

July 2, 2020

Amir Aziz
AZIZ LLC
495 E. Rincon Street, Suite #175
Corona, CA 92879

Re: Update to Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report
Assessor's Parcel Numbers 3092-401-01, -02 and -10
City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California
CRM TECH Contract No. 3635

Dear Mr. Aziz:

At your request, CRM TECH has completed a cultural resources study on approximately 11.9 acres of undeveloped land in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The subject property of the study consists of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 3092-401-01, -02 and -10, located on the east side of Balsam Avenue and to the north of Nisqualli Road, in the southwest quarter of Section 29, T5N R4W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (Figs. 1, 2). The study is part of the environmental review process for the proposed construction of an apartment complex on the property, as required by the City of Victorville in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

As you know, the entire project area was included in a standard Phase I cultural resources survey that our firm completed in 2016 (Encarnación and Gallardo 2016; see attachment). The survey covered a total of 14 acres, encompassing also what is now Assessor's Parcel Number 3092-401-11, which lies adjacent to the south of the current project area (see *ibid.*:2). The scope of the 2016 study included a historical/archaeological resources records search, historical background research, Native American scoping, and an intensive-level field survey. Throughout the course of that study, no "historical resources," as defined by CEQA, were identified within or adjacent to the 14-acre area (*ibid.*:12).

Because the 2016 study is now nearly four years old, the current study was designed and implemented as an update to refresh and reexamine its findings and conclusions. Research procedures completed during this study consisted primarily of a review of data gathered during the 2016 study for information pertaining to the current project area and a reconnaissance-level field survey. A summary of the methods and results of these procedures are presented in the sections below.

As stated in the 2016 study, sources consulted during the background research at that time included records on file at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System, published literature in local and regional history, historic maps dated 1856-1993, and aerial photographs taken in 1952-2015 (Encarnación and Gallardo 2016:7). SCCIC records indicate no systematic survey of the current project area

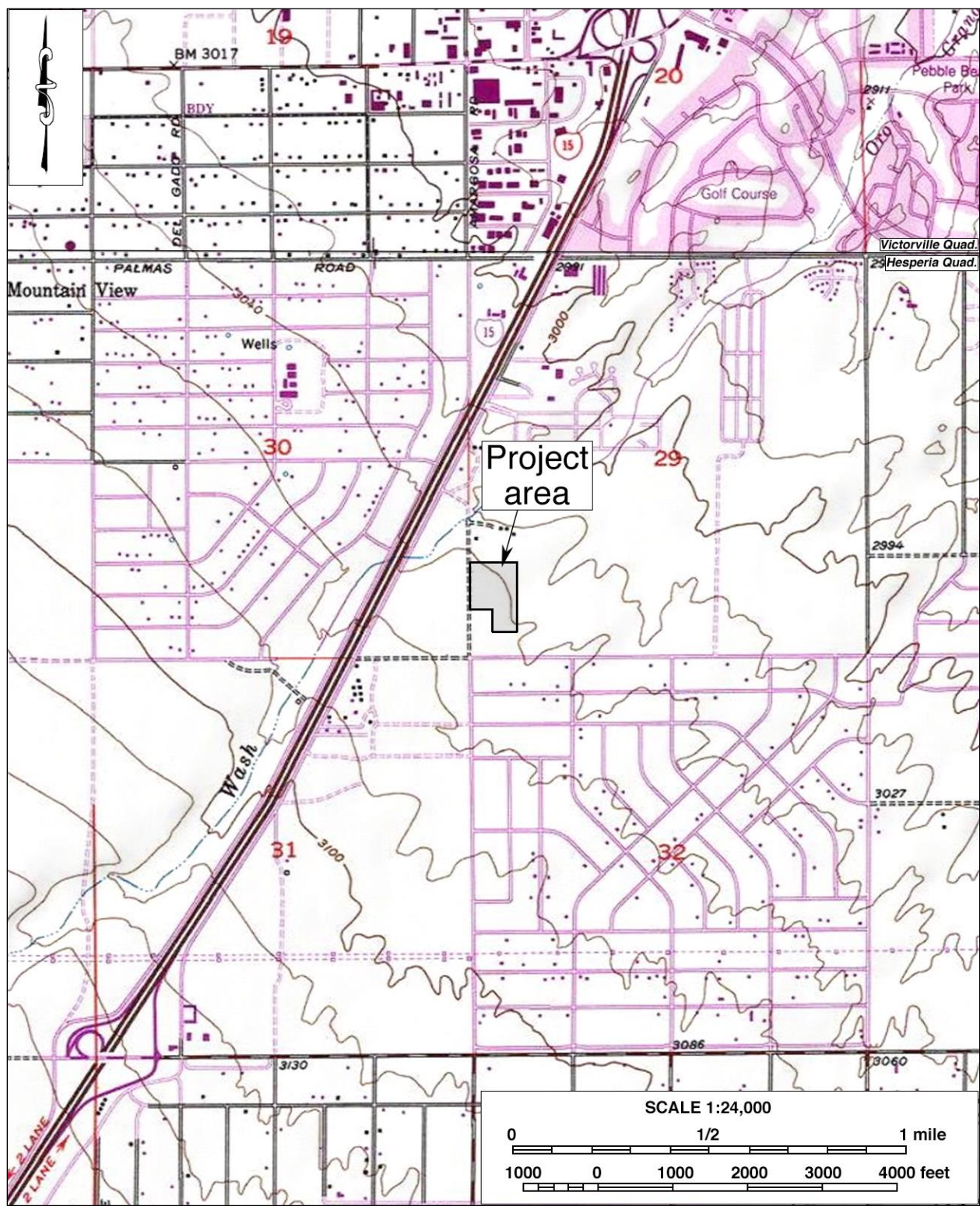


Figure 1. Project area. (Based on USGS Hesperia and Victorville, Calif., 7.5' quadrangles; cf. Encarnación and Gallardo 2016:2)



Figure 2. Aerial view of the project location.

prior to the 2016 study, nor any cultural resources previously identified within or immediately adjacent to the project boundaries.* The historic maps and aerial photographs, meanwhile, show no notable man-made features within the project area throughout the 1850s-2010s era (GLO 1856; USGS 1902-1980; NETR Online 1952-2016).

On June 30, 2020, CRM TECH archaeologist Daniel Ballester, M.S., carried out the field inspection of the current project area. The survey was completed by walking a series of parallel east-west transects spaced approximately 25 meters (82 feet) apart. Ground visibility was fair to excellent (70-95%) at the time of the survey (Fig. 3). As in 2016, no evidence of any human activities dating to the prehistoric or historic period was observed on the property.

Summary and Conclusion

In summary, the research procedures completed during this study have confirmed that no “historical resources” are present within or adjacent to the current project area. Therefore, the conclusion of the 2016 study that the proposed development of the property will have *No Impact* on any “historical resources” (Encarnación and Gallardo 2016:12) remains valid and appropriate.



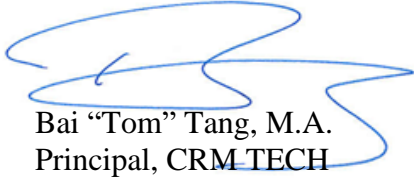
Figure 3. Overview of the current condition of the project area. (Photograph taken on June 30, 2020, view to the north)

* Due to facility closure during the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting delays, an update to the records search could not be obtained in time for this study.

As in 2016, no further cultural resources investigation is recommended unless development plans undergo such changes as to include areas beyond the coverage of these surveys. However, if buried cultural materials are encountered during any earth-moving operations associated with the project, all work in that area should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Bai "Tom" Tang, M.A.
Principal, CRM TECH

References Cited:

Encarnación, Deirdre, and Nina Gallardo

2016 Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Assessor's Parcel Nos. 3092-401-01, -02, and -07, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. On file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton. (See attachment)

GLO (General Land Office, U.S. Department of the Interior)

1856 Plat Map: Township No. 5 North Range No. 4 West, San Bernardino Meridian; surveyed in 1853-1855.

NETR (Nationwide Environmental Title Research) Online

1952-2016 Aerial photographs of the project vicinity; taken in 1952, 1968, 1995, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016. <http://www.historicaerials.com>.

USGS (United States Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior)

1902 Map: Hesperia, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); surveyed in 1898-1899.

1942 Map: Hesperia, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); aerial photographs taken in 1940-1941.

1956 Map: Hesperia, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); aerial photographs taken in 1952, field-checked in 1956.

1980 Map: Hesperia, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); 1956 edition photorevised in 1978.

ATTACHMENT
2016 CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NOS. 3092-401-01, -02, AND -07

City of Victorville
San Bernardino County, California

For Submittal to:

Planning Division
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Prepared for:

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Bai "Tom" Tang, Principal Investigator
Michael Hogan, Principal Investigator

August 10, 2016
CRM TECH Contract No. 3098

Title: Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Assessor's Parcel Nos. 3092-401-01, -02, and -07, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California

Author(s): Deirdre Encarnación, Archaeologist/Report Writer
Nina Gallardo, Archaeologist/Native American Liaison

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Date: August 10, 2016

For Submittal to: Planning Division
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Victorville, CA 92393-5001
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Prepared for: Michael Ramirez
Verde Vistas
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USGS Quadrangle: Hesperia, Calif., 7.5' quadrangle (Section 29, T5N R4W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian)

Project Size: Approximately 13.75 acres

Keywords: Victor Valley area, southern Mojave Desert; Phase I historical/archaeological resources survey; no "historical resources" under CEQA

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In July and August 2016, at the request of Verde Vistas, CRM TECH performed a cultural resources study on approximately 13.75 acres of undeveloped land in the southeastern portion of the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The subject property of the study consists of Assessor's Parcel Nos. 3092-401-01, 3092-401-02, and 3092-401-07, located on the east side of Balsam Road between Nisqualli Road and the extension of Winona Street, in the southwest quarter of Section 29, T5N R4W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian.

The study is part of the environmental review process for the proposed construction of a gas station, a convenience store, and a car wash on the property. The City of Victorville, as the lead agency for the project, required the study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the study is to provide the City with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the proposed project would cause substantial adverse changes to any "historical resources," as defined by CEQA, that may exist in or around the project area.

In order to identify such resources, CRM TECH conducted a historical/archaeological resources records search, pursued historical background research, contacted Native American representatives, and carried out an intensive-level field survey. Through the various avenues of research, this study did not encounter any "historical resources" within or adjacent to the project area. Therefore, CRM TECH recommends to the City of Victorville a finding of *No Impact* regarding cultural resources.

No further cultural resources investigation is recommended for the project unless development plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study. However, if buried cultural materials are encountered during any earth-moving operations associated with the project, all work in that area should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

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INTRODUCTION

In July and August 2016, at the request of Verde Vistas, CRM TECH performed a cultural resources study on approximately 13.75 acres of undeveloped land in the southeastern portion of the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California (Fig. 1). The subject property of the study consists of Assessor's Parcel Nos. 3092-401-01, 3092-401-02, and 3092-401-07, located on the east side of Balsam Road between Nisqualli Road and the extension of Winona Street, in the southwest quarter of Section 29, T5N R4W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (Fig. 2).

The study is part of the environmental review process for the proposed construction of a gas station, a convenience store, and a car wash on the property. The City of Victorville, as the lead agency for the project, required the study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; PRC §21000, et seq.). The purpose of the study is to provide the City with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the proposed project would cause substantial adverse changes to any "historical resources," as defined by CEQA, that may exist in or around the project area.

In order to identify such resources, CRM TECH conducted a historical/archaeological resources records search, pursued historical background research, contacted Native American representatives, and carried out an intensive-level field survey. The following report is a complete account of the methods, results, and final conclusion of the study.

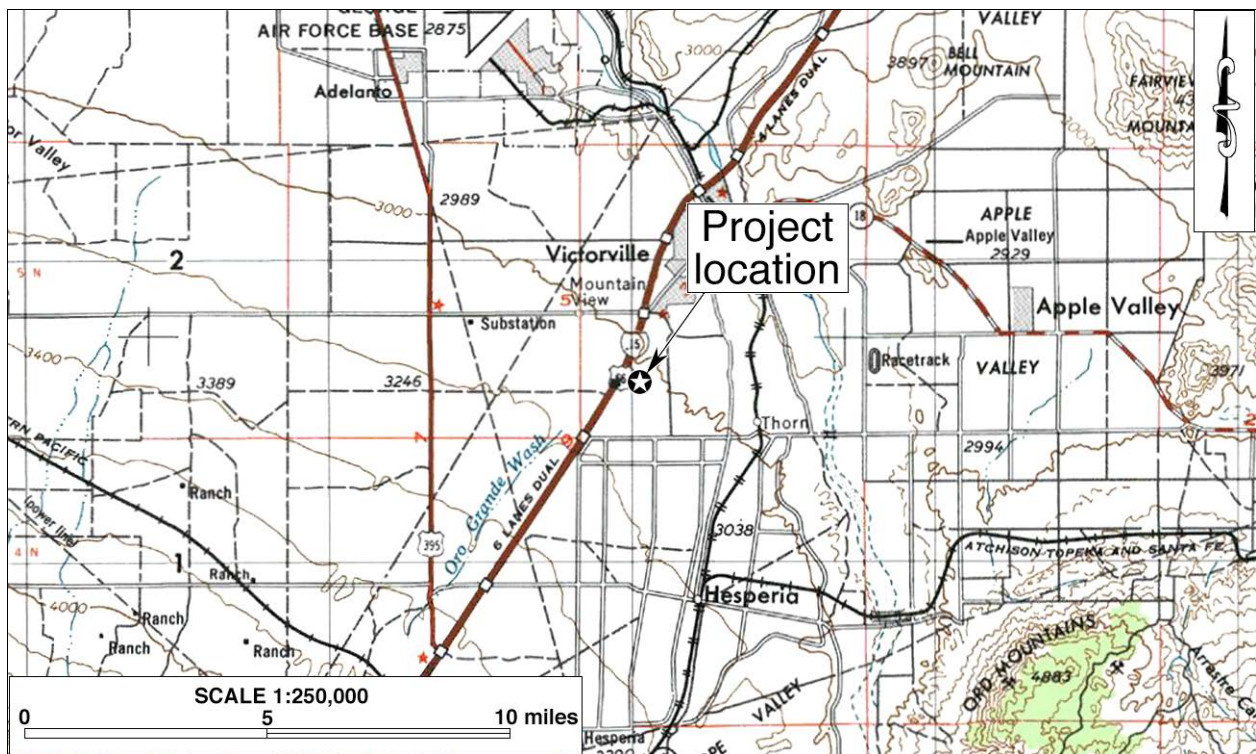


Figure 1. Project vicinity. (Based on USGS San Bernardino, Calif., 1:250,000 quadrangle [USGS 1979])

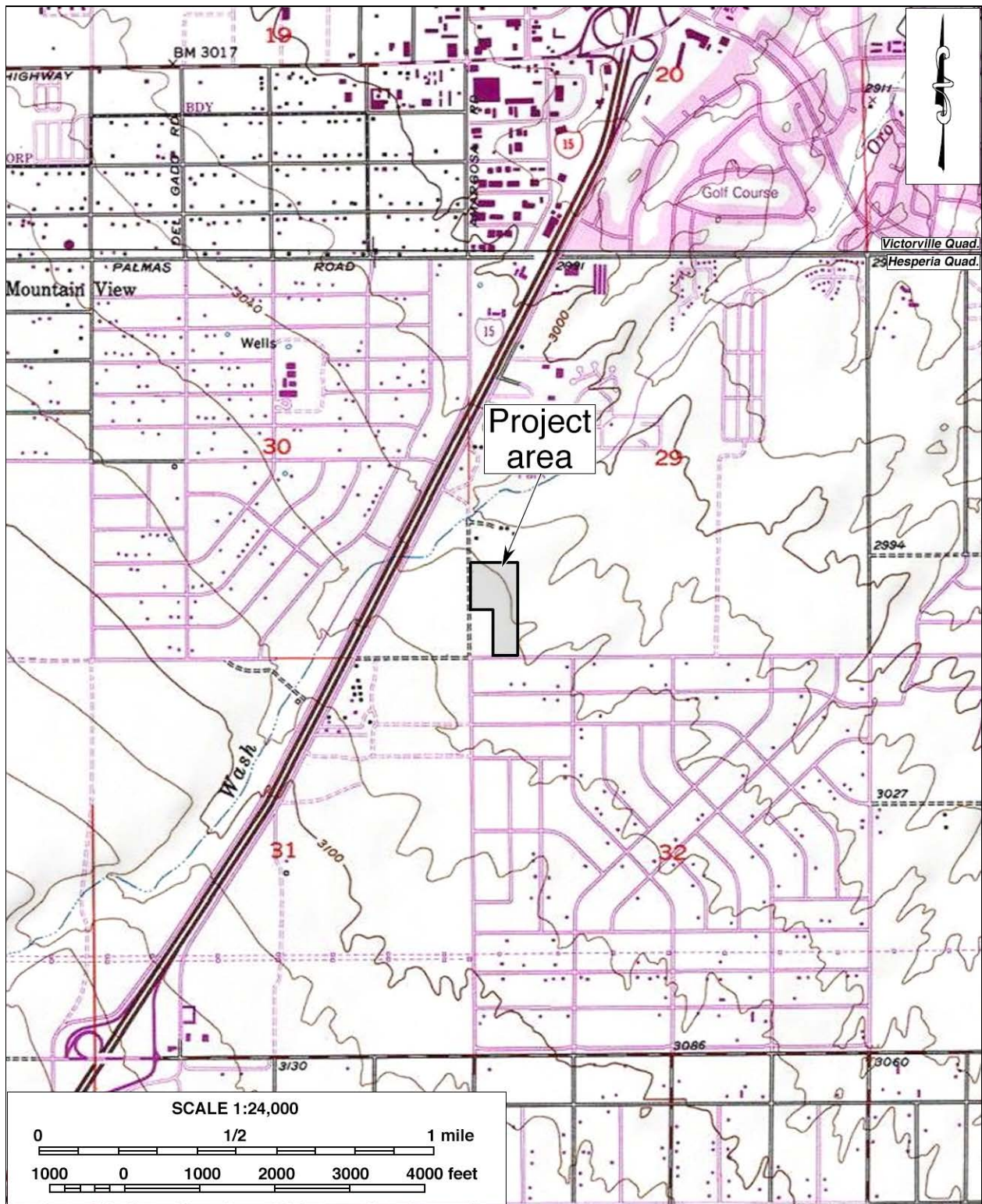


Figure 2. Project area. (Based on USGS Hesperia and Victorville, Calif., 1:24,000 quadrangles [USGS 1980; 1993])

SETTING

CURRENT NATURAL SETTING

The project area is situated in the Victor Valley, which lies on the southern rim of the Mojave Desert and immediately to the north of the San Bernardino-San Gabriel mountain ranges. The climate and environment of the area is typical of southern California “high desert” country, so-called because of its higher elevation than the Colorado Desert to the southeast. The climate is marked by extremes in temperature and aridity, with summer highs reaching well over 110°F and winter lows dipping below freezing. Average annual precipitation is less than five inches.

The entire project area remains undeveloped open desert land (Fig. 3), but is surrounded by an apartment complex on the east, a single-family residential neighborhood on the south, and a church on the west. To the north and the southwest, it adjoins other parcels of vacant land. Elevations in the project area range between approximately 3,037 feet and 3,046 feet above mean sea level, and the terrain is relatively level.

Soils in the vicinity consist of light grayish brown, fine- to coarse-grained sandy clay loam mixed with gravel and small rocks, mainly pieces of milky quartz. The ground surface appears to have been disturbed in association with the residential development of the adjacent property to the east, and some trenching activities, perhaps for geotechnical purposes, have apparently occurred in the eastern portion of the property. Three dirt roads traverse the project area in the east-west direction.

The project area is a part of the Joshua Tree Woodland Plant Community, and the sparse vegetation growth observed on the property consists mainly of creosote, Mormon tea, and other common desert grasses and shrubs (Fig. 3). Animals that are commonly found in this area include small mammals



Figure 3. Overview of the current natural setting of the project area. (Photo taken on June 28, 2016; view to the north)

(jackrabbits, desert cottontails, squirrels, rats, and mice), reptiles (lizards, snakes, and desert tortoise), native birds (doves, vultures, raptors, and quail), and arthropods (beetles, desert tarantula and scorpions).

The Victor Valley is a part of the Mojave River watershed. During the Late Pleistocene and early Holocene periods, the region experienced four separate high stands of Lake Mojave and other pluvial lakes. These episodes afforded greater access to water by aboriginal groups in the region, while the desiccation of the lakes forced them to move closer to the Mojave River, which provided not only a dependable water source and subsistence resources but also a major route for interregional trade. Many of the Native American archaeological sites identified in and around the Victor Valley consist of ancient habitation debris such as middens, groundstone fragments, chipped-stone pieces, fire-affected rocks, and faunal remains. Rock shelters, bedrock milling features, and rock art panels have also been found in the region. As expected, most of these sites occur along the banks of the Mojave River.

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Context

In order to understand the progress of Native American cultures prior to European contact, archaeologists have devised chronological frameworks on the basis of artifacts and site types that date back some 12,000 years. Currently, the chronology most frequently applied in the Mojave Desert divides the region's prehistory into five periods marked by changes in archaeological remains, reflecting different ways in which Native peoples adapted to their surroundings. According to Warren (1984) and Warren and Crabtree (1986), the five periods are as follows: the Lake Mojave Period, 12,000 years to 7,000 years ago; the Pinto Period, 7,000 years to 4,000 years ago; the Gypsum Period, 4,000 years to 1,500 years ago; the Saratoga Springs Period, 1,500 years to 800 years ago; and the Protohistoric Period, 800 years ago to European contact.

More recently, Hall (2000) presented a slightly different chronology for the region, also with five periods: Lake Mojave (ca. 8000-5500 B.C.), Pinto (ca. 5500-2500 B.C.), Newberry (ca. 1500 B.C.-500 A.D.), Saratoga (ca. 500-1200 A.D.), and Tecopa (ca. 1200-1770s A.D.). According to Hall (*ibid.*:14), small mobile groups of hunters and gatherers inhabited the Mojave Desert during the Lake Mojave sequence. Their material culture is represented by the Great Basin Stemmed points and flaked stone crescents. These small, highly mobile groups continued to inhabit the region during the Pinto Period, which saw an increased reliance on ground foods, small and large game animals, and the collection of vegetal resources, suggesting that "subsistence patterns were those of broad-based foragers" (*ibid.*:15). Artifact types found in association with this period include the Pinto points and *Olivella* sp. spire-lopped beads.

Distinct cultural changes occurred during the Newberry Period, in comparison to the earlier periods, including "geographically expansive land-use pattern...involving small residential groups moving between select localities," long-distance trade, and diffusion of trait characteristics (Hall 2000:16). Typical artifacts from this period are the Elko and Gypsum Contracting Stem points and Split Oval beads. The two ensuing periods, Saratoga and Tecopa, are characterized by seasonal group settlements near accessible food resources and the intensification of the exploitation of plant foods, as evidenced by groundstone artifacts (*ibid.*:16).

Hall (2000:16) states that “late prehistoric foraging patterns were more restricted in geographic routine and range, a consequence of increasing population density” and other variables. Saratoga Period artifact types include Rose Spring and Eastgate points as well as Anasazi grayware pottery. Artifacts from the Tecopa Period include Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood Triangular points, buffware and brownware pottery, and beads of the Thin Lipped, Tiny Saucer, Cupped, Cylinder, steatite, and glass types (*ibid.*).

Ethnohistoric Context

The project area is a part of the homeland of the Serrano Indians, whose traditional territory is centered in the San Bernardino Mountains, but also includes portions of the San Bernardino Valley and the southern rim of the Mojave Desert. The name “Serrano” was derived from a Spanish term meaning “mountaineer” or “highlander.” The basic written sources on Serrano culture are Kroeber (1925), Strong (1929), and Bean and Smith (1978). The following ethnographic discussion of the Serrano people is based on these sources.

Prior to European contact, the Serrano were primarily hunter-gatherers and occasionally fishers, and settled mostly where flowing water emerged from the mountains. They were loosely organized into exogamous clans, which were led by hereditary heads, and the clans in turn, were affiliated with one of two exogamous moieties. The exact nature of the clans, their structure, function, and number are not known, except that each clan was the largest autonomous political and landholding unit, the core of which was the patrilineage. There was no pan-tribal political union among the clans.

Families lived in circular, domed structures made from willow and tule thatching and containing a central fire pit. These homes were used mainly for sleep and storage, while most of the daily household activities occurred in the open or under the shade of a ramada. Other important structures in Serrano life were large ceremonial house, granaries and sweat lodges, the last being a circular semi-subterranean hut framed with willow, covered with earth, and having only one entrance. In terms of Serrano technology, shells, wood bone stone, and plant fibers were employed to create household items, tools, and other everyday items, as well as fashion functional decorative items like baskets and blankets.

Although contact with Europeans may have occurred as early as 1771 or 1772, Spanish influence on Serrano lifeways was negligible until the 1810s, when a mission *asistencia* was established on the southern edge of Serrano territory. Between then and the end of the mission era in 1834, most of the Serranos were removed to the nearby missions. At present, most Serrano descendants are found on the San Manuel and the Morongo Indian Reservations, where they participate in ceremonial and political affairs with other Native American groups on an inter-reservation basis.

Historic Context

The present-day Victor Valley area received its first European visitor, the famed Spanish missionary and explorer Francisco Garcés, in 1776, and the first Euroamerican settlements appeared in the valley as early as 1860 (Peirson 1970:128). Despite these “early starts,” due to its harsh environment, development in the arid high desert country of southern California was slow and

limited for much of the historic period, and the Victor Valley remained only sparsely populated until the second half of the 20th century.

Garcés traveled through the Victor Valley along an ancient Indian trading route known today as the Mojave Trail (Beck and Haase 1974:15). In 1829, most of this trail was incorporated into an important pack-train road known as the Old Spanish Trail, which extended between southern California and Santa Fe, New Mexico (Warren 2004). Some 20 years later, when the historic wagon road known as the Mormon Trail or Salt Lake Trail was established between Utah and southern California, it followed essentially the same route across the Mojave Desert (NPS 2001:5). Since then, the Victor Valley has always served as a crucial link on a succession of major transportation arteries, where the heritage of the ancient Mojave Trail was carried on by the Santa Fe Railway, by the legendary U.S. Route 66, and finally by today's Interstate Highway 15.

The City of Victorville traces its roots to a station on the Santa Fe Railroad, which was completed by the California Southern Railway Company, a Santa Fe subsidiary, in 1885. The station was initially named Victor, after Jacob Nash Victor, general manager of the California Southern Railway Company (Richards 1966). With the coming of the railroad, settlement activities began in earnest in the Victor Valley in the 1880s, and reached a peak in the 1910s. The townsite was laid out in 1886, and by 1890, Victor had become a settlement of approximately 100 residents. In 1901, the name of the town was changed to Victorville to avoid confusion with Victor, Colorado (*ibid.*).

Thanks to the availability of fertile lands and the abundance of ground water, agriculture played a dominant role in the early development of the Victor Valley area (City of Victorville n.d.[a]). During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, settlers in the valley attempted to raise a number of money-making staples, such as alfalfa, deciduous fruits, and poultry, with only limited success. Around the turn of the century, large deposits of limestone and granite were discovered, prompting cement manufacturing to become the leading industry in the valley (*ibid.*). During and after WWII, George Air Force Base, established in 1941, added a new driving force in the local economy with its 6,000 military and civilian employees. After being deactivated in 1992, the former base was converted for civilian use as the Southern California Logistics Airport.

In 1962, the City of Victorville was incorporated with a population of approximately 8,110 and an area of 9.7 square miles (City of Victorville n.d.[a]). Over the 50 years since then, it has become one of the fastest growing cities in California, largely as a “bedroom community” in support of the industrial and commercial centers in the Greater Los Angeles area. At the present, the city has expanded to more than 73 square miles, with an estimated population of more than 120,000 (City of Victorville n.d.[b]).

RESEARCH METHODS

RECORDS SEARCH

On July 25, 2016, CRM TECH archaeologist Nina Gallardo (see App. 1 for qualifications) conducted the historical/archaeological resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), California State University, Fullerton, which is the State of

California's official cultural resource records repository for the County of San Bernardino. During the records search, Gallardo examined maps and records on file at the SCCIC for previously identified cultural resources in or near the project area and existing cultural resources reports within a one-mile radius of the project area. Previously identified cultural resources include properties designated as California Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, or San Bernardino County Landmarks, as well as those listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or the California Historical Resources Inventory.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Historical background research for this study was conducted by CRM TECH principal investigator/historian Bai "Tom" Tang (see App. 1 for qualifications) on the basis of published literature in local and regional history, U.S. General Land Office (GLO) survey plat maps dated 1856, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps dated 1902-1993, and aerial photographs taken in 1952-2015. The historic maps are collected at the Science Library of the University of California, Riverside, and the California Desert District of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, located in Moreno Valley, while the aerial photographs are available from the NETR Online website and the Google Earth software.

NATIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION

On July 13, 2016, CRM TECH submitted a written request to the State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a records search in the commission's sacred lands file. On July 18, following the NAHC's recommendations and previously established consultation protocol, CRM TECH further contacted a total of 10 tribal representatives in the region in writing for additional information on potential Native American cultural resources in or near the project area. The correspondences between CRM TECH and the Native American representatives are attached to this report as Appendix 2.

FIELD SURVEY

On July 28, 2016, CRM TECH project archaeologist Nina Gallardo carried out the intensive-level, on-foot field survey of the project area. The survey was completed by walking a series of parallel north-south transects spaced 15 meters (approximately 50 feet) apart. In this way, the ground surface in the entire project area was systematically and carefully examined for any evidence of human activities dating to the prehistoric or historic period (i.e., 50 years ago or older). Ground visibility ranged from good (80%) to excellent (95%) depending upon the density of vegetation.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

RECORDS SEARCH

According to SCCIC records, a linear survey performed in 1978 crossed the southern portion of the project area in an east-west direction (#1060612 in Fig. 4), but the project area as a whole had not been surveyed systematically prior to this study, and no historical/archaeological sites had been

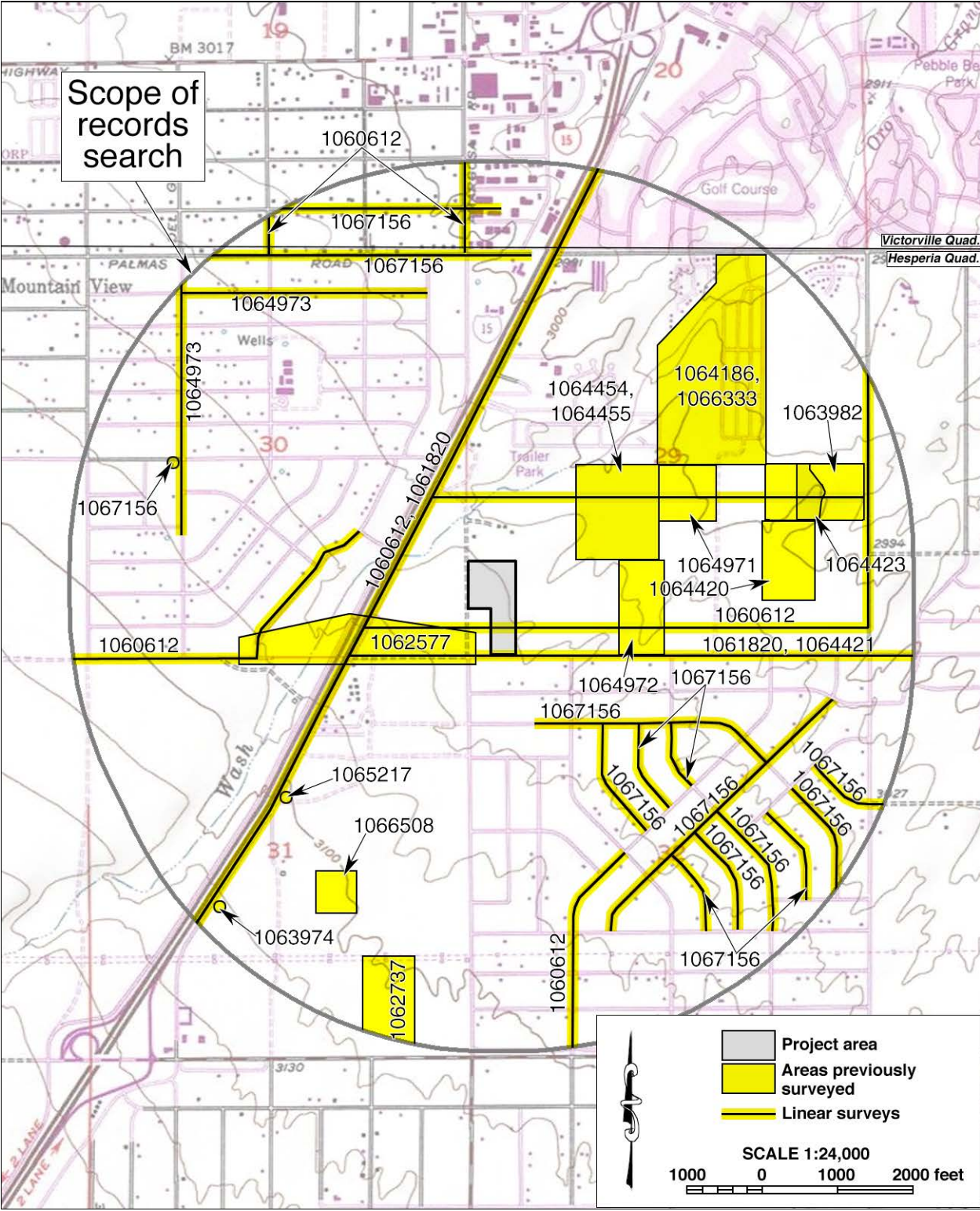


Figure 4. Previous cultural resources studies in the vicinity of the project area, listed by SCCIC file number. Locations of historical/archaeological sites are not shown as a protective measure.

Site No.	Recorded by/Date	Description
36-004269	Various 1980-2009	Oro Grande Wash Road
36-006821	Rhodes and Lilburn 1991	Historic-period refuse scatter
36-010614	Various 1978-2001	Small prehistoric camp with flaked-stone artifacts and fire-affected rock
36-011424	Chandler et al. 2003	Building foundations and walls made of oil cans and mortar
36-011425	Chandler et al. 2003	Rural residential complex remains with associated trash scatter
36-011426	Cotterman and Sander 2003	Large historic-period refuse scatter
36-011427	Cotterman and Sander 2003	Historic-period refuse scatter
36-012126	Various 1991-2004	Abandoned rural house, ca. 1920s-1930s
36-012596	Cerreto et al. 2006	Prehistoric lithic scatter

recorded on or adjacent to the property. Outside the project area but within a one-mile radius, SCCIC records show at least 18 other previous studies covering various tracts of land and linear features, including an adjacent linear survey along Nisqualli Road (Fig. 4).

As a result of these and other similar studies in the vicinity, nine historical/archaeological sites have been recorded within the one-mile radius, as listed above in Table 1. All but two of these sites dated to the historic period, and the nearest prehistoric site, described as a small camp site with scattered lithic artifacts, was recorded 0.7 mile to the east. Two of the historic-period sites were located within 1,000 of the project area, consisting of a late 19th century wagon road known as the Oro Grande Wash Road and a group of structural remains, respectively. None of these previously recorded sites was found in the immediate vicinity of the project area, and thus none of them requires further consideration during this study.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Historic maps consulted for this study suggest that the project area is relatively low in sensitivity for cultural resources from the historic period. As Figures 5-8 illustrate, no evidence of any settlement or development activities were noted within the project area throughout the 1850s-1950s era. Although the famed Mormon Trail and the Oro Grande Wash Road were observed traversing within a half-mile to the northwest during the late 1890s (Fig. 5), the first man-made feature to be noted in the immediately vicinity of the project area was a short segment of dirt road along the alignment of Nisqualli Road, which was present by the early 1940s (Fig. 6).

Throughout the course of the 20th century, the project area remained in close proximity to one of the most important transportation corridors across the Mojave Desert, featuring the Mormon Trail, U.S. Route 66 during the early and mid-20th century, and finally Interstate Highway 15 (Figs. 2, 6-8). By the early 1950s, a second dirt road had appeared along the alignment of the Balsam Road (Fig. 8; NETR Online 1952). The segment of Nisqualli Road near the project location had become a paved road by 1968, but all of the surrounding developments date only to the 1980s-1990s (NETR Online 1968; 1995; USGS 1980). The project area itself, meanwhile, has remained undeveloped to the present time (NETR 1995-2012).

NATIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION

In response to CRM TECH's inquiry, the Native American Heritage Commission states in a letter dated July 14, 2016, that the sacred lands record search identified no Native American cultural

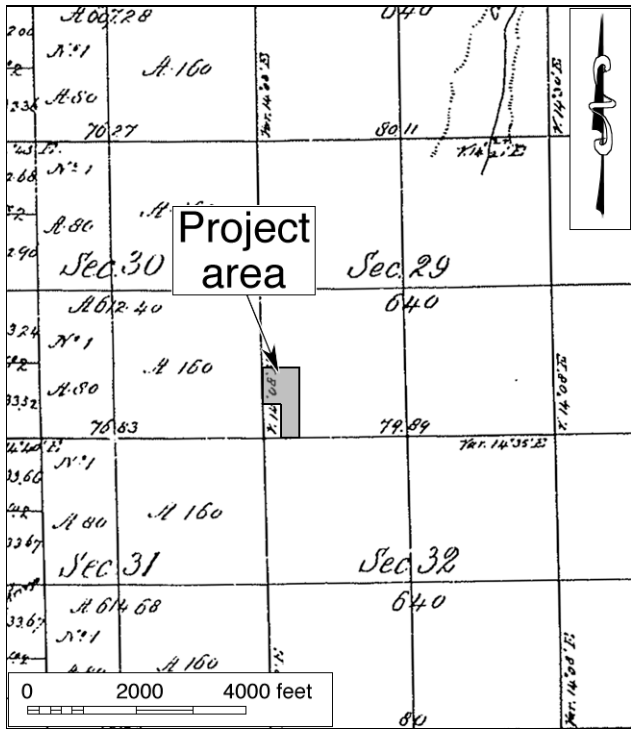


Figure 5. The project area and vicinity in 1853-1855.
(Source: GLO 1855)

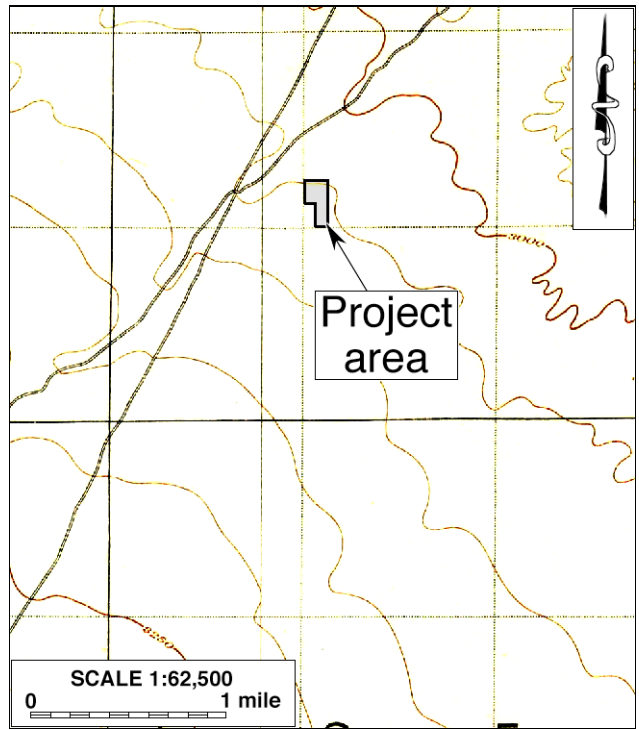


Figure 6. The project area and vicinity in 1898-1899.
(Source: USGS 1902)

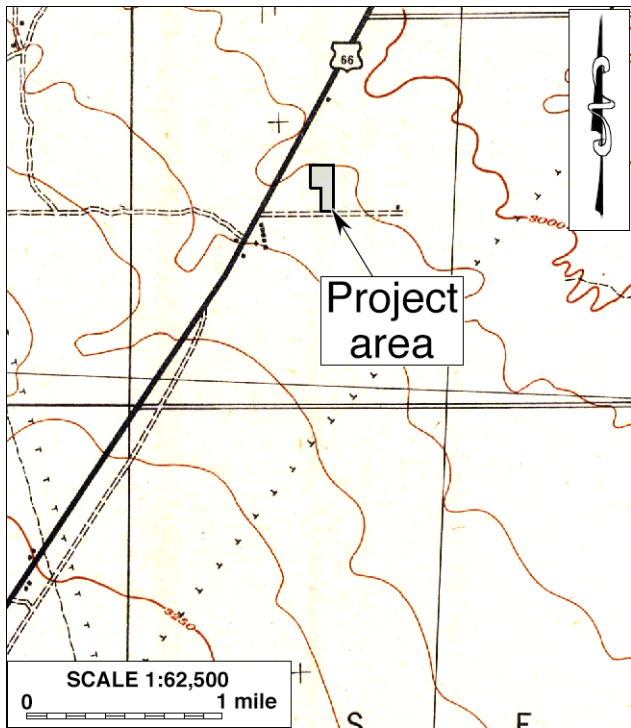


Figure 7. The project area and vicinity in 1940-1941.
(Source: USGS 1942)

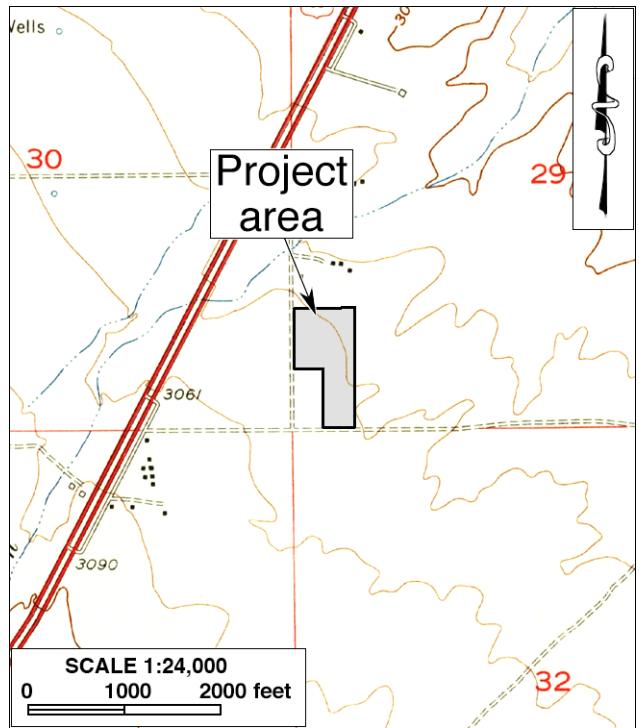


Figure 8. The project area and vicinity in 1952-1956.
(Source: USGS 1956)

resources in the project vicinity, but recommends that local Native American groups be contacted for further information. For that purpose, the commission provided a list of potential contacts in the region (see App. 2). Upon receiving the commission's reply, CRM TECH sent written requests for consultation to all six individuals on the referral list and the organizations they represent (see App. 2). In addition, as referred by the appropriate tribal government staff, the following designated spokespersons for the tribes were also contacted:

- David Harper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Colorado River Indian Tribes;
- Raymond Huaute, Cultural Resource Specialist, Morongo Band of Mission Indians;
- Daniel McCarthy, Director of Cultural Resources Management Department, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians;
- Anthony Madrigal, Jr., Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.

The requests for comments were sent to the tribal representatives on July 18, 2016. As of this time, none of the tribal representatives contacted has responded.

FIELD SURVEY

The field survey produced negative results for potential cultural resources. The entire project area was closely inspected for any evidence of human activities dating to the prehistoric or historic period, but none was found. A small amount of modern refuse were observed scattered along the project boundaries, as well as piles of soil, gravel, and construction debris, , but no buildings, structures, objects, sites, features, or artifacts more than 50 years of age were encountered during the survey.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study is to identify any cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area, and to assist the City of Victorville in determining whether such resources meet the official definition of "historical resources," as provided in the California Public Resources Code, in particular CEQA. According to PRC §5020.1(j), "'historical resource' includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California."

More specifically, CEQA guidelines state that the term "historical resources" applies to any such resources listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, included in a local register of historical resources, or determined to be historically significant by the Lead Agency (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(1)-(3)). Regarding the proper criteria for the evaluation of historical significance, CEQA guidelines mandate that "generally a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be 'historically significant' if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources" (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(3)). A resource may be listed in the California Register if it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (PRC §5024.1(c))

As discussed above, all research procedures conducted during this study have produced negative results, and no potential "historical resources" were encountered throughout the course of the study. Based on these findings, and in light of the criteria listed above, the present report concludes that *no historical resources exist within or adjacent to the project area.*

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CEQA establishes that "a project 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" (PRC §21084.1). "Substantial adverse change," according to PRC §5020.1(q), "means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of a historical resource would be impaired."

In summary of the research results outlined above, no "historical resources," as defined by CEQA, were encountered throughout the course of this study. Therefore, CRM TECH presents the following recommendations to the City of Victorville:

- No "historical resources" exist within or adjacent to the project area, and thus the project as currently proposed will not cause a substantial adverse change to any known "historical resources."
- No further cultural resources investigation is necessary for the proposed project unless development plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study.
- If buried cultural materials are discovered during any earth-moving operations associated with the project, all work in that area should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

REFERENCES

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 1902 Map: Hesperia, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); surveyed in 1898-1899.
 1942 Map: Hesperia, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); aerial photographs taken in 1940-1941.
 1956 Map: Hesperia, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); aerial photographs taken in 1952, field-checked in 1956.
 1969 Map: San Bernardino, Calif. (1:250,000); 1958 edition revised.
 1980 Map: Hesperia, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); 1956 edition photorevised in 1978.
 1993 Map: Victorville, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); 1956 edition photorevised in 1989.
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 1984 The Desert Region. In Michael J. Moratto (ed.): *California Archaeology*; pp. 339-430. Academic Press, Orlando, Florida.
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**APPENDIX 1:
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS**

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/HISTORIAN
Bai “Tom” Tang, M.A.**

Education

- 1988-1993 Graduate Program in Public History/Historic Preservation, UC Riverside.
1987 M.A., American History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
1982 B.A., History, Northwestern University, Xi’an, China.
- 2000 “Introduction to Section 106 Review,” presented by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the University of Nevada, Reno.
1994 “Assessing the Significance of Historic Archaeological Sites,” presented by the Historic Preservation Program, University of Nevada, Reno.

Professional Experience

- 2002- Principal Investigator, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
1993-2002 Project Historian/Architectural Historian, CRM TECH, Riverside, California.
1993-1997 Project Historian, Greenwood and Associates, Pacific Palisades, California.
1991-1993 Project Historian, Archaeological Research Unit, UC Riverside.
1990 Intern Researcher, California State Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.
1990-1992 Teaching Assistant, History of Modern World, UC Riverside.
1988-1993 Research Assistant, American Social History, UC Riverside.
1985-1988 Research Assistant, Modern Chinese History, Yale University.
1985-1986 Teaching Assistant, Modern Chinese History, Yale University.
1982-1985 Lecturer, History, Xi’an Foreign Languages Institute, Xi’an, China.

Honors and Awards

- 1988-1990 University of California Graduate Fellowship, UC Riverside.
1985-1987 Yale University Fellowship, Yale University Graduate School.
1980, 1981 President’s Honor List, Northwestern University, Xi’an, China.

Cultural Resources Management Reports

Preliminary Analyses and Recommendations Regarding California’s Cultural Resources Inventory System (With Special Reference to Condition 14 of NPS 1990 Program Review Report). California State Office of Historic Preservation working paper, Sacramento, September 1990.

Numerous cultural resources management reports with the Archaeological Research Unit, Greenwood and Associates, and CRM TECH, since October 1991.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/ARCHAEOLOGIST

Michael Hogan, Ph.D., RPA*

Education

- 1991 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of California, Riverside.
1981 B.S., Anthropology, University of California, Riverside; with honors.
1980-1981 Education Abroad Program, Lima, Peru.
- 2002 Section 106—National Historic Preservation Act: Federal Law at the Local Level.
UCLA Extension Course #888.
- 2002 “Recognizing Historic Artifacts,” workshop presented by Richard Norwood,
Historical Archaeologist.
- 2002 “Wending Your Way through the Regulatory Maze,” symposium presented by the
Association of Environmental Professionals.
- 1992 “Southern California Ceramics Workshop,” presented by Jerry Schaefer.
1992 “Historic Artifact Workshop,” presented by Anne Duffield-Stoll.

Professional Experience

- 2002- Principal Investigator, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
1999-2002 Project Archaeologist/Field Director, CRM TECH, Riverside.
1996-1998 Project Director and Ethnographer, Statistical Research, Inc., Redlands.
1992-1998 Assistant Research Anthropologist, University of California, Riverside
1992-1995 Project Director, Archaeological Research Unit, U. C. Riverside.
1993-1994 Adjunct Professor, Riverside Community College, Mt. San Jacinto College, U.C.
Riverside, Chapman University, and San Bernardino Valley College.
1991-1992 Crew Chief, Archaeological Research Unit, U. C. Riverside.
1984-1998 Archaeological Technician, Field Director, and Project Director for various southern
California cultural resources management firms.

Research Interests

Cultural Resource Management, Southern Californian Archaeology, Settlement and Exchange
Patterns, Specialization and Stratification, Culture Change, Native American Culture, Cultural
Diversity.

Cultural Resources Management Reports

Author and co-author of, contributor to, and principal investigator for numerous cultural resources
management study reports since 1986.

Memberships

* Register of Professional Archaeologists; Society for American Archaeology; Society for California
Archaeology; Pacific Coast Archaeological Society; Coachella Valley Archaeological Society.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGIST/REPORT WRITER
Deirdre Encarnación, M.A.

Education

- 2003 M.A., Anthropology, San Diego State University, California.
2000 B.A., Anthropology, minor in Biology, with honors; San Diego State University, California.
1993 A.A., Communications, Nassau Community College, Garden City, N.Y.
- 2001 Archaeological Field School, San Diego State University.
2000 Archaeological Field School, San Diego State University.

Professional Experience

- 2004- Project Archaeologist/Report Writer, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
2001-2003 Part-time Lecturer, San Diego State University, California.
2001 Research Assistant for Dr. Lynn Gamble, San Diego State University.
2001 Archaeological Collection Catalog, SDSU Foundation.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGIST
Nina Gallardo, B.A.

Education

- 2004 B.A., Anthropology/Law and Society, University of California, Riverside.

Professional Experience

- 2004- Project Archaeologist, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
• Surveys, excavations, mapping, and records searches.

Honors and Awards

- 2000-2002 Dean's Honors List, University of California, Riverside.

APPENDIX 2

**CORRESPONDENCE WITH
NATIVE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES***

* A total of ten local Native American representatives were contacted; a sample letter is included in this report.

SACRED LANDS FILE & NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS LIST REQUEST

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 Capitol Mall, RM 364
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4082
(916) 657-5390 (fax)
nahc@pacbell.net

Project: APNs 3092-401-01, -02, and -07 (CRM TECH Contract No. 3098)

County: San Bernardino

USGS Quadrangle Name: Hesperia and Victorville, Calif.

Township 5 North **Range** 4 West **SB BM; Section(s)** 29

Company/Firm/Agency: CRM TECH

Contact Person: Nina Gallardo

Street Address: 1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B

City: Colton, CA **Zip:** 92324

Phone: (909) 824-6400 **Fax:** (909) 824-6405

Email: ngallardo@crmtech.us

Project Description: The primary component of the project is a commercial development on 13.72 acres of vacant land located near the northeast corner of Nisqualli Road and Balsam Road in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California.

July 13, 2016

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 373-3710
(916) 373-5471 FAX



July 14, 2016

Nina Gallardo
CRM TECH

Sent by E-mail: ngallardo@crmtech.us
Number of Pages:

RE: Proposed APN 3092-401-01, -02, and -07 Project (CRM TECH Contract No. 3098), City of Victorville, Hesperia and Victorville USGS Quadrangles, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Ms. Gallardo:

Attached is a contact list of tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the above referenced counties. A search of the SFL was completed for the USGS quadrangle information provided with negative results.

Our records indicate that the lead agency for this project has not requested a Native American Consultation List for the purposes of formal consultation. Lists for cultural resource assessments are different than consultation lists. Please note that the intent of the referenced codes below is to avoid or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, as defined, for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) projects under AB-52.

As of July 1, 2015, Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 and 21080.3.2 **require public agencies** to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1(d))

The law does not preclude agencies from initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated with their jurisdictions. The NAHC believes that in fact that this is the best practice to ensure that tribes are consulted commensurate with the intent of the law.

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1(d), formal notification must include a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. The NAHC believes that agencies should also include with their notification letters information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the APE, such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:
 - A listing of any and all known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE;
 - Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
 - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.

- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the potential APE; and
 - If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:
 - Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.
 - All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code Section 6254.10.
 3. The results of any Sacred Lands File (SFL) check conducted through Native American Heritage Commission.
 4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the potential APE; and
 5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the potential APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS is not exhaustive, and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a cultural place. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the case that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

The results of these searches and surveys should be included in the "Tribal Cultural Resources" subsection of the Cultural Resources section of the environmental document submitted for review.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our consultation list contains current information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: gayle.totton@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Gayle Totton, M.A., PhD.
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Native American Heritage Commission
Tribal Consultation List
San Bernardino County
7/14/2016

Colorado River Indian Tribe

Dennis Patch, Chairman
26600 Mojave Road
Parker, AZ, 85344
Phone: (928)669-9211
Fax: (928) 669-1925
crit.museum@yahoo.com

Chemehuevi
Mojave

**Morongo Band of Mission
Indians**

Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951)849-8807
Fax: (951) 922-8146

Cahuilla
Serrano

**San Fernando Band of Mission
Indians**

John Valenzuela, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA, 91322
Phone: (760) 885-0955
tsen2u@hotmail.com

Kitanemuk
Serrano
Tataviam

**San Manuel Band of Mission
Indians**

Lynn Valbuena, Chairperson
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909)864-8933
Fax: (909) 864-3370

Serrano

**Serrano Nation of Mission
Indians**

Goldie Walker, Chairperson
P.O. Box 343
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (909)528-9027

Serrano

**Twenty-Nine Palms Band of
Mission Indians**

Darrell Mike, Chairperson
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA, 92236
Phone: (760)863-2444
Fax: (760) 863-2449
lthomas@29palmsbomi-nsi.gov

Chemehuevi

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 Resources Code and Section 6097.98 of the Public Resources Code and section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21060.3.1 for the proposed APNs 3092-401-01, -02, and -07, San Bernardino County.

July 18, 2016

Robert Martin, Chairperson
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
49750 Seminole Drive
Cabazon, CA 92220

RE: Commercial Development Project
APNs 3092-401-01, -02, and -07
13 Acres in the City of Victorville
San Bernardino County, California
CRM TECH Contract #3098

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am writing to bring to your attention an ongoing CEQA-compliance study for the proposed project referenced above. The project entails the construction of a gas station/convenience store and a car wash on approximately 13 acres of undeveloped land located near the northeast corner of Balsam Road and Nisqualli Road. The accompanying map, based on the USGS Hesperia and Victorville, Calif., 7.5' quadrangles, depicts the location of the project area in the southwest quarter of Section 29, T5N R4W, SBBM.

In a letter dated July 14, 2016, the Native American Heritage Commission reports that the sacred lands record search identified no Native American cultural resources within the project boundaries, but recommends that local Native American groups be contacted for further information (see attached). Therefore, as part of the cultural resources study for this project, I am writing to request your input on potential Native American cultural resources in or near the project area.

Please respond at your earliest convenience if you have any specific knowledge of sacred/religious sites or other sites of Native American traditional cultural value in or near the project area to consider as part of the cultural resources investigation. Any information or concerns may be forwarded to CRM TECH by telephone, e-mail, facsimile, or standard mail. Requests for documentation or information we cannot provide will be forwarded to our client and/or the lead agency, namely the City of Victorville. We would also like to clarify that CRM TECH, as the cultural resources consultant for the project, is not the appropriate entity to initiate government-to-government consultations or the AB 52-compliance process. Thank you for your time and effort in addressing this important matter.

Respectfully,

Nina Gallardo
Project Archaeologist/Native American liaison
CRM TECH
Email: ngallardo@crmtech.us