CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Victorville Retail Project

City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California

Prepared for:

Amy Flores
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Prepared by:

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Project No. APP 1801

Data Base Information:
Type of Study: Reconnaissance Survey
Resources Recorded: None
USGS Quadrangles: 7.5-minute *Adelanto* (1993), *California*

BCRCONSULTING LLC

September 10, 2018

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Applied Planning, Inc. to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Victorville Retail Project (project) in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The project is located southwest of the intersection of Palmdale Road and Highway 395. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File Search (Appendix B), and paleontological overview (Appendix C) were completed for the project in partial fulfillment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The records search revealed that 40 cultural resources studies have taken place resulting in 19 cultural resources identified within one mile of the project site. Of the previous studies, one has assessed a portion of the project site, and no cultural resources have been previously recorded within its boundaries.

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists did not discover any historic-period or prehistoric cultural resources of any kind within the project site boundaries. Therefore, no significant impacts related to archaeological or historical resources is anticipated and no further investigations are recommended for the proposed project unless:

- the proposed project is changed to include areas not subject to this study;
- the proposed project is changed to include the construction of additional facilities;
- cultural materials are encountered during project activities.

Although the current study has not indicated sensitivity for cultural resources within the project boundaries, ground disturbing activities always have the potential to reveal buried deposits not observed on the surface during previous surveys. Prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, field personnel should be alerted to the possibility of buried prehistoric or historic cultural deposits. In the event that field personnel encounter buried cultural materials, work in the immediate vicinity of the find should cease and a qualified archaeologist should be retained to assess the significance of the find. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop or divert construction excavation as necessary. If the qualified archaeologist finds that any cultural resources present meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register, plans for the treatment, evaluation, and mitigation of impacts to the find will need to be developed. Prehistoric or historic cultural materials that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities include:

- historic artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;
- historic structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements;
- prehistoric flaked-stone artifacts and debitage (waste material), consisting of obsidian, basalt, and or cryptocrystalline silicates;
- groundstone artifacts, including mortars, pestles, and grinding slabs;
- dark, greasy soil that may be associated with charcoal, ash, bone, shell, flaked stone, groundstone, and fire affected rocks.

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

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INTRODUCTION

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Applied Planning, Inc. to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Victorville Retail Project (project) in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The project is located southwest of the intersection of Palmdale Road and Highway 395. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File Search (Appendix B), and paleontological overview (Appendix C) were conducted for the project in partial fulfillment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is located in the southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 5 North, Range 5 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Adelanto* (1993) *California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (Figure 1).

NATURAL SETTING

Geology

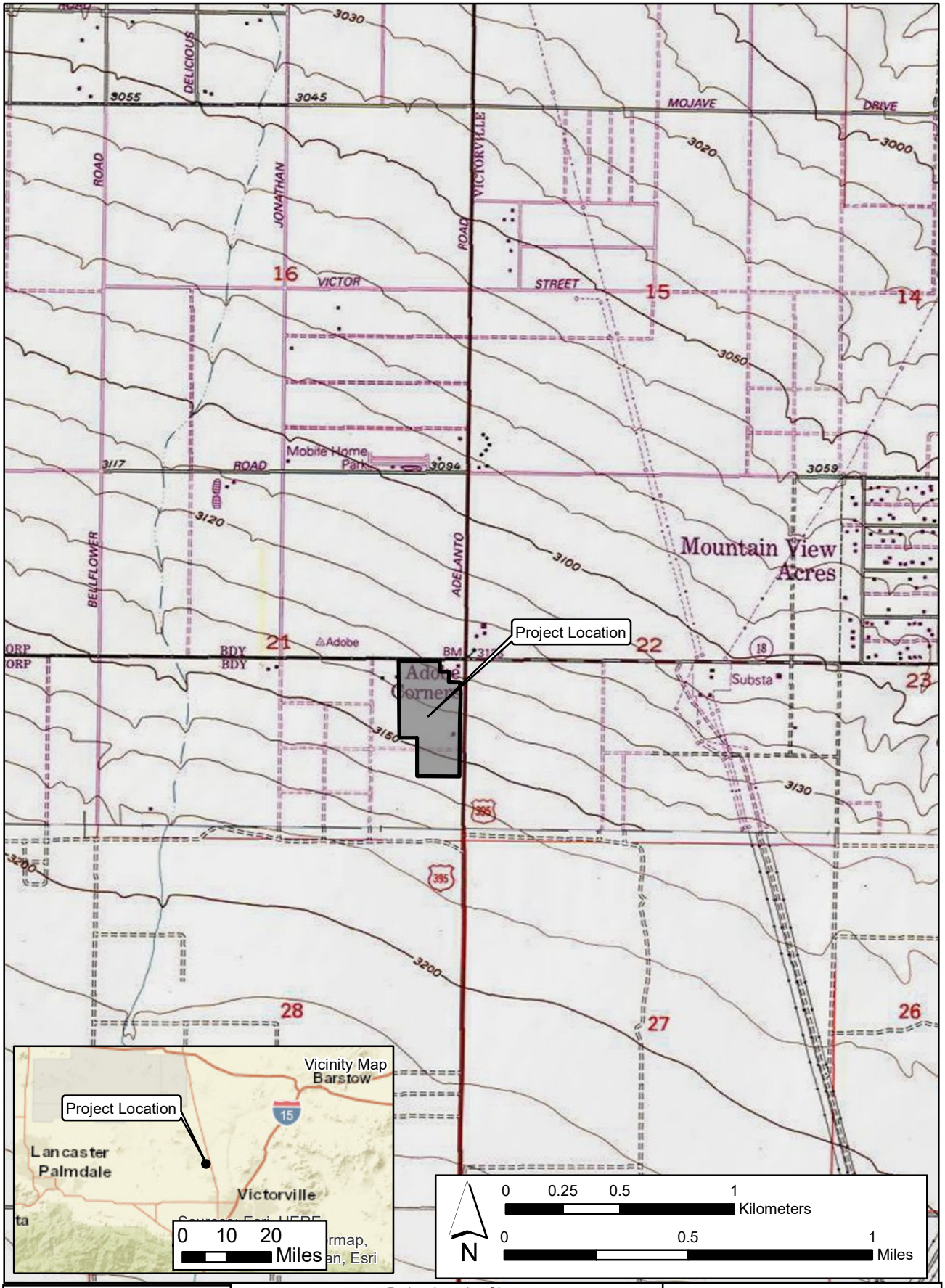
The project is located in the southwestern Mojave Desert. Sediments within the project boundaries include a geologic unit composed of young alluvial-fan deposits formed during the late Pleistocene and Holocene Epochs of the Quaternary Period (Miller and Matti 2006, Lambert 1994:17). The unit is composed of “slightly consolidated, undissected to slightly dissected deposits of poorly sorted sand and silt containing scattered subangular pebbles” (Miller and Matti 2006). Field observations during the current study are basically consistent with these descriptions, and are described in the Field Survey Results section, below.

Hydrology

The project elevation ranges from approximately 3130 to 3160 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). In general, sheet washing occurs from southwest to northeast, and one unnamed intermittent drainage crosses the project from southwest to northeast. To the south, the peaks of the San Gabriel Mountains rise above 10,000 feet and are often capped with snow until late spring or early summer. The area currently exhibits a relatively arid climate, with dry, hot summers and cool winters. Rainfall ranges from five to 15 inches annually (Jaeger and Smith 1971:36-37). Precipitation usually occurs in the form of winter and spring rain or snow at high elevations, with occasional warm monsoonal showers in late summer.

Biology

The mild climate of the late Pleistocene allowed piñon-juniper woodland to thrive throughout most of the Mojave (Van Devender et al. 1987). The vegetation and climate during this epoch attracted significant numbers of Rancholabrean fauna, including dire wolf, saber toothed cat, short-faced bear, horse, camel, antelope, mammoth, as well as birds which included pelican, goose, duck, cormorant, and eagle (Reynolds 1988). The drier climate of the middle Holocene resulted in the local development of complementary flora and fauna, which remain largely intact to this day. Common native plants include creosote, cacti, rabbit bush, interior golden bush, cheese bush, species of sage, buckwheat at higher elevations and near drainages, Joshua tree, and various grasses. Common native animals include



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Project Location Site
Victorville Retail Project

Figure 1

Reference: ESRI; USGS Quad: Adelanto, California (1993)

Applied Planning, Inc.

coyotes, cottontail and jackrabbits, rats, mice, desert tortoises, roadrunners, raptors, turkey vultures, and other bird species (see Williams et al. 2008).

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Context

The prehistoric cultural setting of the Mojave Desert has been organized into many chronological frameworks (see Warren and Crabtree 1986; Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Lanning 1963; Hunt 1960; Wallace 1958, 1962, 1977; Wallace and Taylor 1978; Campbell and Campbell 1935), although there is no definitive sequence for the region. The difficulties in establishing cultural chronologies for the Mojave are a function of its enormous size and the small amount of archaeological excavations conducted there. Moreover, throughout prehistory many groups have occupied the Mojave and their territories often overlap spatially and chronologically resulting in mixed artifact deposits. Due to dry climate and capricious geological processes, these artifacts rarely become integrated in-situ. Lacking a milieu hospitable to the preservation of cultural midden, Mojave chronologies have relied upon temporally diagnostic artifacts, such as projectile points, or upon the presence/absence of other temporal indicators, such as groundstone. Such methods are instructive, but can be limited by prehistoric occupants' concurrent use of different artifact styles, or by artifact re-use or re-sharpening, as well as researchers' mistaken diagnosis, and other factors (see Flenniken 1985; Flenniken and Raymond 1986; Flenniken and Wilke 1989). Recognizing the shortcomings of comparative temporal indicators, this study recommends the findings of Warren and Crabree (1986), who have drawn upon this method to produce a commonly cited and relatively comprehensive chronology.

Ethnography

The Uto-Aztecan "Serrano" people occupied the western Mojave Desert periphery. Kroeber (1925) applied the generic term "Serrano" to four groups, each with distinct territories: the Kitanemuk, Tataviam, Vanyume, and Serrano. Only one group, in the San Bernardino Mountains and West-Central Mojave Desert, ethnically claims the term Serrano. Bean and Smith (1978) indicate that the Vanyume, an obscure Takic population, was found along the Mojave River near Apple Valley at the time of Spanish contact. The Kitanemuk lived to the north and west, while the Tataviam lived to the west. The Serrano lived mainly to the south (Bean and Smith 1978). All may have used the western Mojave area seasonally. Historical records are unclear concerning precise territory, although archaeological studies have established village locations and trade routes (see deBarros 2004; Lightfoot and Parrish 2009).

History

Historic-era California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish or Mission Period (1769 to 1821), the Mexican or Rancho Period (1821 to 1848), and the American Period (1848 to present).

Spanish Period. The first European to pass through the project area is thought to be a Spaniard called Father Francisco Garces. Having become familiar with the area, Garces acted as a guide to Juan Bautista de Anza, who had been commissioned to lead a group

across the desert from a Spanish outpost in Arizona to set up quarters at the Mission San Gabriel in 1771 near what today is Pasadena (Beck and Haase 1974). This is the first recorded group crossing of the Mojave Desert and, according to Father Garces' journal, they camped at the headwaters of the Mojave River, one night less than a day's march from the mountains. Today, this is estimated to have been approximately 11 miles southeast of Victorville (Marenczuk 1962). Garces was followed by Alta California Governor Pedro Fages, who briefly explored the western Mojave region in 1772. Searching for San Diego Presidio deserters, Fages had traveled north through Riverside to San Bernardino, crossed over the mountains into the Mojave Desert, and then journeyed westward to the San Joaquin Valley (Beck and Haase 1974).

Mexican Period. In 1821, Mexico overthrew Spanish rule and the missions began to decline. By 1833, the Mexican government passed the Secularization Act, and the missions, reorganized as parish churches, lost their vast land holdings, and released their neophytes (Beattie and Beattie 1974).

American Period. The American Period, 1848–Present, began with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In 1850, California was accepted into the Union of the United States primarily due to the population increase created by the Gold Rush of 1849. The cattle industry reached its greatest prosperity during the first years of the American Period. Mexican Period land grants had created large pastoral estates in California, and demand for beef during the Gold Rush led to a cattle boom that lasted from 1849–1855. However, beginning about 1855, the demand for beef began to decline due to imports of sheep from New Mexico and cattle from the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys. When the beef market collapsed, many California ranchers lost their ranchos through foreclosure. A series of disastrous floods in 1861–1862, followed by a significant drought diminished the economic impact of local ranching. This decline combined with ubiquitous agricultural and real estate developments of the late 19th century, set the stage for diversified economic pursuits that have continued to proliferate to this day (Beattie and Beattie 1974; Cleland 1941).

PERSONNEL

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA acted as the Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the current study. He also compiled the technical report, and provided project oversight. BCR Consulting Staff Archaeologist Joseph Orozco, M.A., ABD conducted the cultural resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) located at California State University, Fullerton. Mr. Orozco also completed the pedestrian field survey and contributed to the technical report.

METHODS

Research

Prior to fieldwork, a records search was conducted at the SCCIC. This archival research reviewed the status of all recorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, and survey and excavation reports completed within one mile of the project site. Additional resources reviewed included the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and documents and inventories

published by the California Office of Historic Preservation. These include the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures.

Field Survey

An archaeological field survey of the project site was conducted on August 21, 2018. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart across 100 percent of the project site. All soil exposures were carefully inspected for evidence of cultural resources, and cut banks and rodent back dirt were inspected for evidence of significant soil changes and potential subsurface remains.

RESULTS

Research

Research completed through the SCCIC revealed that 40 cultural resources studies have taken place resulting in the recording of 19 cultural resources within one mile of the project site. Of the previous studies, one has assessed a portion of the project site, and no cultural resources have been previously recorded within its boundaries. A summary of the records search results is included below.

Table A. Cultural Resources and Studies within One Mile of the Project Site

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangles	Cultural Resources (Distance from Project Site)	Cultural Resource Studies
Adelanto (1993), *California Baldy Mesa (1996)*	P-36-4019: historic refuse scatter (1 mile north) P-36-6353: historic refuse site (3/4 mile northeast) P-36-7750: historic refuse (1/2 mile south) P-36-7751: historic refuse(1/2mile south) P-36-7994: commercial site (1/8 mile east) P-36-10504H: historic fence (1/2 mile south) P-36-4179H: historic road (3/4 mile southeast) P-36-10315: historic transmission lines (3/4 mile northeast) P-36-10317: historic transmission lines (3/4 mile east) P-36-12046: historic refuse (1/4 mile west) P-36-12045: prehistoric lithic scatter (1/4 mile west) P-36-12058: historic fence (1/2 mile southwest) P-36-12189: historic road (adjacent to project site) P-36-26161: historic refuse scatter (3/4 mile northeast) P-36-26162: historic can scatter (3/4 mile north) P-36-26208: historic solder tab can (3/4 mile northeast) P-36-29461: historic refuse scatter (3/4 mile east) P-36-61252: historic can (3/4 mile north east) P-36-64401: prehistoric flakes (1/4 mile west)	SB-106-0166, 0252, 0874, 1219,1220, 1734, 1907, 1909, 2053, 2128, 2951, *3020, 3799, 3848, 3898, 4302, 4303, 4305, 4306, 4307, 4308, 4473, 4544, 4581, 4799, 4800, 5114, 5235, 5237, 5378, 5377, 5819, 6006, 6158, 6161, 6500, 7381, 7494, 7703, 8020

*Previously assessed a portion of the project site for cultural resources.

Field Survey

The project site exhibited approximately 80 percent surface visibility. Artificial disturbances have resulted from off-road vehicle activity, trash dumping, and a dilapidated modern concrete water basin. A series of storm channels on the eastern portion of the project were identified, indicating a high level of sediment movement across the project site. Excluding

the intermittent drainages, the project site is relatively flat. Vegetation includes creosote scrub and some seasonal grasses. Soils include silty sand with 10-15 percent gravels measuring less than five centimeters in diameter. Inspection of cut banks and rodent back dirt failed to produce evidence for significant soil changes or for potential subsurface remains. No historic-period or prehistoric cultural resources of any kind, or evidence for subsurface were identified during the field survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on these results, BCR Consulting recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring is necessary during activities associated with the project site. Therefore, no significant impacts related to archaeological or historical resources is anticipated and no further investigations are recommended for the proposed project unless:

- the proposed project is changed to include areas not subject to this study;
- cultural materials are encountered during project activities.

Although the current study has not indicated sensitivity for cultural resources within the project boundaries, ground disturbing activities always have the potential to reveal buried deposits not observed on the surface during previous surveys. Prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, field personnel should be alerted to the possibility of buried prehistoric or historic cultural deposits. Should field personnel encounter buried cultural materials, work in the immediate vicinity of the find should cease and a qualified archaeologist should be retained to assess the significance of the find. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop or divert construction excavation as necessary. If the qualified archaeologist finds that any cultural resources present meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register, plans for the treatment, evaluation, and mitigation of impacts to the find will need to be developed. Cultural materials that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities include:

- historic artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;
- historic structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements;
- prehistoric flaked-stone artifacts and debitage (waste material), consisting of obsidian, basalt, and or cryptocrystalline silicates;
- groundstone artifacts, including mortars, pestles, and grinding slabs;
- dark, greasy soil that may be associated with charcoal, ash, bone, shell, flaked stone, groundstone, and fire affected rocks.

If human remains are encountered during the undertaking, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

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APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Project Site Overview (Southeast View)

2. Project Site Overview (West View)

APPENDIX B

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Environmental and Cultural Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., ROOM 100
West SACRAMENTO, CA 95691
(916) 373-3710
Fax (916) 373-5471

August 13, 2018

Joseph Orozco

BCR Consulting, Inc.

Sent by Email: josephorozco513@gmail.com

Re: Victorville Retail project, San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Orozco,

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 preclude the presence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources for cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and/or recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans tribes who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the 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 to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these tribes, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 916-573-1033 or frank.lienert@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Frank Lienert
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts
August 13, 2018

Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
Genevieve Jones, Chairperson
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Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
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This list is current only as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

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 American Tribes with regard to cultural resources assessments for the proposed Victorville Retail project, San Bernardino County

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts
August 13, 2018

Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
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Palm Springs , CA 92264
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Kern Valley Indian Community
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Morongo Band of Mission Indians
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Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
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Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
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Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Goldie Walker, Chairperson
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Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
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San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
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Highland , CA 92346
(909) 864-8933

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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American Tribes with regard to cultural resources assessments for the proposed Victorville Retail project, San Bernardino County

APPENDIX C

PALEONTOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

tel 213.763.DINO
www.nhm.org

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Vertebrate Paleontology Section
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28 August 2018

BCR Consulting
505 West 8th Street
Claremont, CA 91711

Attn: Joseph Orozco, Staff Archaeologist

re: Paleontological resources for the Vertebrate Paleontology Records Search for the proposed Victorville Retail Project, in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, project area

Dear Joseph:

I have conducted a thorough check of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for the proposed Victorville Retail Project, in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, project area as outlined on the portion of the Adelanto USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on 14 August 2018. We have no vertebrate fossil localities that lie directly within the boundaries of the proposed project area, but we do have localities nearby from sedimentary deposits similar to those that may occur at depth in the proposed project area.

Surface deposits in the entire proposed project area consist of younger Quaternary Alluvium, derived as alluvial fan deposits from the San Gabriel Mountains to the south. These deposits typically do not contain significant vertebrate fossils in the uppermost layers, but they may be underlain by older Quaternary deposits that do contain significant vertebrate fossil remains. Our closest fossil vertebrate locality in these older Quaternary deposits is LACM 1224, just south of due east of the proposed project area west of Spring Valley Lake, that produced a specimen of fossil camel, *Camelops*. Additionally, east-southeast of the proposed project area, on the western side of the Mojave River below the bluffs, an otherwise unrecorded specimen of mammoth was collected in 1961 from older Quaternary Alluvium deposits. Just east of due

north of the proposed project area, between Adelanto and the former George Air Force Base, our older Quaternary locality LACM 7786 produced a fossil specimen of meadow vole, *Microtus*.

Shallow excavations in the younger Quaternary Alluvium in the proposed project area are unlikely to produce significant vertebrate fossils. Deeper excavations in the proposed project area that extend down into older Quaternary deposits, however, may well encounter significant fossil vertebrate remains. Any substantial excavations in the proposed project area, therefore, should be monitored closely to quickly and professionally recover any fossil remains discovered while not impeding development. Also, sediment samples should be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential in the proposed project area. Any fossils recovered during mitigation should be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

This records search covers only the vertebrate paleontology records of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. It is not intended to be a thorough paleontological survey of the proposed project area covering other institutional records, a literature survey, or any potential on-site survey.

Sincerely,

Samuel A. McLeod

Samuel A. McLeod, Ph.D.
Vertebrate Paleontology

enclosure: invoice