

**CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**  
**Green Tree Boulevard Extension Project**  
**City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California**

Prepared for:

Michael Asheghian  
Village Lake East, LLC  
12300 Wilshire Boulevard #410  
Los Angeles, California 90025

Prepared by:

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Claremont, California 91711  
Project No. MJM1902

**Data Base Information:**

*Type of Study: Reconnaissance Survey*  
*Resources Recorded: None*  
*USGS Quadrangle: 7.5-minute Hesperia (1980), California*



**BCRCONSULTING LLC**

November 20, 2019

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Village Lake East, LLC to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Green Tree Boulevard Extension Project (the project) in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and vertebrate paleontological resources assessment were conducted for the project in partial fulfillment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The records search completed through the SCCIC revealed that 14 cultural resources studies have taken place resulting in the recording of nine cultural resources within one mile of the project site. One previous study assessed the project site for cultural resources, and no cultural resources have been previously identified within its boundaries.

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists did not discover and cultural resources within the project site boundaries. Based on these results, no significant impacts related to archaeological or historical resources are anticipated and no further investigations or monitoring are recommended for any proposed project activities. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

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 Native American Heritage Commission (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 Village Lake East, LLC to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Green Tree Boulevard Extension Project (the project) in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and vertebrate paleontological resources assessment were conducted for the project in partial fulfillment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is located in Section 27, Township 5 North, Range 4 West, SBBM. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Hesperia* (1980), *California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

## NATURAL SETTING

### Geology

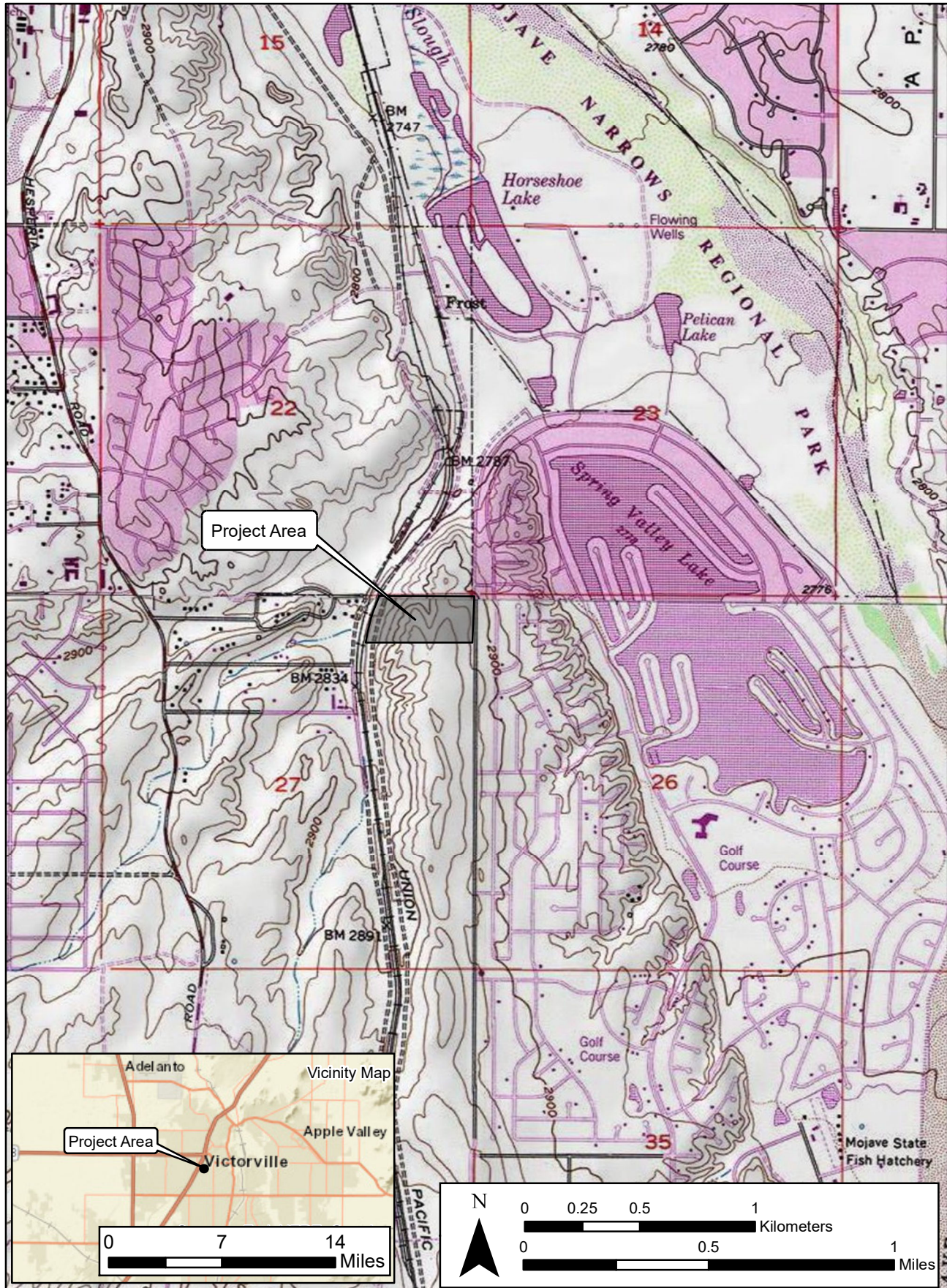
The project is located in the southwestern portion of the Mojave Desert. Sediments within the project boundaries include a geologic unit composed of young alluvial-fan deposits formed during the late Pleistocene and Holocene Epochs of the Quaternary Period (Miller and Matti 2006, Lambert 1994:17). The 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 further in the Field Survey Results section, below.

### Hydrology

The project elevation is approximately 2,920 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Sheetwashing and some rilling occur from southwest to northeast, and water from an unnamed drainage flowing across the project site eventually empties into the Mojave River approximately one mile to the 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 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 Crabtree (1986), who have drawn upon this method to produce a commonly cited and relatively comprehensive chronology.

### Ethnography

**Serrano.** 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. "The Serrano resided in an area that extended east of the Cajon Pass, located in the San Bernardino Mountains, to Twenty-nine Palms, the north foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains and south to include portions of the Yucaipa Valley" (Bean and Smith 1978:570). Both the Serrano and Cahuilla utilized the western Mojave region seasonally. Evidence for longer term/permanent Serrano settlement in the western Mojave most notably includes the Serrano-named village of Guapiabit in Summit Valley (de Barros 2004). Access to water determined where the Serrano built their settlements/villages (Bean and Smith 1978). Most of the villages were located within the Sonoran life zone (Scrub Oak [*Quercus* sp.] and sagebrush [*Salvia* sp.]), or forest transition zone, (Ponderosa pine [*Pinus ponderosa*]) (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1925). Like many neighboring tribes, the Serrano and Cahuilla were Takic (Uto-Aztecan language family) speakers (Lightfoot and Parrish 2009:341). Serrano traded with their neighbors and actively participated in a shell bead exchange economy with the Cahuilla, Luiseno, and Gabrielino (McCawley 1996).

Occasionally, villages were located in the desert, adjacent to permanent water sources. Structures for families were usually circular domes, constructed of willow frames and tule thatching. Individual family homes were used primarily for sleeping and storage. Families conducted many of their daily routines outside of their house or under a ramada. A ramada consisted of a thatched roof supported by vertical poles in the ground, which provided a shaded work area (Lightfoot and Parrish 2009:344). Other village structures included a

ceremonial house, granaries and sweatshouses. Subsistence strategies focused on hunting and gathering, occasionally supplemented by fishing. Food preparation varied and included a variety of cooking techniques. These ranged from baking in earth ovens to parching. Food processing utilities included scrapers, bowls, baskets, mortars, and metates (Bean and Smith 1978). A lineage leader, or kika, administered laws and ceremonies from a large ceremonial house centrally located in most villages. The size of lineages is a matter of some dispute, but most probably numbered between 70 and 120 individuals (Lightfoot and Parrish 2009). Serrano people were organized into clans affiliated with one of two exogamous moieties. Clans were led by a hereditary chief who occupied the village “big house” where ceremonies took place and shamans were initiated (Bean and Smith 1978; Strong 1929).

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. BCR Consulting Archaeological Crew Chief Joseph Orozco, M.A., RPA conducted the cultural resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) located at California State University, Fullerton, and completed the field assessment.

## 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 September 27, 2019. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 10 meters apart across 100 percent of the accessible project site. Undulating terrain along the western and northern portion of the project site necessitated intuitive transects along contour lines. All soil exposures were carefully inspected for evidence of cultural resources.

## RESULTS

### Research

Research completed through the SCCIC revealed that 14 cultural resources studies have taken place resulting in the recording of nine cultural resources within one mile of the project site. One previous study assessed the project site for cultural resources, and no cultural resources have been previously identified 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 Min Quadrangle	Cultural Resources Within One Mile of Project Site	Reports Within One Mile of Project Site
<i>Hesperia</i> (1980), California	P-36-25098: Historic-Period Residence (Across RR W) P-36-25099: Historic-Period Residence (Across RR W) P-36-25100: Historic-Period Residence (1/2 Mile W) P-36-25101: Historic-Period Residence (1/2 Mile W) P-36-25102: Historic-Period Residence (1/4 Mile W) P-36-25103: Historic-Period Residence (1/4 Mile W)	SB-106-0392, 0612, 1041, 1044, 1218, 1269*, 1742, 3771, 5340, 5832, 7137, 7167, 7733, 7734



USGS 7.5 Min Quadrangle	Cultural Resources Within One Mile of Project Site	Reports Within One Mile of Project Site
	P-36-25104: Historic-Period Residence (1/4 Mile W) CA-SBR-4313: Prehistoric Habitation Site (1/2 Mile N) CA-SBR-6982H: Historic-Period Ranch (3/4 Mile SE)	

## Field Survey

The project site exhibited approximately 60 percent surface visibility. The project site has been subject to mechanical excavation to construct dirt roads, and to extensive off-road vehicle activity. The project exhibits undulating terrain, variable aspect, and steep slopes along the western and northern boundaries. Vegetation includes creosote and some sparse scrub and seasonal grasses. Soils include silty sand with 10-15 percent gravels measuring less than five centimeters in diameter. No cultural resources of any kind were discovered during the field survey.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on these results, BCR Consulting recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring is necessary during proposed project activities associated with the Green Tree Boulevard Extension Project. 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 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 Native American Heritage Commission (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 (Northwest View)



2. Project Site Overview (East View)

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**APPENDIX B**  
**NAHC SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH**





**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
San Bernardino County  
10/11/2019**

**Chemehuevi Indian Reservation**

Charles Wood, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1976 1990 Palo Verde Drive Chemehuevi  
Havasu Lake, CA, 92363  
Phone: (760) 858 - 4219  
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chairman@cit-nsn.gov

**San Fernando Band of Mission Indians**

Donna Yocum, Chairperson  
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**Kern Valley Indian Community**

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P.O. Box 1010 Kawaiisu  
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**San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

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**Serrano Nation of Mission Indians**

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**Kern Valley Indian Community**

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**Morongo Band of Mission Indians**

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**Tubatulabals of Kern Valley**

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This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Green Tree Boulevard Project, San Bernardino County.

## APPENDIX C

### PALEONTOLOGICAL OVERVIEW



October 8, 2019

BCR Consulting, LLC  
Joseph Orozco  
505 West Eighth Street  
Claremont, CA 91711

Dear Mr. Orozco,

This letter presents the results of a record search conducted for the Green Tree Boulevard Extension Project in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The project site is located north of Hudson Drive, east of Santa Fe Avenue and west of Ridgecrest Road in Section 27, Township 5 North, and Range 4 West on the Hesperia USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle.

The geologic units underlying the project area is mapped entirely as old alluvial deposits dating from the Pleistocene epoch (Dibblee, 2008). Pleistocene alluvial units are considered to be of high paleontological value, and while the Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or within a 1 mile radius, there are numerous localities across southern California found in similarly mapped sediments. Pleistocene alluvial units are known to contain extinct megafauna remains including those associated with mastodon (*Mammut pacificus*), mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*), saber-tooth cat (*Smilodon fatalis*), ancient horse (*Equus sp.*), camel (*Camelops hesternus*), and many more.

Any fossil specimen recovered from the Gren Tree Boulevard Extension Project would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area would impact the paleontologically sensitive Pleistocene alluvial units and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation program be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils associated with the study area.

If you have any questions, or would like further information, please feel free to contact me at [dradford@westerncentermuseum.org](mailto:dradford@westerncentermuseum.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darla Radford', is written over a white rectangular background.

Darla Radford  
Collections Manager