative Tract No. 51753, City of Torrance, Los Angeles County, California	Within
04771	1999	Duke, Curt	Cultural Resource Assessment for Pacific Bell Mobile Services Facility La 817-13, County of Los Angeles, California	Outside
07184	2000	Sylvia, Barbara	Highway Project for Pavement Re-stripping and Signal Relocation Along Pacific Coast Highway (route1) at Location1, From Crenshaw Boulevard to Aero Way, and Pavement Re-stripping Only at Location 2, From Maxella Avenue to Washington Boulevard	Outside
08867	2007	Bonner, Wayne H. and Kathleen A. Crawford	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for Royal Street Communications, Llc Candidate La2627a (medical Office Building), 3445 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, Los Angeles County, California	Outside
10567	2005	Hogan, Michael, Bai "Tom" Tang, Josh Smallwood, Laura Hensley Shaker, and Casey Tibbitt	Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties - West Basin Municipal Water District Harbor- South Bay Water Recycling Project Proposed Project Laterals	Outside
11150	2003	Maxwell, Pamela	West Basin Municipal Water District Harbor/ South Bay Water Recycling Project	Within
11295	2010	Loftus, Shannon	Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Survey and Historic Architectural Resource-Inventory and Assessment, NextG Palos Verdes Das Node Site: VZ1018CA-HAW08 Pole #1629185E Row Adjacent to 25795 Hawthorne Boulevard, Rolling Hills Estates, Los Angeles Co	Outside
11313	2010	Loftus, Shannon	Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Survey and Historic Architectural Resource-Inventory and Assessment NextG Palos Verdes Das Node Site: VZ1018CA-HAW09 Pole #1659636E Row Adjacent to 25280 Hawthorne Boulevard Torrance, Los Angeles County	Outside

6.1.2 Previously-Recorded Cultural Resources

The SCCIC records search identified three previously-documented resources within 0.5 mile (805 m) of the Project area (Table 2). None of the three resources overlap, or are within, the Project area. All three are historic-age built environment features: two utility pole structures (P-19-189774 and P-19-189747) and the location of the Jose Dolores Sepulveda adobe home (P-19-186563). Site P-19-186563 (Jose Dolores Sepulveda adobe home) was evaluated for the California Points of Historical Interest and the California State Historical Landmarks in 1941 and granted landmark status in 1944 (CHL No. 383).

Table 2. Summary of Previous Resources Within 0.5-Mile Records Search Area

CHRIS Primary No. (P-19)	Trinomial (CA-LAN)	Resource Type	Eligibility Status	Resource Description	Proximity to Project area
189774	N/A	Historic Built Environment	6Y (Determined ineligible for NR– Not evaluated for CR/Local)	Utility pole HAW 09	Outside
189747	N/A	Historic Built Environment	6Y (Determined ineligible for NR– Not evaluated for CR or Local Listing.)	Utility pole HAW 08	Outside



CHRIS Primary No. (P-19)	Trinomial (CA-LAN)	Resource Type	Eligibility Status	Resource Description	Proximity to Project area
186563	N/A	Historic Built Environment	5S1 Individual property that is listed or designated locally.	Site of Jose Dolores Sepulveda Adobe Home	Outside

6.1.3 Historic Maps

Paleo Solutions also reviewed the Project area on several historic USGS Torrance, California 15-minute quadrangles (1896, 1925, 1942, 1953, 1966, and 1975 [photo revised in 1979]) (NETR 2018). A road alignment along the general path of Newton Street and one homestead, approximately 1,000 feet to north of the current Project area, are visible as early as 1896. By 1925, the initial alignment of Via Valmonte is present. Hawthorne Boulevard is visible to the north of the Project area; however, it does not extend south beyond its intersection with Via Valmonte. At this time, the neighborhood of Walteria is beginning to form to the northeast.

Until 1942 the elevation in the Project area ranged from 225 feet AMSL at the lowest point to 461 feet AMSL at the highest point of the hilltop. By 1942, mining activity became visible in the eastern portion of the Project area with a base depth of approximately 200 feet AMSL. By 1953, mining activities had extended further west with a base depth of 175 feet AMSL. By 1966, the extent of the mining operations was consistent with the current boundaries and topography. By the 1979 revisions to the 1975 USGS quadrangle, Hawthorne Boulevard was visible along its current route, and Via Valmonte had been finalized.

The mining excavation currently cuts into the hillside with a base depth of 150 feet AMSL (Figures 3 and 4). Given the original elevation of 225 to 461 feet AMSL and the current elevation of 150 feet AMSL, this indicates that between 75 and 311 feet of the original sediments of the project area have been removed during past mining operations, which began in 1942.

6.2 FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

The Project area is located in the low, largely developed hills of the Walteria region of the City of Torrance, to the east of Palos Verdes Estates, and to the north of Rolling Hills Estates. The greater area surrounding the Project area consists of urban residential and commercial development and landscaping.

The terrain consists of high topographic relief, with a north-sloping, large rock cliff face along the southern Project area boundary, a relatively smaller ridge along the northwestern boundary, and the smallest ridge along the northeastern portion of the Project area (Figures 5 through 8). The overall ground visibility within the Project area was approximately 80 to 95 percent during the survey. Modern refuse (e.g., fragments of concrete, wood, furniture, construction equipment, machinery parts, metal, glass, and plastics) and artificial fill were present throughout. No cultural resources were identified.

7.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Until 1942 the elevation in the Project area ranged from 225 feet AMSL at the lowest point to 461 feet AMSL at the highest point of the hilltop. By 1966, the extent of the mining operations was consistent with the current boundaries and topography. The mining excavation currently cuts into the hillside with a base depth of 150 feet AMSL (see Figures 3 and 4).



Figure 3. Overview of excavation cut. View south-southeast.



Figure 4. Overview of excavation cut. View west.



Figure 5. Project overview from northeastern portion. View west.



Figure 6. Project overview from southeastern portion. View west.



Figure 7. Project overview from northern portion. View south.



Figure 8. Project overview from western portion. View east.



Given the original elevation of 225 to 461 feet AMSL and the current elevation of 150 feet AMSL, this indicates that between 75 and 311 feet of the original top sediments of the project area have been removed during past mining operations that began in 1942. Surface or subsurface cultural materials associated with past prehistoric or historic-period use of the project area would most likely have been confined to the original top 5 to 10 feet of sediments, which are no longer extant in the project area. Additionally, the majority of the Project area is underlain with up to 75 feet of overfill and modern refuse on the ground surface (fragments of concrete, wood, furniture, construction equipment, machinery parts, metal, glass, and plastics). No cultural resources were identified within the Project area as a result of the current study.

Because no cultural resources were identified within the project area as a result of this study and the potential for intact deposits to exist in this highly disturbed setting where the top 75 to 311 feet of native sediments have been removed, the Project is assessed as having a low sensitivity for cultural resources. No further management recommendations are necessary beyond standard protection measures under CEQA and the applicable State of California Public Resources Codes to address unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources and human remains, as described below.

7.1 UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

While the likelihood of cultural resource discoveries is low there always a potential for unanticipated and previously unidentified cultural resources to be uncovered. In the event that archaeological resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during construction activities, the resource must be evaluated for listing in the CRHR. Upon identification, all construction work occurring within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology, can evaluate the significance of the find and determine whether additional study is warranted. Depending upon the significance of the find, the archaeologist may simply record the find and allow work to continue. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA, additional work such as preparation of an archaeological treatment plan, testing, or data recovery may be warranted.

7.2 UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are found, the County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC shall then identify the most likely descendant (MLD) to be consulted regarding treatment and/or repatriation of the remains. The MLD shall be granted access to examine the remains and then has 48 hours after being granted access to provide recommendations for the treatment or reburial of the remains. If the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 48 hours of being granted access to the remains, the land owner or City can rebury the remains in a location not subject to further disturbance.



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