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## **Cultural Resources Evaluation Letter Report for the Del Rey Pointe Project, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California**

Dear Ms. Novak,

This letter report summarizes a cultural resources study conducted by ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM) for the Del Rey Pointe Project (Project), Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. The study included both a literature review and a pedestrian archaeological survey of the Project parcel to determine the presence or absence of resources that may be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and as historical resources under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The property within this Project area is proposed for development, and the results of this cultural resources study will assist the City of Los Angeles Planning Department in determining whether the Project has the potential to cause significant impacts as defined by CEQA.

This letter report is divided into the following sections: Introduction, Methodology, Cultural and Environmental Setting, Survey Results, and Conclusion. References are included as Attachment A; and a summary of the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) records search as Attachment B.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Project site is located on privately held land in the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan Area of the City of Los Angeles, illustrated on the USGS Venice, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1). The proposed Project is situated on a peninsula at the confluence of Centinela Creek, which bounds the parcel on the south, and Ballona Creek, which bounds the parcel to the north. The Marina Freeway (State Route 90 [SR 90]) bounds the parcel to the north. The site is currently accessible only via a private flood control access road that runs along Centinela Creek, with the gate located on the south side of Jefferson Boulevard, adjacent to an offramp of SR 90 (Figure 2).

The proposed Project site comprises three parcels, totaling approximately 2.98 acres (130,162 square feet [sf]). The site is currently undeveloped; vacant land zoned Medium Residential (R4), SR 90, and commercial development are located across Ballona Creek immediately to the north; and single-family residences are located approximately 0.3 miles (mi.) northeast (in an unincorporated area under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County) and east of the site. Commercial buildings and surface parking lots are located immediately south of the Project site, across Centinela Creek.

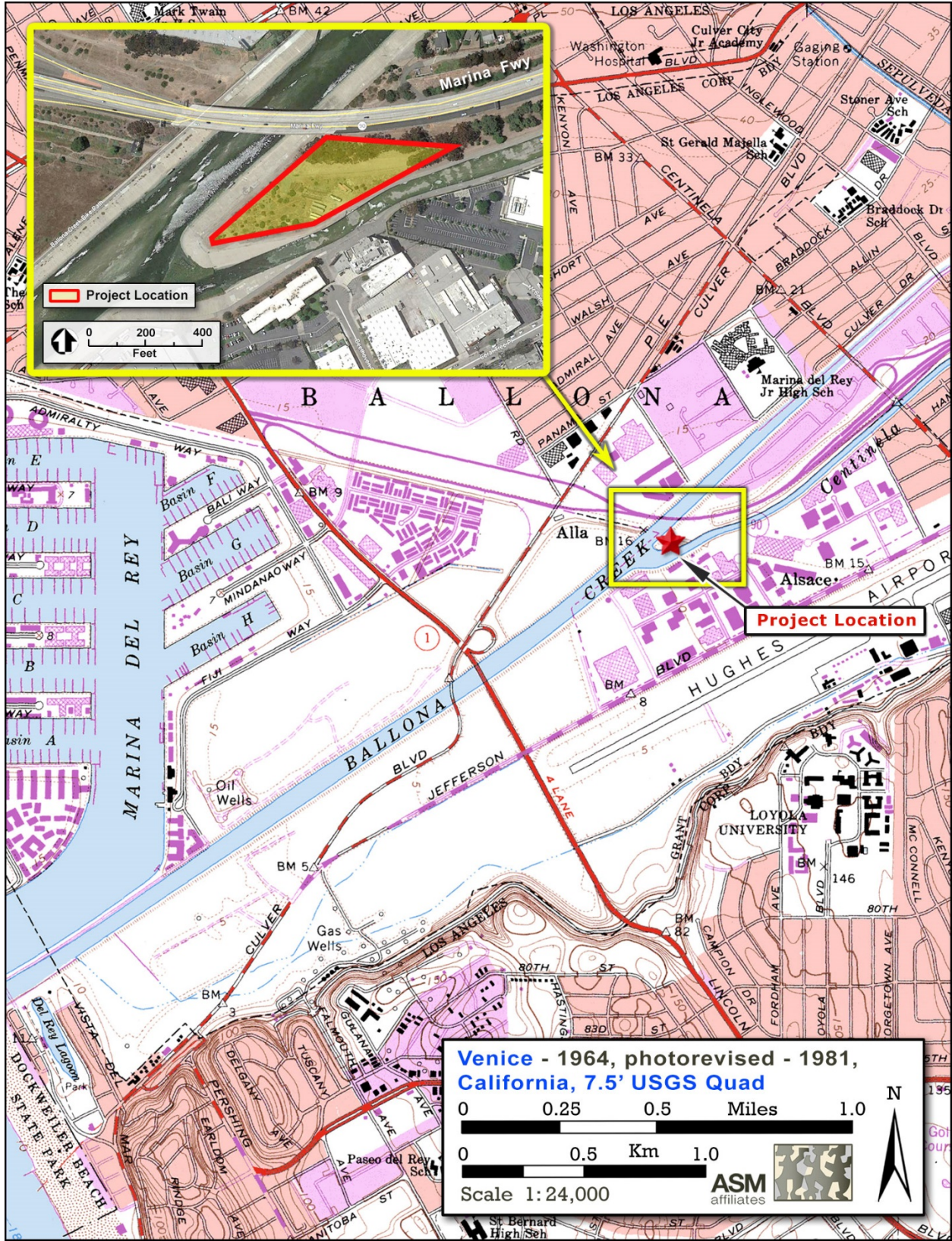


Figure 1. Project location.



Figure 2. Access road, view toward northeast.

The proposed Project is a multi-family residential Project consisting of 236 residential units (apartments), with 12 units set aside for Extremely Low Income and 26 units set aside for Very Low Income Housing in compliance with Ballot Measure JJJ, a variety of community serving uses (including a community room and business center, a gym/spa and a pool and patio area), with a total of 430 parking spaces, provided in one level of subterranean parking, one level of semi-subterranean parking, and on-grade parking. The proposed Project would also provide 278 bicycle parking spaces (38 short-term and 240 long-term). The Project would be six (6) stories and up to 56 feet in height.

Two parcels of land on the eastern and western ends of the Project site, a total approximately 9,104 sf, would be permanently set aside as a natural habitat preserve. The west-facing area of the site is at the confluence of Ballona and Centinela Creeks. An existing natural marsh area has formed in the area of the confluence within the Flood Control Channels (Figure 3). The marsh area is not on the subject site or part of the Project. The landscape for the 2,528 sf Natural Habitat Preserve will be low-growing shrubs and ground cover that support the bird and wildlife species and are native plant species to the area. The east-facing area will set aside 6,576 sf as a Natural Tree Habitat Preserve. This area will be improved with trees that are native to the area to support the nesting of birds of prey that hunt and feed in the Project vicinity.

ASM prepared this report to assess the potential for cultural resources to be impacted by the Project. In support of this effort, ASM conducted a literature review and a pedestrian archaeological survey of the Project parcel.



Figure 3. Marsh area, view toward south-southwest.

## **METHODOLOGY**

ASM began the project by requesting records search documents from the SCCIC. ASM also conducted additional archival research to develop a general historic context for the Project area as well as site-specific information. Finally, ASM conducted an archaeological field survey on November 30, 2018, to determine the presence of any previously undocumented cultural resources. The reconnaissance-level field survey was conducted by ASM Senior Archaeologist Sherri Andrews, M.A., RPA. For the archaeological survey, all accessible portions of the parcel were walked in transects spaced approximately 15 m apart and oriented primarily along the long axis of the parcel.

## **SCCIC RECORDS SEARCH**

The SCCIC records search results were reviewed to determine whether the Project area has been previously subject to survey as well as to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources previously documented within the Project area. The search included all records and documents on file with the SCCIC, as well as the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) Historic Properties Directory. The search included the Project area and a 0.5-mi. radius surrounding it.

A total of 26 previous reports were identified as a result of the records search (Table 1), two of which involve portions of the Project area (bolded below). The entirety of the Project area was included within the study area for LA-1173; no cultural resources were documented.

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resource Projects Conducted within the 0.5-Mile Records Search Radius

<b>Report No. (LA-)</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Author(s) / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
00069	1974	Rosen, Martin D. / University of California, Los Angeles	Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources in Playa Del Rey Area, Leighton and Associates
00436	1979	Pence, Robert L.	Archaeological Assessment of the Summa Corporation Property, Culver City, Los Angeles County
00462	1979	Hector, Susan M. / University of California, Los Angeles Archaeological Survey	An Archaeological Resource Survey an Impact Assessment of Tract No. 25635, Los Angeles County
00750	1953	Marlys, Thiel	Recording by Pictures the Collection of William Deane of the Hughes Aircraft Site
<b>01173</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>Dillon, Brian D.</b>	<b>An Archaeological Resource Survey and Impact Assessment of a Parcel Near Centinela and Ballona Creeks in the City of Los Angeles, California</b>
01619	1986	McAuley, Tamara K. / University of California, Los Angeles Archaeological Survey	An Archaeological Resource Survey and Impact Assessment of the Jefferson Boulevard Site
02372	1991	Homburg, Jeffrey A. / Statistical Research, Inc.	Late Prehistoric Change in the Ballona Wetland
<b>03898</b>	-	-	<b>Proposal for Archaeological Investigations in the Area of Hammock Street and Port Drive (vii-La.-90,405; Lincoln Blvd. to Slauson Avenue)</b>
04053	1998	Turner, Robin D. / Greenwood and Associates	Archaeological Monitoring of the Median Bike Path and Walkway Improvements Along Culver Boulevard and McConnell Avenue, Los Angeles, California
04863	2001	Duke, Curt / LSA Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resource Assessment Cingular Wireless Facility No. LA 905-06 Los Angeles County, California
05557	2000	Duke, Curt / LSA Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resource Assessment for Pacific Bell Mobile Services Facility LA 905-01 County of Los Angeles, California
06003	2001	Mason, Roger D. / Chambers Group, Inc.	Cultural Resources Records Search and Literature Review Report for an AT&T Telecommunications Facility: Number D092 Jefferson Boulevard in the City of Inglewood, Los Angeles County, California
06004	2001	Mason, Roger D. / Chambers Group, Inc.	Proposed AT&T Antenna Facility D092, Jefferson Boulevard, City of Inglewood, Los Angeles County, California
06570	1991	Swanson, Mark T. / Statistical Research, Inc.	Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project, Technical Report 1. Visual and Aesthetic Impact of the Playa Vista Project on Adjacent Properties 45 Years of Age and Older.
06904	2003	Altschul, Jeffrey H., Anne Q. Stoll, Donn R. Grenda, and Richard Ciolek-Torrello / Statistical Research, Inc.	Playa Vista Monograph Series Test Excavation Report 4. Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project at the Base of the Bluff. Archaeological Inventory and Evaluation Along Lower Centinela Creek, Marina Del Rey, California
07192	1991	Hampson, R. Paul / Statistical Research, Inc.	Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project, Technical Report 2. Historical Test Excavations, Playa Vista, Los Angeles, California
07724	1999	Keller, Angela H. / Statistical Research, Inc.	Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project, Technical Report 9. Evaluation of Sr10, a Nonarchaeological Assemblage in the Ballona Wetlands, Marina Del Rey, California
07725	2001	Altschul, Jeffrey H.	Playa Vista: Archaeological Treatment Plan for CA-LAN-54
07726	2001	Vargas, Benjamin R., and Jeffrey H. Altschul / Statistical Research, Inc.	Playa Vista Monograph Series Test Excavation Report 3. Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project on Ballona Creek Archaeological Treatment Plan for CA-LAN-54, Marina Del Rey, California
07939	2000	Kane, Diane / California Department of Transportation, District 7	Historic Property Survey Report for the Route 1 Widening Project Between Culver Boulevard and Jefferson Boulevard in Los Angeles County, California

<b>Report No. (LA-)</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Author(s) / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
09468	1991	-	Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project, Technical Report 4. Historic Property Survey Report for the Hughes Aircraft Site at Playa Vista
09481	1991	Altschul, Jeffrey H., Richard S. Ciolek-Torrello, Jeffrey A. Homburg, and Mark T. Swanson / Statistical Research, Inc.	Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project Research Design. Statistical Research Technical Series No. 29, Pt. 1
10134	2002	Keller, Angela H., and Jeffrey H. Altschul / Statistical Research, Inc.	Playa Vista Monograph Series Technical Report 10. Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project, Preliminary Report on Data Recovery at Site CA-LAN-54, Marina del Rey, California
10152	2007	Statistical Research, Inc.	Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project (PVAHP). Programmatic Agreement, Playa Vista Project, Annual Reports, September 1996 through 2007
12500	2013	Vader, Michael / ESA	Final Archaeological Resources Monitoring Report for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Scattergood—Olympic Transmission Line Project, Vault Investigations, Los Angeles County, California
12863	2016	McKenna, Jeanette A.	A Cultural Resources Investigation of the Proposed Ocean Charter Schools Site, 12870 Panama St., in the Marina Del Rey Area of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Eight resources have been previously documented within the 0.5-mi. records search radius, none of which are nearer than 0.25 mi. to the Project area. Two of the resources have both prehistoric and historic components; one is solely prehistoric, and the remainder are historic, consisting of structures, water control features, and refuse scatters (Table 2).

Table 2. Resources Previously Recorded within the 0.5-Mile Records Search Radius

<b>Primary # (P-19-)</b>	<b>Trinomial (CA-SBR-)</b>	<b>Recorded by / Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Attribute Codes</b>	<b>Relationship to Project Area</b>
000054	54/H	Eberhart / 1949; S. Kremkau, SRI / 2002	Deane's Broken Mortar Site	AH3. Landscaping/orchard; AH4. Privies/dumps/trash scatters; AH7. Roads/trails/railroad grades; AP2. Lithic scatter; AP9. Burials; AP10. Caches; AP11. Hearths/pits; AP15. Habitation debris	0.25 mi. W
000356	356	T. King/ 1969		AP9. Burials; AP15. Habitation debris	0.3 mi. N
1932	1932/H	N. Spain, Statistical Research / 1990; Benjamin Vargas, Statistical Research Inc. / 1999		AH4. Privies/dumps/trash scatters; AP15. Habitation debris	0.35 mi. SE
1933	1933H	N. Spain, S. Troncone, Statistical Research, Inc. / 1990		AH4. Privies/dumps/trash scatters	0.45 mi. SE

Primary # (P-19-)	Trinomial (CA-SBR-)	Recorded by / Date	Description	Attribute Codes	Relationship to Project Area
187548	-	C. J. McAvoy, HRG / 1995	OHP Number 117112; Hughes Industrial Historic District	HP8. Industrial building	0.35 mi. SE
187805	-	D. Kane, Caltrans / 2000; P. Daly, Daly & Associates / 2015	Ballona Creek Flood Control Channel & Drainage System	HP20. Canal/aqueduct	Adjacent W edge
192300	-	Jeanette McKenna / 2016	Teledyne Microelectronics; Woodbury R W Sprague Products Co.	HP6. 1-3 story commercial building	0.3 mi. NW
192325	-	C. Shaver, ICF / 2010	-	HP20. Canal/aqueduct	0.4 mi. W

## CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### Natural Setting

The Project site is located on a triangular-shaped peninsula bounded by the confluence of Ballona Creek to the north, Centinela Creek to the south, and vacant land to the east. The Marina Freeway (State Route 90 [SR 90]) is adjacent to the Site to the northeast. Currently the Project site is vacant with the exception of a few shipping containers, and is sparsely vegetated with largely ruderal, non-native flora, including 41 non-native trees (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Project area overview showing shipping containers, view toward east.

## **Prehistoric Background**

The prehistoric occupation of southern California can be roughly divided into four temporal phases or periods (Wallace 1955). This chronology had been successfully applied to inland Los Angeles County (e.g., McIntyre 1990), and is now recognized as having applicability to a wide area of mesic (i.e., that area west of the xeric desert zone) Los Angeles, Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange counties. Due to the widespread application of this chronological scheme, Wallace's framework is employed for the purposes of this discussion.

### **Late Pleistocene Period (Pre-10,000 B.P.)**

Wallace's chronology for southern California includes four time periods, the earliest of which (Early Man/Big Game Hunting period) was considered speculative, and was correlated with the end of the Pleistocene, or Ice Age. This would represent an occupation prior to about 10,000 years before present (B.P.). Although it is likely that inhabitation of the southern California coastal region occurred during this early time period, evidence for such is currently extremely limited. To date, Late Pleistocene archaeological remains in southern California comprise two kinds of evidence. First, in the inland Mojave Desert region, petroglyphs (rock engravings) and surface stone tools have been dated back to approximately 20,000 and 30,000 B.P., respectively (Whitley and Dorn 1993). These may well reflect the initial human occupation of North America. The contexts of these dated finds provide only limited kinds of archaeological information, and, while there is much more to be discovered about this earliest prehistoric culture, existing data nonetheless suggest that these earliest inland Californians may have dwelled along the shores of Pleistocene lakes; that they exploited chert quarries to make relatively crude stone chopping tools; and that they also made rock art, perhaps as part of shamanistic religious practices.

Second, a limited number of large fluted projectile points have been found in isolated locales in the Mojave Desert and along the California coast. These projectile points functioned as parts of spears and are known to date between 11,200 and 10,000 B.P., falling within what is called the Paleoindian period on the Great Plains. On the Plains, such points are associated with the hunting of extinct Pleistocene fauna, such as the Columbian Mammoth. Although it is likely that these spear points were similarly used in southern California, the isolated nature of the discovered artifacts precludes any certain inference about their use or function in the California region.

Uncertainty concerning these early prehistoric cultures results from the characteristic geomorphological instability of the California coastline and the general youthfulness of the southern California interior, combined with the major change in erosional/degradational regimes that occurred at the end of the Pleistocene (Whitley and Dorn 1993). These factors, singularly and in combination, are unfavorable to the preservation of remains from this period. It is therefore likely that Late Pleistocene human occupation of Los Angeles is under-represented in the local prehistoric record, simply due to problems in site preservation.

### **Early Millingstone Period (10,000 - 3500 B.P.)**

With the transition towards a modern environment, starting approximately 9,000 to 10,000 years ago, an adaptation referred to as the Early Millingstone period or Horizon began. This is particularly evident along the coast, where many such sites are found, although a few examples are known from the inland region. Most sites of this stage date between 8,500 and 3,500 years in age.

Recent studies by Erlandson (1988; see also Erlandson and Colton 1991) provide evidence of a significant, even if small, population of coastal hunter-gatherers in the region before 7000 B.P., or essentially at the beginning of this Early Millingstone period. He has shown that these were neither Big Game hunters, nor specialized, hard-seed gatherers, but instead generalized foragers who relied on a variety of different kinds of terrestrial, coastal and marine resources, and that they were adapted to estuarine embayments that have long-since disappeared from the local environment. Further, his evidence indicates that their primary protein sources were shellfish and other marine resources. This approach extends a pattern first identified



by Meighan (1959) on the Channel Islands, in other words, this suggests that the adaptation to the seashore is a very ancient and long-lived tradition in local prehistory.

In the inland region, perhaps the earliest evidence of the Early Millingstone period is provided by so-called Los Angeles Woman, a female skeleton found in the La Brea Tar Pits, which has been radiocarbon dated to 9000 B.P. Lacking clearly associated artifacts or other remains, it is difficult to interpret the Los Angeles Woman beyond observing simply that her discovery signals the fact that the inland region was in use shortly after the end of the Late Pleistocene.

Later Early Millingstone sites (post-dating approximately 6000 B.P.) are dominated by assemblages containing large numbers of ground stone artifacts, along with crude choppers, scraper planes, and other core/cobble tools. These are thought to represent an adaptation to gathered plant foods, especially a reliance on hard-shelled seeds. Accordingly, it has been common practice to identify any site with a dominance of these plant-processing implements as Early Millingstone in age. More recently, it has also been suggested that scraper planes, in particular, may have served in the processing of agave (Kowta 1969; Salls 1985); that the association of ground stone and core/cobble tools represents a generalized plant processing toolkit, rather than one emphasizing hard-seeds, per se (Whitley 1979); and that this toolkit was used in appropriate environmental settings throughout the prehistoric past. That is, the so-called millingstone toolkit is environmentally rather than chronologically specific and reflects localized exploitative patterns, rather than a chronologically specific adaptational strategy (Kowta 1969; Leonard 1971; McIntyre 1990). Thus, many inland sites identified as dating to the Early Millingstone period solely on the basis of their ground stone toolkits may, in fact, not be of such age at all. However, on the coastal strip there continues to be evidence that such sites date to the earlier end of the timeframe. These sites are generally located on terraces and mesas, above the coastal verge, near permanent streams.

Although Early Millingstone period sites are relatively common along the coast, there is little evidence for the occupation of the inland region during this early time period. Although the millingstone adaptations to seeds and plants, and toolkits dominated by plant processing tools, are present in the inland zone, they appear to date to a later time period, with true Early Millingstone period occupation apparently restricted to the coastal strip, proper (Whitley and Beaudry 1991; cf. Leonard 1971; McIntyre 1990). Again, it is currently unclear whether this pattern reflects real differences in inland versus coastal settlement distributions, or is simply a function of site preservation problems in the inland region. Whatever the cause, it is worth noting that there are currently very few reliable or plausible chronometric dates from inland sites that are Early Millingstone in age. All current temporal assignments of inland sites to the Early Millingstone period are based on putative diagnostic artifacts, but when these are examined critically, the verity of the early age assignments becomes dubious. And, too often, such early age assignments are based on functional/adaptive traits rather than stylistic criteria, thus confusing adaptive patterns for temporal ones.

A good example of the confusion of millingstone functional and adaptational patterns for Early Millingstone chronological diagnostics in inland Los Angeles County is provided by the so-called "Topanga Culture," as exemplified by excavations at CA-LAN-1, the "Tank Site" (cf. Heizer and Lemert 1947; Treganza and Bierman 1958; Treganza and Malamud 1950), located in the Santa Monica Mountains immediately south of the San Fernando Valley. This is widely regarded as "Early Millingstone" chronologically, and its base ("Phase I") has been assigned 10,000 years of age, essentially due to the large numbers of millingstones, crude choppers and "cog stones" (see Treganza and Bierman 1958:75, Table 1). But, as Johnson (1966) has rightly pointed out, Phase III of the Topanga Culture is only 3,000 years old, as demonstrated by his excavations at CA-LAN-2; as such, it is Intermediate and not Early Millingstone in age. It then must follow that the preceding Phase II can be considered only 3,500 to 3,000 years old, due to the presence of Intermediate period mortars and pestles in the Phase II assemblage; i.e., Phase II of the Topanga Culture also can only be Intermediate period in age. Since Phase I lies conformably and immediately below Phase II stratigraphically, it likewise must follow that it immediately predates the

Intermediate period Phase II remains. At best, then, Phase I of the Topanga Culture is terminal Early Millingstone or transitional Early Millingstone/Intermediate, but not necessarily of any great antiquity.

This fact is emphasized when it is recognized that one of the key classes of temporal diagnostics said to support the very early age assignment for Phase I at the Topanga Site, the cog stones, were all recovered from the Phase II deposit, even though Treganza and Bierman (1958) incorrectly assign them to the Phase I assemblage (Eberhart 1961:366-367). Thus, there is currently no evidence to suggest any great antiquity for Phase I of the Topanga culture; instead it may simply be 4,000, rather than 10,000, years in age, and may represent an early manifestation of the Intermediate period movement of a millingstone adaptation into the interior, rather than a manifestation of a coastal Early Millingstone culture in the inland zone.

### **Intermediate Period (3500 - 800 B.P.)**

As implied above, a transitional stage followed the Early Millingstone, which is referred to as the Intermediate period (Wallace 1955). It is believed to have begun about 3,500 years ago, and to have lasted until about A.D. 1200 (according to the latest revisions; cf. Arnold 1987). It is marked on the coast by a growing exploitation of marine resources, the appearance of the hopper mortar and stone bowl/mortar, and a diversification and an increase in the number of chipped stone tools. Projectile points, in particular, are more common at sites than previously, while artifacts such as fish hooks and bone gorges also appear.

As noted above, cog stones also first appear during the Intermediate period, although they are widely misinterpreted as Early Millingstone in age. These are relatively small, flat cobbles, about the size of a large biscuit, that were shaped to resemble a kind of mechanical cog or gear. Although the function of these is unknown, it is likely they served as ceremonial objects, and their geographical distribution has an important implication for regional prehistory. As first identified by Eberhart (1961), cog stones are found only from Los Angeles County south and eastward; they are absent in the areas of the Santa Barbara Channel region (Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties) which, historically, were occupied by Chumash-speaking groups. Although speculative, this suggests that the initial distinction between the Hokan Chumash and Takic-speaking groups (which included the Gabrielino/Tongva) may have developed as early as 3,500 years ago (cf. Kowta 1969:50; McIntyre 1990:5), rather than only 1,500 years ago, as Kroeber (1925) first hypothesized. That is, the distribution of these “ceremonial” artifacts essentially follows the boundaries of ethnolinguistic groups during the historical period, suggesting that such boundaries may have been more or less stable for about 3,500 years. Notably, this hypothesis is supported by excavations at Intermediate period site CA-LAN-2233, in the Santa Clara River Valley to the north. At this site, osteometric and DNA analyses indicate that the resident population was genetically non-Chumash (Waugh 1999).

As also implied above, there is growing evidence that it was at the beginning of this Intermediate period that inland sites, such as those found in the Conejo area on the north side of the Santa Monica Mountains, the upper Santa Clarita Valley, the Antelope Valley, and western Riverside and San Bernardino counties, were first established and occupied. Whether this pattern holds for the interior Los Angeles Basin has yet to be determined, but it seems likely. This suggests the exploitation of more varied environments and perhaps an increase in population at this time and, again, it may correlate with Kroeber’s “Shoshonean Wedge” moving into mesic southern California circa 3500 B.P. (Kroeber 1923, 1925; cf. Whitley and Beaudry 1991). In general, however, the Intermediate period can be argued to have set the stage for the accelerated changes that took place immediately following it.

### **Late Prehistoric (800 to 200 B.P.)**

With the transition to the Late Prehistoric period at A.D. 1200, we can correlate local prehistory with the ethnographic societies as described (even if in abbreviated form) by early chroniclers and missionaries. However, this is not to suggest that local societies and cultures were in any way static, for the transition to this period was marked by the evolution and eventual dominance of a sophisticated maritime economy. Further, among the Chumash to the west, a rise in social complexity has been shown to have been associated

with the development of craft specialization, involving the use of standardized micro-drills to mass produce shell beads on Santa Cruz Island (Arnold 1987), which occurred during this period. This, apparently, contributed to, if not caused, the appearance of a simple chiefdom in the southern Chumash region (cf. Whitley and Clewlow 1979; Whitley and Beaudry 1991).

Although we do not have evidence that the Gabrielino developed into a chiefdom like the neighboring Chumash, this period nonetheless witnessed a florescence of local aboriginal culture paralleling the Chumash case. This included a substantial growth in population, the establishment of permanent settlements on the coast (and probably at favored locales in the inland area), a high degree of sociopolitical complexity, and the development of a very sophisticated maritime economy. It was during this period that the occupants of the Santa Barbara Channel and Los Angeles County region achieved levels of cultural and social sophistication perhaps unrivaled by hunter-gatherer-fisher groups anywhere else in the world (Brown 1967; Johnston 1962; Landberg 1965; Wallace 1955).

## **Ethnographic Background**

The Project is situated within an area that was inhabited by the Tongva (also known as Gabrieliño) people who were present during the time of European contact. The names Gabrielino and Fernandeno refer to the two major missions established in Gabrielino territory: San Gabriel and San Fernando (Bean and Smith 1978). Gabrielino/Tongva villages were depopulated due to impacts from the Spanish mission settlements at San Fernando Rey and San Gabriel and diseases that were introduced by the Spanish. However, many Gabrielino/Tongva currently survive in a population that is dispersed throughout the Los Angeles area.

Gabrielino/Tongva traditional territory included the watersheds of the San Gabriel, Santa Ana, and Los Angeles Rivers; portions of the Santa Monica and Santa Ana Mountains; the Los Angeles Basin; the coast from Aliso Creek to Topanga Creek; and San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Catalina Islands. The Gabrielino/Tongva language is classified as belonging to the Takic family (or “Cupan”), Uto-Aztec stock, and is subdivided into four or more separate dialects (Shipley 1978). The dialect spoken in the Project area was noted as being very similar to that spoken on Santa Catalina Island (Harrington 1962).

The Gabrielino/Tongva are reported to have been second only to their Chumash neighbors in terms of population size, regional influence, and degree of sedentism (Bean and Smith 1978). They are estimated to have numbered around 5,000 in the precontact period (Kroeber 1925). Maps produced by early explorers indicate the existence of at least 40 Gabrielino/Tongva villages in fertile lowlands along streams and rivers and in sheltered areas along the coast, but as many as 100 may have existed prior to contact with Europeans (Bean and Smith 1978; McCawley 1996; Reid 1968). The larger permanent villages most likely had populations averaging 50 to 200 persons. Sedentary villages also had smaller satellite villages located at varying distances that were connected to the larger villages through economic, religious, and social ties (Bean and Smith 1978).

The Gabrielino/Tongva lived in “domed, circular structures covered with plant material,” followed patrilineal kinship networks, were politically organized under a village chief, and spiritually directed by community shamans. Their subsistence was based on a composite hunting and gathering strategy that included large and small land animals, sea mammals, river and ocean fish, and a variety of vegetal resources. Generally, settlements were created at the intersection of several ecozones. The majority of the population drifted as families to temporary hillside or coastal camps throughout the year, returning to the central location on ritual occasions or when resources were low and it was necessary to live on stored foods.

Offshore fishing, as well as travel between the mainland and the southern Channel Islands, was accomplished from boats made of pine planks sewn together and sealed with asphaltum or bitumen. Much of the fishing, shellfish harvesting, and fowling took place along the ocean shoreline or along freshwater

courses. Sea mammals were taken with harpoons, spears, and clubs. River and ocean fishing was undertaken with the use of line and hook, nets, basket traps, spears, and poisons (Hudson and Blackburn 1982).

Land animals were hunted with bow and arrow and throwing sticks and were trapped or clubbed. Smaller animals such as rabbits and ground squirrels were driven with grass fires and taken with deadfall traps. Seasonal grass fires may have had the additive effect of yielding new shoots attractive to deer. Burrowing animals could be smoked from their lairs. The primary plant resources were the acorn, gathered in the fall and processed in mortars and pestles, and various seeds that were harvested in late spring and summer and ground with manos and metates. The seeds included chia and sages, various grasses, and islay or holly leafed-cherry (Reid 1968). Transportation of plant and other resources was accomplished through the use of burden devices such as coiled and woven baskets and hammock carrying nets commonly made from spun grass and other plant fibers.

### **Brief History of Ballona Creek and the Nearby Westside Communities of Los Angeles**

The Westside communities of Playa Vista to the south and Del Rey to the northeast of the Project area, as well as several others toward the mouth of Ballona Creek, share a common history associated with the expansion of the City of Los Angeles from its founding in the Pueblo west to the Pacific Ocean. Development followed transportation routes such as railroads and highways, as well as topography and natural water systems. Growth was propelled by opportunities for recreation and entertainment and by commerce and industry.

Historical topographic maps show the Santa Monica Branch of the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe railroad line crossing Ballona Creek and Centinela Creek in the vicinity of the project area (Historicaerials.com 1926, 1927). By 1934, the rail line is labeled Pacific Electric on early maps, and junctions are shown with Electric Boulevard at Alla and stops at Alsace, Del Rey, Motordrome, and Machado (Historicaerials.com 1934). Some of these neighborhoods are still known by these names within the larger communities of Del Rey and Playa Vista. A 1952 topographic map shows an Industrial Airport south of the project site, which is labeled Hughes Airport by 1965 (Historicaerials.com 1952, 1965).

### **Water Systems**

In 1819, Agustín and Ygnacio Machado joined with Felipe Talamantes and his son, Tomás, to acquire grazing rights to portions of Rancho La Ballona land as a concession from the Spanish crown. The Mexican government confirmed the Machado and Talamantes ownership of the area through a nearly 14,000-acre grant in 1839, which was confirmed by Alta California Governor Juan Alvarado (Culver City n.d.; Online Archive of California 2018). Ballona Creek, located within Rancho La Ballona lands, is believed to have been the primary route of the Los Angeles River to the sea until shortly after the establishment of the Rancho, when in 1825, a major flood changed the river's course to the south toward San Pedro. At that time, Ballona Creek became a distinctly separate waterway from the Los Angeles River (Gumprecht 1999:41) (Figure 5).



Figure 5. La Ballona map of 1896, showing the location of Port Ballona; Ballona Lagoon; the Santa Monica Branch of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad; and Centinela Creek. This is the present-day location of Playa del Rey, Marina del Rey, and the Ballona Wetlands. Source: USGS.

The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War and brought California under the jurisdiction of the United States by enforcing the Mexican cession of Alta California. Prospectors setting out for California during the Gold Rush often ignored the recently established land rights and began claiming the land as their own. Naturally occurring changes in land and waterways in the Ballona Wetlands area added to the challenges in proving land rights, and squatters for a time took over lands of the Rancho La Ballona. In 1857, Benjamin D. Wilson, the first mayor of Los Angeles, received title to a quarter of Rancho La Ballona through foreclosure. Two years later, Wilson sold 3,480 acres of Rancho La Ballona to George A. Sanford and John D. Young for \$5,000 (Clay and Troesken 2005:Table 3.3; Howell 2018).

In 1935, after a massive flood on New Year's Day 1934, the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers undertook significant flood control efforts on Ballona Creek and the entire length of the Los Angeles River. Both Ballona Creek and Centinela Creek were channelized with concrete as a result of these efforts to reduce the impacts of frequent flooding (Gumprecht 1999:204).

## Transportation

Railroads played a major role in the development of western Los Angeles County. The Port Ballona rail depot, serviced by the California Central Railway, opened in 1887. This line later became the Santa Fe Railway, and then the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. The rail line ran from the port to Redondo junction and opened the Westside to new industry and commerce, as well as residential development (Los Angeles Herald 1887). The national enthusiasm for tourism by rail at the turn of the twentieth century was apparent in Los Angeles. The popular Balloon Route trolley, opening in September 1901, was a featured excursion route of the Los Angeles Pacific Railway (Figures 6 and 7). Although the Balloon Route's eventual success was attributed to promoter Charles M. Pierce, it was initially conceived by the developers of the Los Angeles Pacific Railway Company as a means to promote land sales (Bernal 2016). The line ran

from downtown Los Angeles through Hollywood, Santa Monica, Venice Beach, Redondo Beach, and back to Los Angeles via Palms. The much-publicized routes stopped at beach resorts and included stops at Santa Monica, Playa del Rey Pavilion, Venice, and Palms (ERHA n.d.a).

Suburbanization in Los Angeles County paralleled the construction of the freeways, which initiated the age of the commuter and rapidly changed the character of the Westside. The Project area is situated amid several of major freeways. In addition to two channelized creeks, the Project area is isolated from surrounding neighborhoods by the Marina Freeway (SR 90). Construction on the route between South Centinela Avenue and Interstate 405 began in 1966. The remainder of the route to the west between South Centinela Avenue and Route 1 was put on hold pending completion of the Pacific Coast Freeway, which was eventually abandoned. As a result, the western segment of SR 90 was constructed as a limited-access expressway (California Highways n.d.). The segment at Ballona Creek was completed in 1972 (Historicaerials.com 1972).

### **The Westside Communities**

The Westside communities in the vicinity of the Project site are principally united by their proximity to the ocean. Parts of present-day Venice, Playa Vista, Culver City, and Mar Vista were located within Port Ballona lands, as were Marina Del Rey, Del Rey, and Playa Del Rey, in a confounding array of changing names as developers sought to associate the most desirable qualities with their lands.

#### *Venice*

Venice, originally called “Venice of America,” was developed in 1905 by tobacco millionaire Abbot Kinney as a beach resort town. He and his partner, Francis Ryan, had acquired 2 mi. of oceanfront property south of Santa Monica in 1891. They built a resort town on the north end of the property, called Ocean Park, which was soon annexed to Santa Monica. After Ryan died, Kinney and his new partners continued building south of Navy Street. After the partnership dissolved in 1904, Kinney, who had won the marshy land on the south end of the property in a coin flip with his former partners, began to build a seaside resort meant to resemble the namesake Italian city (Alexander and Mercer 2009:8).

Kinney dug several miles of canals to drain the marshes for a residential area; built a 1,200-foot-long pleasure pier featuring an auditorium, a ship restaurant, and a dance hall; constructed a hot salt-water plunge, and built a block-long arcaded business street with Venetian architecture. Kinney hired artist Felix Peano to design the columns of the buildings (Alexander and Mercer 2009:22).

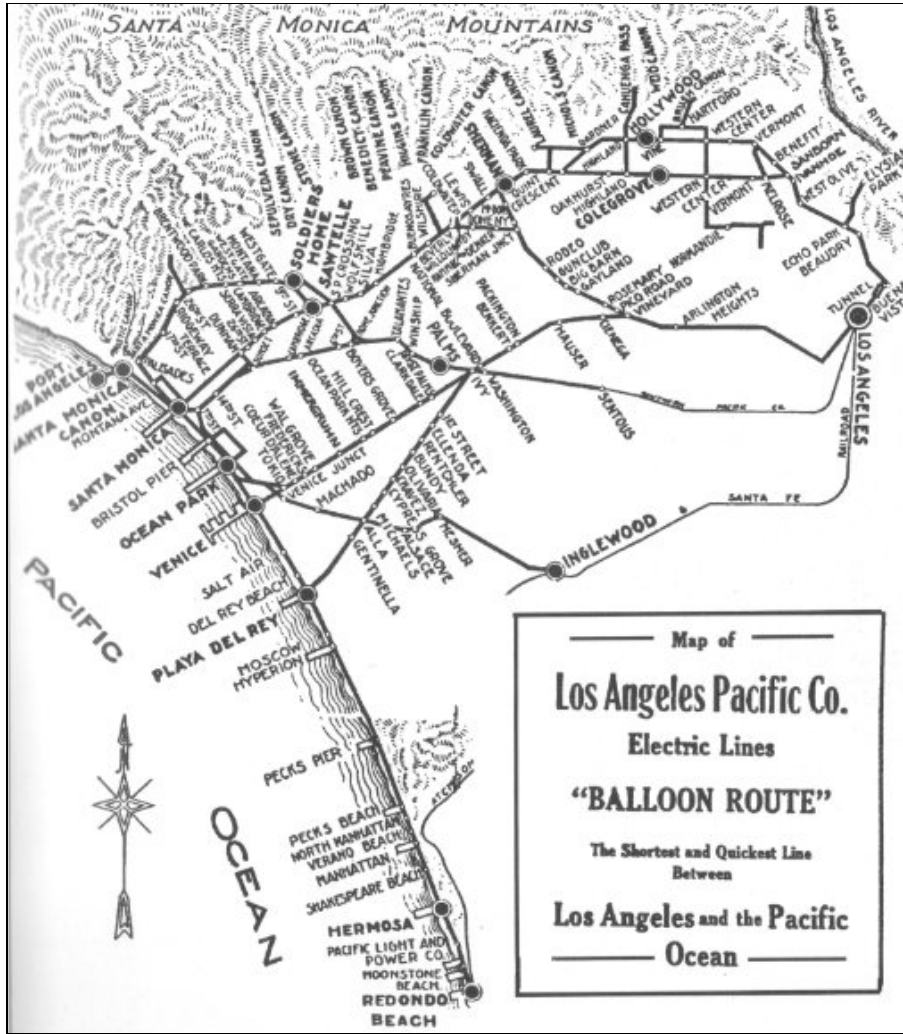


Figure 6. Detail map of the Pacific Electric railway system showing stops near the project area.  
Source: Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California (ERHA n.d.b).

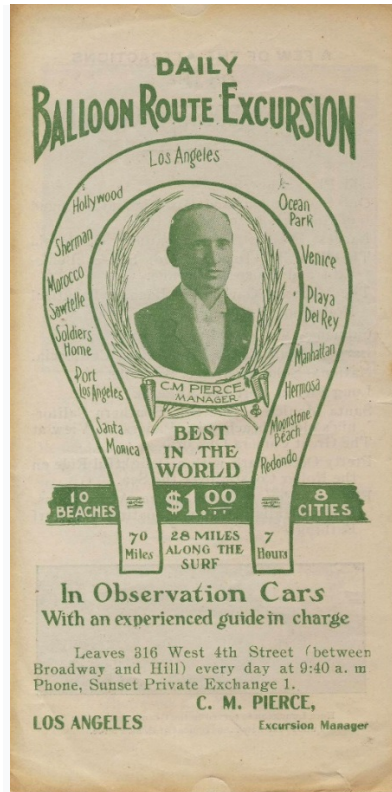


Figure 7. Promotional brochure for the Balloon route, a trolley excursion to the beach from downtown Los Angeles.  
Source: Pacific Electric Railway Historical Society.

### *Marina Del Rey, Del Rey, and Playa Del Rey*

In 1863, entrepreneur Louis Mesmer sold his bakery in Los Angeles and purchased extensive lands near the Pacific Ocean from the Machado family. In 1887, Mesmer and Moye Wicks formed the Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company, with the sponsorship of the Santa Fe Railroad. The company managed to create a small harbor and establish the town of Port Ballona (L.A. County Public Works n.d.). By 1889, the company had exhausted its funds, and development came to a halt. Although the company initially had ambitious plans to grow the port into a major commercial seaport, the improvements at the time of the sale were described as the beginnings of a summer resort, with a hotel and a partially constructed wharf. In 1902, Mesmer sold the languishing port and lands, including Ballona Lagoon, to Los Angeles investor Moses Sherman, who formed the Beach Land Company with the intention of creating “a millionaire’s colony of colony of villa homes” (Los Angeles Herald 1902). In 1903, Sherman and his partner, Eli P. Clark, renamed the port and nearby lands Del Rey, and Port Ballona became Playa Del Rey (Tanguary n.d.).

In 1916, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported to Congress that a proposal to develop the Playa del Rey inlet and basin as a major harbor was impractical. However, 20 years later, in 1936, Congress authorized reconsideration of the negative 1916 report, and the County Board of Supervisors ordered another study in 1937. This time there was competition for development of a harbor to serve the Los Angeles area, and the decision went to San Pedro. World War II caused a temporary halt to plans, but on September 7, 1949, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted a report indicating the feasibility of construction of a pleasure craft harbor for 8,000 boats at a total estimated cost of \$23,603,000 (L.A. County Public Works n.d.).



## *Playa Vista*

Before its development as headquarters for Hughes Aircraft Company, much of the land occupied by Playa Vista was part of the Ballona Wetlands, which were connected to a large salt marsh in what is now Marina Del Rey. These wetlands were formerly part of the larger Ballona Creek watershed that occupied the area, along with what is now Playa Del Rey and much of Venice, Los Angeles (Masters 2012). In the 1940s, Howard Hughes bought the site and constructed a private airfield and large hangars. The famous wooden Spruce Goose (Hughes H-4 Hercules plane), with the largest wingspan and height of any aircraft in history, was built in one of the hangars in 1947.

## **SURVEY RESULTS**

The overall Project area is currently vacant; however, it evidences a large amount of recent disturbance. There are multiple large holes as well as large piles of dirt and berms throughout the parcel (Figures 8 and 9). There is also evidence of homeless encampments in various portions of the Project, as access to this fairly remote property can be attained from Jefferson Boulevard as well as along the side of SR 90 by jumping the surrounding fence. Vegetation coverage is variable, with sparse vegetation in many areas interspersed with various trees and low grasses and weeds.



Figure 8. Overview from western tip, view toward northeast.



Figure 9. Overview of property, view toward northeast.

The Project area was carefully inspected for any sign of the presence of cultural materials; no previously undocumented resources were encountered during the intensive pedestrian archaeological survey.

## CONCLUSION

No archaeological resources were identified within the Project area as a result of the current study, either as a result of review of the existing cultural resource documentation related to the Project area, or the intensive pedestrian survey. As such, no CEQA historical resources will be adversely impacted as a result of the project. Please feel free to contact me as needed if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherri Andrews".

Sherri Andrews  
Senior Archaeologist  
ASM Affiliates, Inc.  
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Attachment A: References  
Attachment B: SCCIC Records Search Summary

**ATTACHMENT A: REFERENCES**

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**ATTACHMENT B: SCCIC RECORDS SEARCH SUMMARY**



**South Central Coastal Information Center**

California State University, Fullerton  
Department of Anthropology MH-426  
800 North State College Boulevard  
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846  
657.278.5395 / FAX 657.278.5542  
[sccic@fullerton.edu](mailto:sccic@fullerton.edu)

*California Historical Resources Information System*  
*Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties*

12/4/2018

Records Search File No.: *enter number*

Sherri Andrews  
ASM Affiliates  
20 N. Raymond Ave, Suite 220  
Pasadena, CA 91103

Re: Follow-up Request for Del Rey Pointe Residential Project (18402.4491)

The South Central Coastal Information Center received your records search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Venice, CA USGS 7.5' quadrangle. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a ½-mile radius:

As indicated on the data request form, the locations of resources and reports are provided in the following format:  custom GIS maps  shape files  hand-drawn maps

Resources within project area: 0	None
Resources within ½-mile radius: 8	SEE ATTACHED MAP or LIST
Resources listed in the OHP Historic Properties Directory within project area: 0	None
Resources listed in the OHP Historic Properties Directory within ½-mile radius: 1	SEE ATTACHED LIST FOR INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY STATUS CODES – resource locations from the OHP HPD may or may not be plotted on the custom GIS map or provided as a shape file
Reports within project area: 2	SEE ATTACHED MAP or LIST
Reports within ½-mile radius: 24	SEE ATTACHED MAP or LIST

- Resource Database Printout (list):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Resource Database Printout (details):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Resource Digital Database (spreadsheet):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (list):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (details):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Digital Database (spreadsheet):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Resource Record Copies:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Copies:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- OHP Historic Properties Directory:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:**     enclosed     not requested     nothing listed  
**Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments**     enclosed     not requested     nothing listed  
**Historical Maps:**     enclosed     not requested     nothing listed  
**Ethnographic Information:**     not available at SCCIC  
**Historical Literature:**     not available at SCCIC  
**GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:**     not available at SCCIC  
**Caltrans Bridge Survey:**     not available at SCCIC; please go to  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm>  
**Shipwreck Inventory:**     not available at SCCIC; please go to  
[http://shipwrecks.slc.ca.gov/ShipwrecksDatabase/Shipwrecks\\_Database.asp](http://shipwrecks.slc.ca.gov/ShipwrecksDatabase/Shipwrecks_Database.asp)  
**Soil Survey Maps: (see below)**     not available at SCCIC; please go to  
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

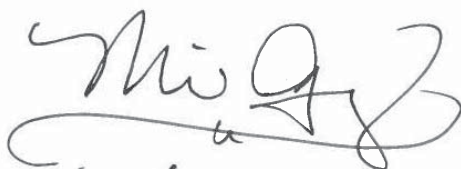
Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the [California Historical Resources Information System](#),



Digitally signed by Michelle Galaz  
Date: 2018.12.04 15:49:15 -08'00'

Michelle Galaz  
Assistant Coordinator

Enclosures:

- (X) Custom Maps – 2 pages
- (X) Resource Database Printout (list) – 1 page
- (X) Resource Digital Database (spreadsheet) – 8 lines
- (X) Report Database Printout (list) – 3 pages
- (X) Report Digital Database (spreadsheet) – 24 lines
- (X) Resource Record Copies – (all) – 169 pages
- (X) Report Copies – (in project area) – 14 pages
- (X) OHP Historic Properties Directory – 1 page
- (X) Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility – 2 pages
- (X) National Register Status Codes – 1 page
- (X) Historical Maps – 4 pages