

## **Appendix E      Cultural Resources Technical Memorandum**

## Appendices

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March 30, 2016

Cogstone 3395-00

To: JoAnn Hadfield, Principal, Environmental Services

From: Molly Valasik, RPA

**RE: Cultural Resources Summary for the Agora Downtown Laguna Niguel Project**

The following letter report details the methods and results of the cultural resources record search in support of the Agora Downtown Laguna Niguel Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City of Laguna Niguel is proposing a development project called Agora Downtown Laguna Niguel on approximately 22 acres generally located west of the Crown Valley Parkway and Alicia Parkway intersection in the City of Laguna Niguel, adjacent to City Hall and the Orange County Public Library (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The property currently consists of the South County Justice Center (closed in 2008), the Orange County Library, a County maintenance yard and undeveloped land.

Proposed development consists of a site-specific mixed-use project that would include approximately 279,500 square feet of commercial uses and up to 200 multi-family residential units. The general vision for Agora Downtown Laguna Niguel is to create a "downtown" environment featuring specialty retail, restaurants, integrated residential, community-oriented event space and extensive walkable open space plazas and squares.

The project footprint is mostly inclusive of a previously proposed project called the South Court Facility which was not implemented. The EIR for that project was completed in 2008 (City of Laguna Niguel). Cultural resource work for that project included a record search and field reconnaissance of the project site and ground areas that surround the existing buildings on June 14, 2006. No cultural resources were located during that survey and it was noted that the project had been disturbed by grading activities.

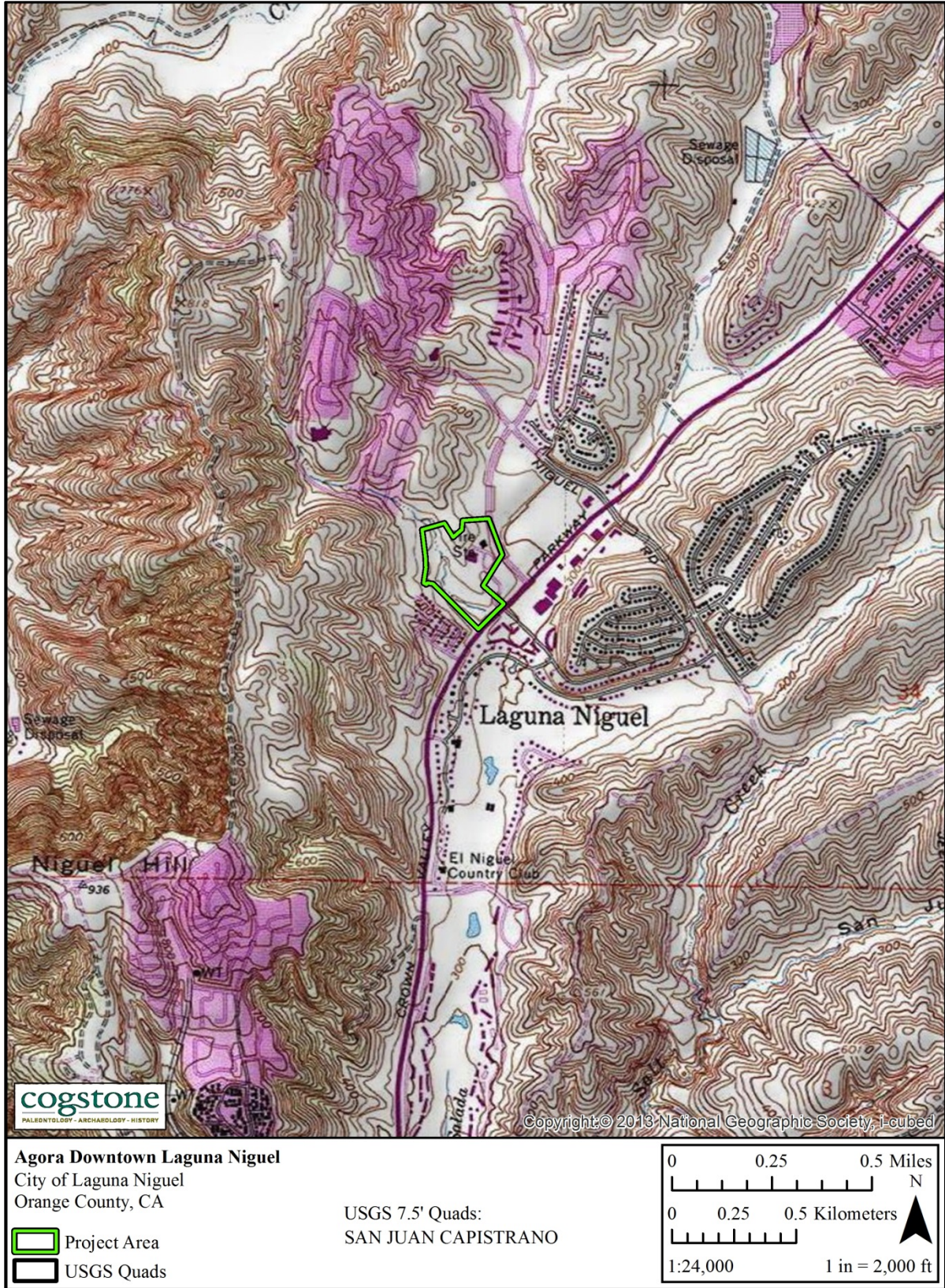
**RESULTS**

A search for archeological and historical records was completed by Alyson Caine of Cogstone on January 26, 2016 at the South Central Coast Information Center (SCCIC), California State University at Fullerton. The record search covered a one-mile radius around the Project boundaries. The record search indicates a total of 25 cultural resources investigations have been completed previously within one-mile radius of the Project Area (Table 1). Of these, four investigations have included a portion of the Project Area.



**Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map**





**Figure 2. Project Location Map**

**Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Studies within a one-mile radius of the Project**

<b>Report No. ORA-</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Quad</b>	<b>Distance from Project Area</b>
108	Archaeological Survey Report on 4.78 Acres of Land Located in the Laguna Niguel Area County of Orange, California	1976	San Luis Capistrano	.5 mile
1465	Archaeological, Paleontological and Historical Literature Search and Records Check for South Coastal Orange County Central Pool Relief	1990	San Luis Capistrano	.25 mile
1538	Cultural Resources Assessment for Phase Iv Expansion of Reclaimed Water Distribution System	1997	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
1712	Archaeological Investigations at Laguna Niguel, Orange County	1963	San Luis Capistrano	In PA
1924	Archaeological Survey and Resource Assessment of a Portion of Laguna Niguel, Orange County, California	1976	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
1926	Archaeological Survey Report of Aliso Water Management Agency Project Committees 7, 11-A and 15	1977	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
2159	Report of Phase I Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Crown Valley Highlands Recycled Water Pump Station Site, Laguna Niguel, Orange County	1999	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
237	Report of the Results of an Archaeological Survey for a Project Located in Laguna Niguel, California.	1976	San Luis Capistrano	.5 mile
2395	Cultural Resource Assessment AT&T Wireless Services Facility No. 13335a Orange County, California	2002	San Luis Capistrano	.5 mile
2402	Cultural Resource Assessment AT&T Wireless Services Facility No. 13351a Orange County, California	2002	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
2409	Cultural Resource Assessment AT&T Wireless Facility No. 13107a Orange County, California	2002	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
255	Archaeological Report on the Aliso Creek Corridor- Planning Units 2 & 3 Orange County, California	1977	San Luis Capistrano	In PA
3119	Records Search Results and Site Visit for Sprint Telecommunications Facility Candidate Og54xc561d (marina Hills Drive), Marina Hills Drive Just East of Pare Vista, Laguna Niguel, Orange County, California	2004	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile



<b>Report No. ORA-</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Quad</b>	<b>Distance from Project Area</b>
3131	Cultural Resource Assessment for AT&T Wireless Facility 950-013-335b 29702 Kensington Drive City of Laguna Niguel, Orange County, California	2004	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
3132	Cultural Resource Assessment for AT&T Wireless Facility Lsanca3130b 29702 Kensington Drive City of Laguna Niguel Orange County, California	2004	San Luis Capistrano	.5 mile
3135	South Crown Valley/CA-8224a 29731 Crown Valley Pkwy, Laguna Niguel, Ca, Orange County	2004	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
3140	Cultural/Paleontological Resources Assessment for Phase Iv Expansion of Reclaimed Water Distribution System	1997	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
3142	Review of Pacific Wireless Facility Cm-403-02, County of Orange, California	2000	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
4421	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for Verizon Wireless Candidate Parkside, 29731 Crown Valley Parkway, Laguna Niguel, Orange County, California	2014	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
549	Archaeological Survey and Resource Assessment of a Portion of Laguna Niguel, Orange County, California	1976	San Luis Capistrano	In PA
580	The Aliso Creek Watershed, Orange County, California a Proposal for Creating an Archaeological District for the National Register of Historic Places and a Suggested Research and Study Design	1977	San Luis Capistrano	In PA
803	Cultural Resources Assessment of Marina Hills, Parcels 1a and 1b, Laguna Niguel, Orange County, California	1986	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
824	A Report of the Status of Archaeological Sites on and Near Property Owned by the S&S Construction Company in Laguna Niguel, Orange County, California	1986	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
931	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Tract 13306, Laguna Niguel, Orange County, California	1988	San Luis Capistrano	1 mile
938	Status of Cultural Resources in the Wood Canyon Area, Southern Orange County, California	1988	San Luis Capistrano	.25 mile

The records search determined that there are two previously recorded cultural resource located within the Project Area (Table 2). CA-ORA-33 was recorded in 1960 as a prehistoric shell midden site with manos, metate fragments, a stone pendant, scrapers, and choppers present. Test excavations in 1960 concluded that the site was a seasonal camp. It is located at the southern boundary of the Project site. The cultural resources survey for the South Court EIR (2008) did not locate any trace of the site and noted that the site

is incorporated in the terraced parking lots leading upslope to the courthouse facility. Given the grading activities that occurred to build the parking lots, it is unlikely that any portion of the site has been preserved.

CA-ORA-131 was recorded in 1963 as a prehistoric site. The site record contains minimal details except to note that surface finds indicate that the site is a good prospect for excavation and that the site was destroyed in 1976. The site was located at the eastern boundary of the Project. The cultural resources survey for the South Court EIR (2008) found that the significant grading and filling have taken place in this area to fill and relocate the creek and to level the land for the library and other potential development. The grading and filling in the location of CA-ORA-131 makes it improbable that any portion of the site is preserved. The locations of these two known sites are completely developed.

Within the one-mile record search radius but outside the Project Area are two additional cultural resources, CA-ORA-505 and CA-ORA-539. CA-ORA-505 is a prehistoric site consisting of a dark midden with flake waste. CA-ORA-539 is a prehistoric site consisting of a quartz schist slab metate.

**Table 2. Previously Recorded Resources within a One-Mile Radius of the Project Area**

<b>Trinomial (CA-ORA-)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Distance from Project Area</b>
CA-ORA-33	Prehistoric shell midden site with manos, metate fragments, a stone pendant, scrapers, and choppers present. Test excavations in 1960 concluded that the site was a seasonal camp. Location covered by urban built environment.	1960	Within PA; located at the southern boundary
CA-ORA-131	Prehistoric site. The site record contains minimal details except to note that surface finds indicate that the site is a good prospect for excavation and that the site was destroyed in 1976. Location covered by urban built environment.	1963	Within PA; located at the eastern boundary
CA-ORA-505	Prehistoric site consisting of a dark midden with flake waste.	1975	Within 1 mile
CA-ORA-539	Prehistoric site consisting of a quartz schist slab metate	1976	Within 0.5 miles

**OTHER SOURCES**

In addition to the records at the SCCIC, a variety of sources were consulted by Alyson Caine in January 2016 to obtain information regarding the Project Area (Table 3). Sources include the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California Historical Resources Inventory (CHRI), California Historical Landmarks (CHL), and California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI). The Bureau of Land Management’s General Land Office records indicate that one land patent was granted in 1873 to multiple individuals including Juan Avilar and the Sanchez Family.



**Table 3. Other Sources Consulted**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Results</b>
National Register of Historic Places (1979-2002 & supplements)	Negative
California Register of Historical Resources (1992-2010)	Negative
California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976-2010)	Negative
California Historical Landmarks (1995 & supplements to 2010)	Negative
California Points of Historical Interest (1992 to 2010)	Negative
Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records	Positive; one land patent

### **NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION**

A Sacred Lands File search was conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on January 28, 2016. The Commission responded that there are no sacred lands within the Project Area or a half-mile radius. The NAHC requested that nine Native American tribes or individuals be consulted for compliance with CEQA and Senate Bill 18. The City sent letters to the nine Native American contacts notifying them of the Project.

### **RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Sites previously present within the Project area are no longer extant and are completely covered by urban built environment.

In the event that unanticipated cultural resources are encountered during earth disturbing activities, all work must halt work near the find (minimum 50-foot radius) until the resources can be properly evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. Further, if human remains are unearthed during excavation, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states “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 made the appropriate assessment, and] ...recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation, or to his or her authorized representative, in the manner provided in Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.”

### **REFERENCES**

2008 City of Laguna Niguel. Final Environmental Impact Report South Court Facility. Section 3E Archaeological Resources.

## **ATTACHMENT A: QUALIFICATIONS**

**EDUCATION**

- 2009 M.A., Anthropology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio  
2006 B.A., Anthropology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

**SUMMARY QUALIFICATIONS**

Ms. Valasik is a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) with seven years of professional and academic archaeological field and research experience. She meets the qualifications required by the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Archaeology*, and is a skilled professional who is well-versed in the compliance procedures of CEQA and Section 106 of the NHPA and in working with a variety of federal, state, and local agencies throughout California. Ms. Valasik has managed a variety of projects at Cogstone in the water, transportation, energy, development and federal sectors. Her role at Cogstone has ranged from GIS Manager, Field Director, Archaeology Supervisor, and beginning in 2014 Principal Investigator for Archaeology.

**SELECTED PROJECTS**

- Cool Cave Quarry Environmental Assessment, Tracts 1 & 2, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation/Teichert Aggregates, near Auburn, El Dorado County, CA.** Conducted a cultural resources technical study as requested by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) prior to extending a lease with Teichert Aggregates (Teichert) for an additional 10 years to meet their responsibilities as the lead agency under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Services included a records search, intensive-level pedestrian survey of the 16-acre site on federal lands within the Auburn State Recreation Area. Prepared the archaeological survey investigation report. Sub to Burleson Consulting. Principal Investigator. 2015
- Sheldon Road and Waterman Road Intersection Improvements Project, Elk Grove, Sacramento County, CA.** Cogstone completed the record search, sacred lands search, NAHC consultation, and intensive-level pedestrian archaeological survey for the intersection improvements project. Prepared an Archaeological Assessment Report. Sub to PMC. Principal Investigator. 2015.
- Arlington Avenue Widening Project, Caltrans District 8, Riverside, Riverside County, CA.** Cogstone completed the record search, sacred lands search, NAHC consultation, intensive-level pedestrian archaeological survey, and coordination and approval by District 8 of the APE map for the widening of Arlington Avenue. Prepared a Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) and Archaeological Survey Report (ASR). Sub to Michael Baker. Principal Investigator. 2015
- Rose Creek Bike Trail, Caltrans District 11, San Diego, San Diego County, CA.** Cogstone completed the record search, sacred lands search, NAHC consultation, intensive-level pedestrian archaeological survey, in-depth background research, and approval by District 11 of the APE map for a two mile long bike trail. Prepared a Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) and Archaeological Survey Report (ASR). Sub to Nasland Engineering. Principal Investigator. 2015
- Jeffrey/I-5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Projects, Irvine, Orange County, CA.** Cogstone completed the record search, sacred lands search, NAHC consultation, and intensive-level pedestrian archaeological survey for the trail and bridge project. Prepared a cultural resources constraints report. Sub to Michael Baker. Principal Investigator. 2015.
- Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Lizards Trail Improvements, OC Parks, Laguna Beach, Orange County, CA.** Cogstone completed the record search, sacred lands search, NAHC consultation, and cultural resources pedestrian survey of the 1.2-mile project area. Prepared the cultural resources technical report for the trail improvement project, which will open an unauthorized mile segment for public use, to fulfill CEQA requirements. Sub to Michael Baker/RBF Consulting. Principal Investigator. 2014