Steele Peak Inaugural Trail

Initial Study - Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND)

Appendix C – Cultural Resources Assessment

PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Steele Peak Reserve Trails Project

Riverside County, California

August 20, 2021

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Steele Peak Reserve Trails Project

Riverside County, California

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Project No. RVA2102

Sites Recorded: None
Keywords: Reconnaissance Survey of Steele Peak Reserve Trails
USGS Quadrangle: 7.5-minute *Steele Peak* (1978), California
Section 27 of Township 4 South, Range 4 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian

BCRCONSULTING LLC

August 20, 2021

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Ruth Villalobos & Associates to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Steele Peak Reserve Trails Project (the project) located in unincorporated Riverside County, California. Tasks completed for the scope of work include a cultural resources records search, an intensive-level pedestrian cultural resources survey, completion of this technical report, and a Paleontological Overview. These tasks were performed in partial fulfillment of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California, Riverside conducted the cultural resources records search. The records search revealed that 10 cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of four cultural resources within the research radius. The project site has been partially subject to one previous cultural resources assessment, and no cultural resources have been identified within its boundaries.

During the field survey, BCR Consulting personnel did not identify any cultural resources (including architectural historical resources, prehistoric archaeological resources, or historic archaeological resources) within the project site boundaries. Although findings were negative for cultural resources on the surface of the project site, records search results indicate that prehistoric archaeological resources have been identified in the area, and there are numerous boulders with potential for prehistoric grinding slicks and for use as rock shelters near or adjacent to the project alignments. Based on this information, BCR Consulting recommends that an archaeological monitor be present during any earthmoving activities proposed within the project site boundaries. The monitor would work under the direct supervision of a cultural resource professional who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology. The monitor would be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect construction work in the vicinity of any find until the project archaeologist can evaluate it. If the qualified archaeologist finds that any cultural resources present meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register of Historic Places (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:

- 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;
- human remains;
- historic-period artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;
- historic-period structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements.

The lead agency will initiate Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Native American Consultation for the project. Since the lead agency will initiate and carry out the required Native American Consultation, the results of the consultation are not provided in this report. However, this

report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff is available to answer questions and address concerns as necessary.

According to CEQA Guidelines, projects subject to CEQA must determine whether the project would "directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource". The appended Paleontological Overview provided in Appendix B has recommended that:

> The geologic units underlying this project are mapped primarily as schist dating to the Paleozoic or Mesozoic, with small segments of Cretaceous quartz along the south eastern project border, and Cretaceous hornblende grabbo along the northwest project border (Dibblee, 2003). Schist, quartz diorite, and hornblende grabbo units are all considered to be of low paleontological sensitivity. The Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or within a 1 mile radius.

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDICES

FIGURES

TABLES

INTRODUCTION

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Ruth Villalobos & Associates to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Steele Peak Reserve Trails Project (the project) located in unincorporated Riverside County, California. The project site occupies existing trails that will be subject to improvement and signage installations within and adjacent to existing alignments. A parking lot and fence will be installed at the northern end. The project is located in unincorporated Riverside County, California. The project site is located in Section 27 of Township 4 South, Range 4 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, in the City of Menifee. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Steele Peak, California* (1978) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

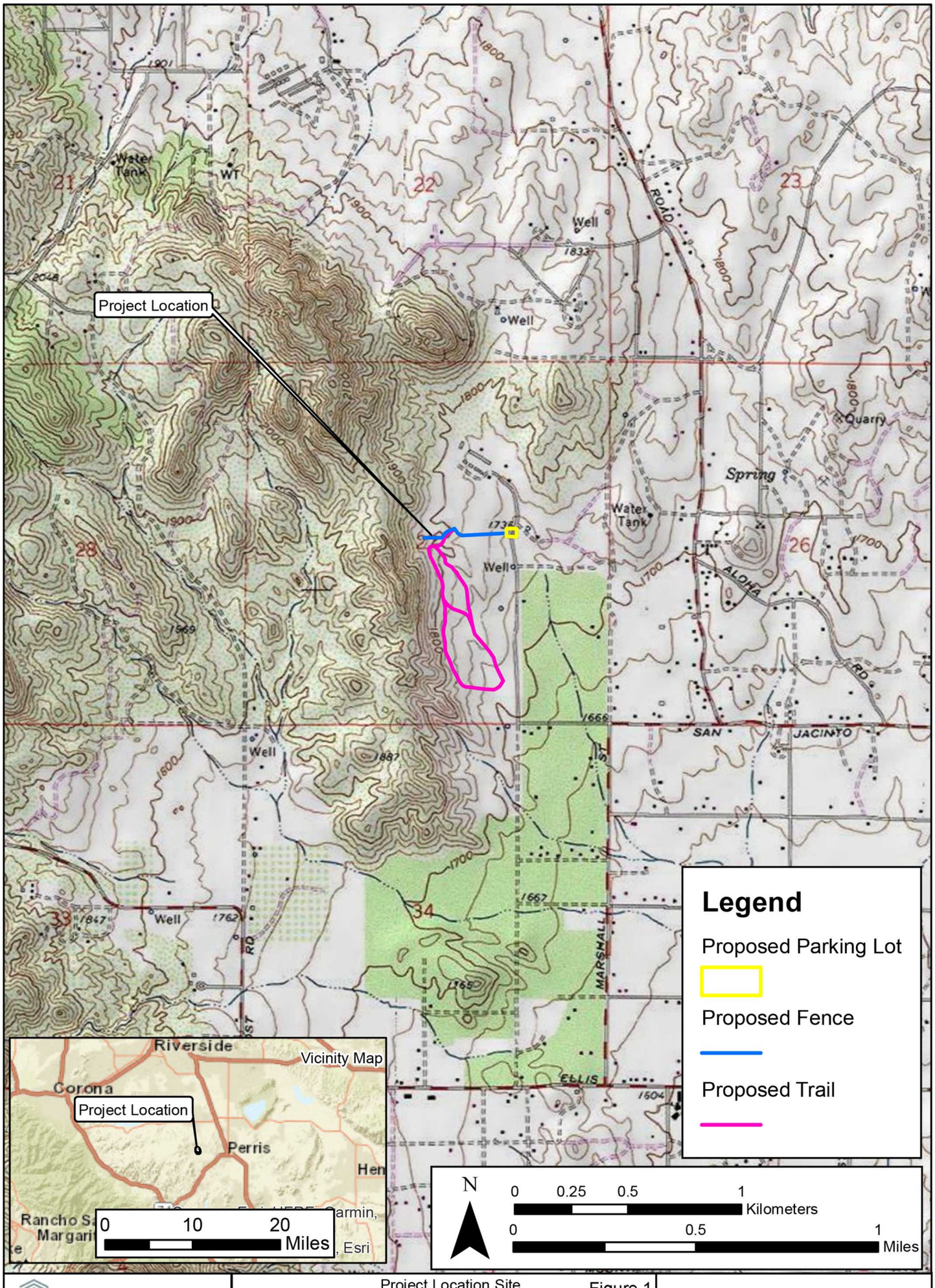
Regulatory Setting

The California Environmental Quality Act. CEQA applies to all discretionary projects undertaken or subject to approval by the state's public agencies (California Code of Regulations 14(3), § 15002(i)). Under CEQA, "A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(b)). State CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(a) defines a "historical resource" as a resource that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register)
- Listed in a local register of historical resources (as defined at Cal. Public Res. Code § 5020.1(k))
- Identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of § 5024.1(g) of the Cal. Public Res. Code
- Determined to be a historical resource by a project's lead agency (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(a))

A historical resource consists of "Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California…Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be 'historically significant' if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources" (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(a)(3)).

The significance of a historical resource is impaired when a project demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for the California Register. If an impact on a historical or archaeological resource is significant, CEQA requires feasible measures to minimize the impact (State CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4 (a)(1)). Mitigation of significant impacts must lessen or eliminate the physical impact that the project will have on the resource.



BCR CONSULTING LLC

Project Location Site

Steele Peak Reserve Trails Project

Reference: ESRI; USGS Quad: Steele Peak, California (1978)

Figure 1

Ruth Villalobos & Associates

Section 5024.1 of the Cal. Public Res. Code established the California Register. Generally, a resource is considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(a)(3)). The eligibility criteria for the California Register are similar to those of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), and a resource that meets one of more of the eligibility criteria of the National Register will be eligible for the California Register.

The California Register program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural significance, identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes, determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding and affords certain protections under CEQA. Criteria for Designation:

1. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
2. Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history.
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values.
4. Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the California Register requires that sufficient time has passed since a resource's period of significance to "obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resources." (CCR 4852 [d][2]). Fifty years is normally considered sufficient time for a potential historical resource, and in order that the evaluation remain valid for a minimum of five years after the date of this report, all resources older than 45 years (i.e. resources from the "historic-period") will be evaluated for California Register listing eligibility, or CEQA significance. The California Register also requires that a resource possess integrity. This is defined as the ability for the resource to convey its significance through seven aspects: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Assembly Bill 52. California Assembly Bill 52 was approved on September 25, 2014. As stated in Section 11 of AB 52, the act applies only to projects that have a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration filed on or after July 1, 2015.

AB 52 establishes "tribal cultural resources" (TCRs) as a new category of resources under CEQA. As defined under Public Resources Code Section 21074, TCRs are "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe" that are either: (1) included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR; included in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k); or (2) determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to the criteria for inclusion in the CRHR set forth in Public Resources Code Section

5024.1(c), if supported by substantial evidence and taking into account the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. A “historical resource” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21084.1, a “unique archaeological resource” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g), or a “nonunique archaeological resource” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(h) may also be TCRs.

AB 52 further establishes a new consultation process with California Native American tribes for proposed projects in geographic areas that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with that tribe. Per Public Resources Code Section 21073, “California Native American tribe” includes federally and non-federally recognized tribes on the NAHC contact list. Subject to certain prerequisites, AB 52 requires, among other things, that a lead agency consult with the geographically affiliated tribe before the release of an environmental review document for a proposed project regarding project alternatives, recommended mitigation measures, or potential significant effects, if the tribe so requests in writing. If the tribe and the lead agency agree upon mitigation measures during their consultation, these mitigation measures must be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document (Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21084.2, and 21084.3). Since the City will initiate and carry out the required AB52 Native American Consultation, the results of the consultation are not provided in this report. However, this report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff are available to answer questions and address comments as necessary.

Paleontological Resources. CEQA provides guidance relative to significant impacts on paleontological resources, indicating that a project would have a significant impact on paleontological resources if it disturbs or destroys a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature. Section 5097.5 of the California Public Resources Code specifies that any unauthorized removal of paleontological remains is a misdemeanor. Further, California Penal Code Section 622.5 sets the penalties for damage or removal of paleontological resources. CEQA documentation prepared for projects would be required to analyze paleontological resources as a condition of the CEQA process to disclose potential impacts. Please note that as of January 2018 paleontological resources are considered in the geological rather than cultural category. Therefore, paleontological resources are not summarized in the body of this report. A paleontological overview completed by professional paleontologists from the Western Science Center is provided as Appendix B.

Personnel

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA, acted as Principal Investigator and compiled the technical report. BCR Consulting Field Director Joseph Orozco, M.A., RPA conducted the pedestrian field survey with BCR Consulting Staff Historian/Archaeological Field Technician George Brentner, B.A. Eastern Information Center (EIC) staff completed the records search.

NATURAL SETTING

Geology

The project site is situated in California's Peninsular Range geologic province that encompasses western Riverside County. Crystalline rocks in the area include gabbro and granodiorite of the southern California batholith. These resistant rocks weather to form dark

or light colored, boulder-covered conical buttes and hills. They are granitic and have intruded and metamorphosed to locally form gneissic and schistose rocks (Rogers 1965). The crystalline rocks in the area are covered by Older Pleistocene alluvium (Kennedy 1977) that, in turn, is covered by a thin horizon of Holocene soils and recent stream sediments in channels (Rogers 1965). Pedogenic carbonate (caliche or hardpan) is a depositional product associated with the Holocene soils and invades the Pleistocene sediments. The southern tip of the Northern Peninsular Range has a number of igneous rocks utilized by Native Americans for food (particularly seed) processing (see Brunzell 2007). These include granodiorites, quartz monzonites, and breccias, which are found locally. Metamorphosed sedimentary rocks, such as metamorphosed quartzite, are also found near the project site. Olivine basalt and andesite containing phenocrysts have also been locally utilized for the prehistoric manufacture of chipped stone tools (ibid.).

Hydrology

The region is characterized by a semi-arid climate, with dry, hot summers, and moderate winters. Rainfall ranges from 12 to 16 inches annually (Beck and Haase 1974). Precipitation usually occurs in the form of winter rain, with occasional monsoonal showers in late summer. The nearest water source is an unnamed channelized drainage approximately one-quarter mile to the east that flows from north to south. Elevation of the project site is approximately 1,760 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). As such, it is characterized as lower Sonoran Life Zone, represented in cismontane valleys and low-mountain slopes (Jaeger and Smith 1971).

Vegetation

Coastal sage scrub plant community dominates the local vegetation. Signature plant species within the Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat includes black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California brittlebush (*Encelia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemesia californica*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diverilobum*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophyla*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovate*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), coastal century plant (*Agave shawii*), coastal cholla (*Opuntia prolifera*), Laguna Beach liveforever (*Dudleya stolonifera*), many-stemmed liveforever (*Dudleya multicaulis*), our Lord's candle (*Yucca whipplei*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* spp.) (Williams et al. 2008:118-119). Signature animal species within Coastal Sage Scrub habitat include the kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys* spp.), California horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*), orange throated whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperthrus*), San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*), brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), and San Diego cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunnecapillus sandiegensis*) (Williams et al. 2008:118-120). For details on prehistoric (particularly Luiseño) local use of plant and animal species, see Lightfoot and Parrish (2009), Bean and Shipek (1978:552), and Oxendine (1983:19-29). Sparkman (1908) and Bean and Saubel (1972) have listed the harvesting and processing methods and seasons for edible plants that grow in the above described communities and others).

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Context

Two primary regional syntheses are commonly utilized in the archaeological literature for southern California. The first was advanced by Wallace in 1955, and defines four cultural horizons, each with characteristic local variations: Early Man Horizon, Milling Stone, Intermediate, and Late Prehistoric. Employing a more ecological approach, Warren (1986) defined five periods in southern California prehistory: Lake Mojave, Pinto, Gypsum, Saratoga Springs, and Protohistoric. Warren viewed cultural continuity and change in terms of various significant environmental shifts, defining the cultural ecological approach for archaeological research of the California deserts and coast. Many changes in settlement patterns and subsistence focus are viewed as cultural adaptations to a changing environment, beginning with the gradual environmental warming in the late Pleistocene, the desiccation of the desert lakes during the early Holocene, the short return to pluvial conditions during the middle Holocene, and the general warming and drying trend, with periodic reversals, that continue to this day (Warren 1986).

Paleoindian (12,000 to 10,000 BP) and Lake Mojave (10,000 to 7000 BP) Periods. Climatic warming characterizes the transition from the Paleoindian Period to the Lake Mojave Period. This transition also marks the end of Pleistocene Epoch and ushers in the Holocene. The Paleoindian Period has been loosely defined by isolated fluted (such as Clovis) projectile points, dated by their association with similar artifacts discovered in-situ in the Great Plains (Sutton 1996:227-228). Some fluted bifaces have been associated with fossil remains of Rancholabrean mammals approximately dated to ca. 13,300-10,800 BP near China Lake in the northern Mojave Desert. The Lake Mojave Period has been associated with cultural adaptations to moist conditions, and resource allocation pointing to more lacustrine environments than previously (Bedwell 1973). Artifacts that characterize this period include stemmed points, flake and core scrapers, choppers, hammerstones, and crescents (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184). Projectile points associated with the period include the Silver Lake and Lake Mojave styles. Lake Mojave sites commonly occur on shorelines of Pleistocene lakes and streams where geological surfaces of that epoch have been identified (Basgall and Hall 1994:69).

Pinto Period (7000 to 4000 BP). The Pinto Period has been largely characterized by desiccation of the southern California region. As formerly rich lacustrine environments began to disappear, the artifact record reveals more sporadic occupation of the drier regions, indicating occupants' recession into the cooler fringes (Warren 1986). Pinto Period sites are rare and are characterized by surface manifestations that usually lack significant in-situ remains. Artifacts from this era include Pinto projectile points and a flake industry similar to the Lake Mojave tool complex (Warren 1986), though use of Pinto projectile points as an index artifact for the era has been disputed (see Schroth 1994). Milling stones have also occasionally been associated with sites of this period (Warren 1986).

Gypsum Period. (4000 to 1500 BP). A temporary return to moister conditions during the Gypsum Period is postulated to have encouraged technological diversification afforded by the abundance of resources available (Warren 1986:419-420; Warren and Crabtree 1986:189). Lacustrine environments reappear and begin to be exploited during this era

(Shutler 1961, 1968). Concurrently a more diverse artifact assemblage reflects intensified reliance on plant resources. The new artifacts include milling stones, mortars, pestles, and a proliferation of Humboldt Concave Base, Gypsum Cave, Elko Eared, and Elko Corner-notched dart points (Warren 1986; Warren and Crabtree 1986). Other artifacts include leaf-shaped projectile points, rectangular-based knives, drills, large scraper planes, choppers, hammerstones, shaft straighteners, incised stone pendants, and drilled slate tubes. The bow and arrow appears around 1500 BP, evidenced by the presence of a smaller type of projectile point, the Rose Spring point (Rogers 1939; Schroeder 1953, 1961; Shutler 1961; Yohe 1992).

Saratoga Springs Period (1500 to 800 BP). During the Saratoga Springs Period regional cultural diversifications of Gypsum Period developments are evident. Influences from Patayan/Yuman assemblages are apparent in the southern inland areas, and include buff and brown wares often associated with Cottonwood and Desert Side-notched projectile points (Warren 1986:423). Obsidian becomes more commonly used throughout southern California and characteristic artifacts of the period include milling stones, mortars, pestles, ceramics, and ornamental and ritual objects. More structured settlement patterns are evidenced by large villages, and three types of identifiable archaeological sites (major habitation, temporary camps, and processing stations) emerge (McGuire and Hall 1988). Diversity of resource exploitation continues to expand, indicating a much more generalized, somewhat less mobile subsistence strategy.

Shoshonean Period (800 BP to Contact). The Shoshonean period is the first to benefit from contact-era ethnography and is subject to its inherent biases. Interviews of living informants allowed anthropologists to match artifact assemblages and particular traditions with linguistic groups, and plot them geographically (see Kroeber 1925; Gifford 1918; Strong 1929). During the Shoshonean Period continued diversification of site assemblages, and reduced Anasazi influence both coincide with the expansion of Numic (Uto-Aztecan language family) speakers across the Great Basin, Takic (Uto-Aztecan language family) speakers into southern California, and the Hopi across the Southwest (Sutton 1996). Hunting and gathering continued to diversify, and the diagnostic arrow points include desert side-notch and cottonwood triangular. Ceramics continue to proliferate, though are more common in southeastern Riverside County during this period (Warren and Crabtree 1986). Trade routes have become well established between coastal and inland groups.

Ethnography

The Project site is situated within the traditional boundaries of the Luiseño (Bean and Shipek 1978; Kroeber 1925), and is peripheral to the Cahuilla area. Each of these groups belongs to the Cupan group of the Takic subfamily of languages (Bean and Shipek 1978:550). Like other Native American groups in southern California, they practiced semi-nomadic hunter-gatherer subsistence strategies and commonly exploited seasonably available plant and animal resources. Spanish missionaries were the first outsiders to encounter these groups during the late 18th century.

Luiseño. Typically, the native culture groups in southern California are named after nearby Spanish missions, and such is the case for this population. For instance, the term “Luiseño” is applied to the natives inhabiting the region within the “ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Mission

San Luis Rey …[and who shared] an ancestral relationship which is evident in their cosmogony, and oral tradition, common language, and reciprocal relationship in ceremonies" (Oxendine 1983:8). The first written accounts of the Luiseño are attributed to the mission fathers; later documentation was produced by Sparkman (1908), Oxendine (1983) and others. Prior to Spanish occupation of California, the territory of the Luiseño extended along the coast from Agua Hedionda Creek to the south, Aliso Creek to the northwest, and the Elsinore Valley and Palomar Mountain to the east. These territorial boundaries were somewhat fluid and changed through time. They encompassed an extremely diverse environment that included coastal beaches, lagoons and marshes, inland river valleys and foothills, and mountain groves of oaks and evergreens (Bean and Shipek 1978:551).

Cahuilla. The Cahuilla are generally divided into three groups: Desert Cahuilla, Mountain Cahuilla, and Western (or Pass) Cahuilla (Kroeber 1925; Bean and Smith 1978). The term Western Cahuilla is preferred over Pass Cahuilla because this group is not confined to the San Gorgonio Pass area. The distinctions are believed to be primarily geographic, although linguistic and cultural differences may have existed to varying degrees (Strong 1929). Cahuilla territory lies within the geographic center of Southern California and the Cocopa-Maricopa Trail, a major prehistoric trade route, ran through it. The first written accounts of the Cahuilla are attributed to mission fathers; later documentation was by Strong (1929), Bright (1998), and others.

History

In southern California, the historic era 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 Spanish period (1769-1821) is represented by exploration of the region; establishment of the San Diego Presidio and missions at San Gabriel and San Luis Rey; and the introduction of livestock, agricultural goods, and European architecture and construction techniques. Spanish influence continued to some extent after 1821 due to the continued implementation of the mission system.

Mexican Period. The Mexican period (1821-1848) began with Mexican independence from Spain and continued until the end of the Mexican-American War (Cleland 1951). The Secularization Act of 1834 resulted in the transfer, through land grants (called ranchos) of large mission tracts to politically prominent individuals. Sixteen ranchos were granted in Riverside County. At that time, cattle ranching was a more substantial business than agricultural activities, and trade in hides and tallow increased during the early portion of this period. Until the Gold Rush of 1849, livestock and horticulture dominated California's economy (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 of the 20th century (Beattie and Beattie 1974; Cleland 1951).

Economic and ethnic diversification and growth have resulted in California's most visible 20th century hallmarks. Prior to World War II agriculture, oil, tourism, railroad, and film industries all flourished, and while the great the Great Depression of the 1930s slowed (and in many cases stopped) growth, these all remained important throughout the century. The wartime economy helped alleviate many causes of the Great Depression, and the subsequent years saw further diversification in which the aerospace and electronics industries emerged. During World War II, many people had relocated to California in support of the military industrial complex, and a large number remained post-war in search of employment and to start families. The subsequent population boom coincided with the greatest economic growth in the history of the state, and accompanied large-scale land subdivision, construction of bedroom communities, and development of a comprehensive freeway system and a state system of higher education (Lavender 1972). These factors have all helped reshape California's landscape, economy, and material culture.

METHODS

This work was completed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) Chapter 2.6, Section 21083.2, and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15064.5. The pedestrian cultural resources survey is intended to locate and document previously recorded or new cultural resources, including archaeological sites, features, isolates, and historic-period buildings, that exceed 45 years in age within defined project boundaries. The current project site boundaries were examined using 10 to 15 meter transect intervals.

The study is intended to determine whether cultural resources are located within the given project boundaries, whether any cultural resources are significant pursuant to the above-referenced regulations and standards, and to develop specific mitigation measures that will address potential impacts to existing or potential resources. Tasks pursued to achieve that end include:

- Sacred Lands File search through the Native American Heritage Commission, and communications with recommended tribes and individuals (pending);
- Cultural resources records search summarized from reports that accessed the Eastern Information Center (EIC) to review any previous studies conducted and the resulting cultural resources recorded within the project site boundaries;
- Systematic pedestrian survey of the entire proposed impact area.

Research

Records Search. Prior to fieldwork, a records search request was submitted to the EIC. This included a review of all prerecorded historic-period and prehistoric cultural resources, as well as a review of known cultural resources surveys and excavation reports generated from projects located within one half-mile of the project site. In addition, a review was conducted of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and documents and inventories from the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) including the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures.

Field Survey

A reconnaissance-level cultural resources field survey of the project site was conducted on May 5 and August 3, 2021. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects within and adjacent to the linear portions of the project site, and 10-15 meters apart across 100 percent of block portion the project site. Digital photographs were taken at various points within the project boundaries and all soil exposures were carefully examined for evidence of cultural resources.

RESULTS

Research

Records Search. A cultural resource records search was conducted by the EIC at the University of California, Riverside. This research revealed that 10 cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of four cultural resources within the research radius. The project site has been partially subject to one previous cultural resources assessment, and no cultural resources have been identified within its boundaries. Tables A and B summarize the disposition of previous studies and cultural resources within one half-mile of the project site. A comprehensive records search bibliography is provided as Appendix D.

Table A. Cultural Resource Studies Summary

USGS 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle	Previous Studies
Steele Peak, California (1978)	RI-250, 806, 1407, 2813, 3266, 5582, 8515, 8677, 8873, 10559*

*Previously assessed the parking lot portion of the project site

Table B. Cultural Resources Summary

Primary No.	Period	Approximate Distance From Project Site/Description
P-33-4256	Prehistoric	¾ Mile SW/Bedrock Milling Feature
P-33-4257	Prehistoric	¾ Mile SW/Bedrock Milling Feature
P-33-4258	Prehistoric	¾ Mile SW/Bedrock Milling Feature
P-33-7686	Historic	½ Mile SW/Mining District

Predictive Modeling. Although no cultural resources have been recorded in the immediate vicinity, cultural resources recorded in this portion of Riverside County locally indicate a

common prehistoric use of bedrock for milling stations and include the presence of some lithic scatters and fire affected rock. These resources are commonly associated with vegetal (particularly seed) processing, chipped stone tool manufacture, trade, and cooking. As a result the field survey emphasized careful inspection for suitable rock outcrops and soil exposures for the presence of related features and artifacts.

Field Survey

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists carefully inspected the project site for evidence of cultural resources, using the methods described above. Ground visibility averaged approximately 70 percent within the project site boundaries. Sediment included silty sand with some granitic cobbles present. The project site has been subject to excavation to construct the existing trails, and modern rock alignments formed near the proposed parking lot. Although no boulders were within the project site alignment, many are very near the alignment and may contain prehistoric bedrock grinding slicks. No cultural materials of any kind were identified within the project site boundaries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

BCR Consulting conducted a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Steele Peak Reserve Trails project, pursuant to CEQA. During the field survey, BCR Consulting personnel did not identify any cultural resources (including architectural historical resources, prehistoric archaeological resources, or historic archaeological resources) within the project site boundaries. Although findings were negative for cultural resources on the surface of the project site, records search results indicate that prehistoric archaeological resources have been identified in the area, and there are numerous boulders with potential for prehistoric grinding slicks and for use as rock shelters near or adjacent to the project alignments. Based on this information, BCR Consulting recommends that an archaeological monitor be present during any earthmoving activities proposed within the project site boundaries. The monitor would work under the direct supervision of a cultural resource professional who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology. The monitor would be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect construction work in the vicinity of any find until the project archaeologist can evaluate it. If the qualified archaeologist finds that any cultural resources present meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register of Historic Places (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:

- 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;
- human remains;
- historic-period artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;

- historic-period structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements.

Findings were negative during the Sacred Lands File search with the NAHC. The City will initiate Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Native American Consultation for the project. Since the City will initiate and carry out the required Native American Consultation, the results of the consultation are not provided in this report. However, this report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff is available to answer questions and address concerns as necessary. BCR Consulting sent letters to local Tribes listed by the NAHC to discern whether tribes were aware of resources within the project site boundaries. The results of this correspondence is provided in Appendix A.

According to CEQA Guidelines, projects subject to CEQA must determine whether the project would "directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource". The appended Paleontological Overview provided in Appendix B has recommended that:

> The geologic units underlying this project are mapped primarily as schist dating to the Paleozoic or Mesozoic, with small segments of Cretaceous quartz along the south eastern project border, and Cretaceous hornblende grabbo along the northwest project border (Dibblee, 2003). Schist, quartz diorite, and hornblende grabbo units are all considered to be of low paleontological sensitivity. The Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or within a 1 mile radius.

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.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this archaeological report, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: August 20, 2021	
	David Brunzell
Authorized Signature	Printed Name
County Registration Number: 154	

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APPENDIX A

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

APPENDIX B

PALEONTOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

WESTERN SCIENCE CENTER

BCR Consulting LLC
Nicholas Shepetuk
505 West 8th Street
Claremont, CA 91711

March 8, 2021

Dear Mr. Shepetuk,

This letter presents the results of a record search conducted for the Steele Peaks Reserve Trails Project in unincorporated Riverside County, California. The project site is located south of Interstate 10, in Section 27, Township 4 South, Range 4 West on the Steele Peak, CA USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle.

The geologic units underlying this project are mapped primarily as schist dating to the Paleozoic or Mesozoic, with small segments of Cretaceous quartz along the south eastern project border, and Cretaceous hornblende grabbo along the northwest project border (Dibblee, 2003). Schist, quartz diorite, and hornblende grabbo units are all considered to be of low paleontological sensitivity. The Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or within a 1 mile radius.

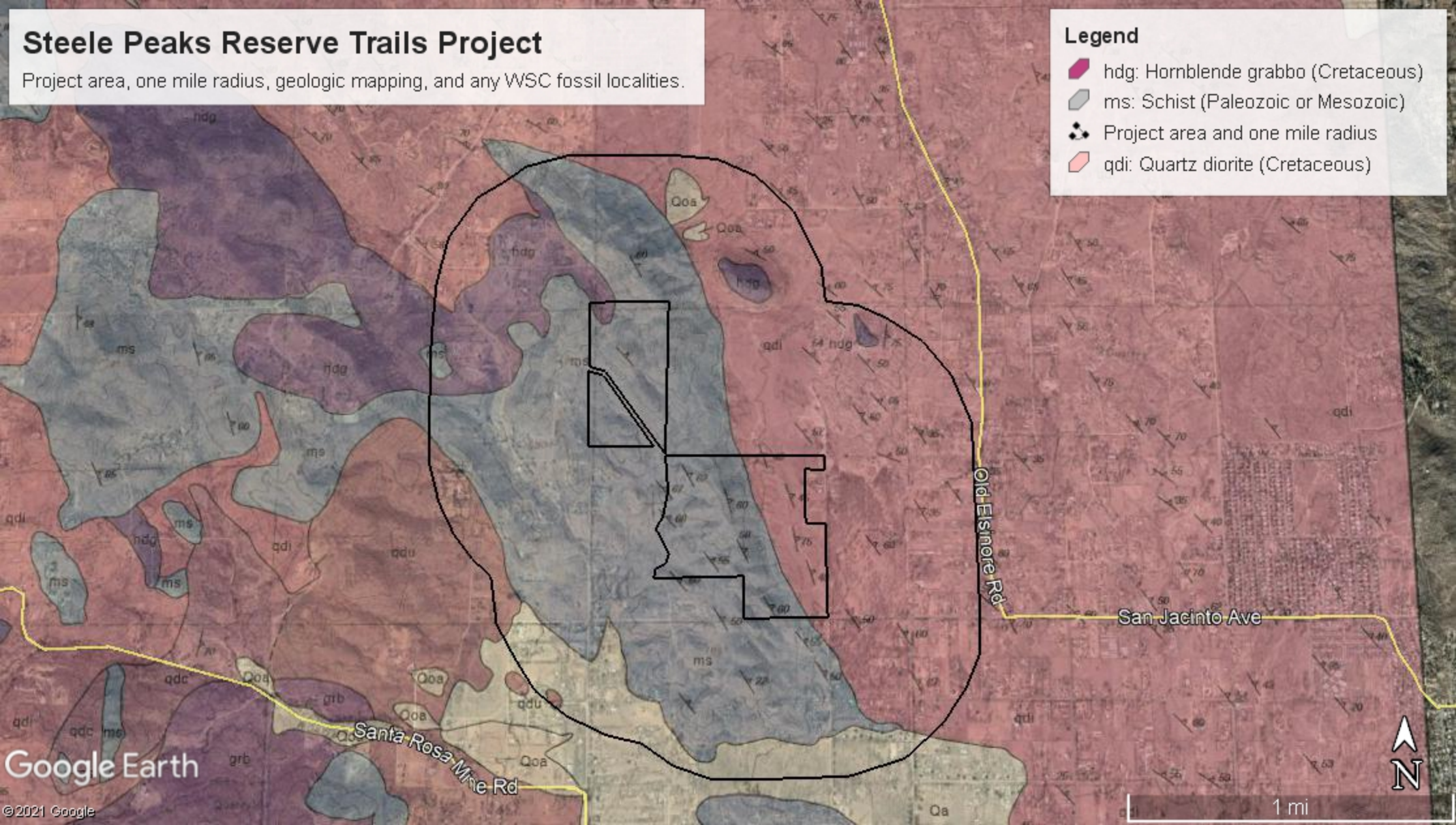
If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact me at dradford@westerncentermuseum.org

Sincerely,

Darla Radford
Collections Manager

Steele Peaks Reserve Trails Project

Project area, one mile radius, geologic mapping, and any WSC fossil localities.



APPENDIX C

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: Overview Near Proposed Parking Lot (W)

Photo 2: Overview Near Proposed Parking Lot (View NE)

Photo 3: Existing Fence Overview (View NE)

Photo 4: Project Alignment Overview (View W)

Photo 5: Project Alignment Overview (View W)

Photo 6: Project Alignment Overview (View SW)

APPENDIX D

RECORDS SEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
RI-00250	NADB-R - 1080306; Voided - MF-0232	1977	N. Nelson Leonard, III and Donna Belligio	An Archaeological Evaluation of the Proposed Road Improvements in the Mead Valley Vicinity, Riverside County, California	Archaeological Research Unit, U.C. Riverside	33-000811, 33-001260, 33-001261, 33-001262, 33-001263, 33-001264
RI-00806	NADB-R - 1080858; Voided - MF-0727	1980	Jean A. Salpas	An Archaeological Assessment of Parcel 16689	Archaeological Consultant, Riverside, CA	
RI-01407	NADB-R - 1081657; Voided - MF-1479	1982	BOWLES, LARRY L.	AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF TENTATIVE PARCEL 18550	AUTHOR(S)	
RI-02813	NADB-R - 1083419; Voided - MF-3013	1990	DROVER, CHRISTOPHER E.	AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF STERLING BUILDERS: MEAD VALLEY PROJECT RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA	AUTHOR	
RI-03266	NADB-R - 1083859; Voided - MF-3499	1991	WHITE, ROBERT S.	AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF A 19.89 ACRE PARCEL AS SHOWN AS TPM 25531 LOCATED ADJACENT TO POST ROAD IN PERRIS, RIVERSIDE	ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES, LTD.	33-004256, 33-004257, 33-004258
RI-05582	NADB-R - 1086945	2005	SCHMIDT, JUNE A.	LETTER REPORT: DWO 6277-1400; A.I. NO. J1187: MANUEL RUIZ OVERHEAD LINE EXTENSION PROJECT, 21610 JOHNS STREET, PERRIS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA	COMPASS ROSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL, INC.	
RI-08515	Other - SCE PO# 4500179336; Other - WO's 6077-4800: 0-4849, E-4861, 0-4876,	2010	Jay K. Sanders	Arcaeological Survey for Southern California Edisons Poles Replacement Project: Riverside County, California	Chambers Group, Inc.	
RI-08677	Other - 4500365465; Other - WO# 6077-4800, 2-4824, 2-4832, 2-4827, 2-4833, 2-4837, 2-4839, 2-4800	2011	Kurt Heidelberg and Gabrielle Duff	Acraeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison's Pole Replacement Projects for Seven Deteriorates Poles Near Perris and Hemet	Inland Environmnetal Associates	
RI-08873		2011	Cary D. Cotterman and Evelyn N. Chandler	Cultural Resources Inventory of 8 Proposed Pole Replacements In and Near Unincorporated Communities of Nuevo and Sage, In the City of Menifee and Near the City of Perris, Riverside County, California (DWO 6077-4800; 1-4886, 2-4801, 2-4802, 2-4803, 2-480, 2-4813, 2-4814, 2-4815)	ECORP Consulting	
RI-10559		2018	Ted Roberts and Lauren DeOliveira	Phase 1 Cultural Resources and Paleontological Assessment Report for Mead Valley Landfill Culvert Replacement Project, Riverside County	Chambers Group, Inc.	

Resource List

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-33-004256	CA-RIV-004256	Other - H-1	Site	Prehistoric	AP04	1991 (Robert S. White, Archaeological Associates, P.O. Box 180, Sun City, California 92381)	RI-03266
P-33-004257	CA-RIV-004257	Other - H-2	Site	Prehistoric	AP04	1991 (Robert S. White, Archaeological Associates, P.O. Box 180, Sun City, California 92381)	RI-03266
P-33-004258	CA-RIV-004258	Other - H-3	Site	Prehistoric	AP04	1991 (Robert S. White, Archaeological Associates, P.O. Box 180, Suin City, California, 92381)	RI-03266
P-33-007686		Other - SRI-7171; Other - Pinacate Mining District; Other - Ser. No. 33-2371-7-9999	Site	Historic	AH09; AH16	1980 (Donald D. Sullivan, n/a); 1982 (Warner, Jim, Riv. Co. Historical Comm.); 2007 (Craft, Andrea M., Jones and Stokes); 2011 (Scott Kremkau, SRI)	RI-07641, RI-07643, RI-08569