

September 23, 2021

Ryan Young
Phoenix Biological Consulting
313 Nicole Drive
Vista, CA 92084

Subject: Paleontological/Cultural Resources Assessment for 24-Acre Project, City of Victorville,
County of San Bernardino, California (Project Number C-0370)

Dear Mr. Young:

At the request of Phoenix Biological Consulting (CLIENT), Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC (DUKE CRM) has prepared a paleontological and cultural resources assessment for the development of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 3072-211-13 & 16 (Project), located in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The Project is approximately 24-acres in size. The City of Victorville (CITY) is the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Project is located in Section 1, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, as shown on the USGS *Hesperia, Calif* 7.5' quadrangle map (see Attachment A, Project Location Map). It is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Bear Valley Road and Amethyst Road (see Attachment A, Project Aerial Map). The Project, Amethyst Crossing, is a new shopping center that will be located on an undeveloped 11.2 acre property at the southeast corner of the intersection of Bear Valley Road and Amethyst Road in Victorville, CA with APN 30722113 & 30722116. The total 24 acres was surveyed and analyzed in this report but only the two upper parcels (307-221-13 & -16) are slated for development. When fully built out it will have 98,000 square feet of new retail, restaurant, and office area. The main tenant building will have a 43,000 sf grocery (Major A), 29,500 sf single or double tenancy (Major B) and 5,100 sf of shops. In addition, there will be three restaurant pad buildings of 2,400 sf, 4,000 sf and 4,500 sf, each with an anticipated drive-up service window, a 4,500 sf financial services building, and a 5,000 sf retail/shops building. Trash enclosures will occur throughout the site, proximate to the uses they serve. Approximately 464 parking spaces are provided. There will also be approximately 17 EV charging stations to help reduce the project's carbon footprint and minimize impacts to global warming.

Project construction is anticipated to take approximately one year. Initial project activities will include grubbing and grading of the project site, excavation, trench digging, paving, and building construction. All equipment is planned to be staged, and materials (including a construction trailer) will be stored within the footprint of the planned development. Construction equipment will likely include the use of scrapers, graders, excavators, pavers and other small equipment (bobcats, lifts, etc.). The project site will be accessed from the existing Bear Valley Road and site disturbance associated with equipment access will be minimized as much as possible. The work will be completed generally during daylight hours; nighttime work is not anticipated at this time.

Paleontological Resources

On July 28, 2021, DUKE CRM requested that the San Bernardino County Museum perform a paleontological records search for known fossil localities within and in the vicinity of the Project. After several attempts to follow-up with no response, DUKE CRM learned on September 17, 2001 that the SBCM does not currently have a paleontologist on staff and is not performing this research. DUKE CRM has prepared this assessment of the Project area's paleontological sensitivity based on published data.

DUKE CRM performed a search of the online University of California Museum of Paleontology collections, San Diego Natural History Museum collections, Paleobiology Database, and NEOTOMA, and other published literature for nearby (within 3 miles) fossil localities in similar deposits. These searches produced one nearby fossil locality, “El Evado Edison Road” (SBCM 1.114.29), which produced fossil remains of extinct horse (*Equus*), camel (*Camelidae*), and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus*) from Pleistocene-age deposits (2.5 million years ago to 11,700 years ago) an unspecified depth north of the project area (Jefferson 1991a, b).

The geology in the vicinity of the Project has been mapped by Morton and Miller (2006) at a scale of 1:100,000. A review of this map indicates the Project is underlain entirely by young alluvial fan deposits (*Qyf*) (Attachment A, Map 4 – Geology). In the project area, young alluvial fan deposits are composed of uniform, medium brown silt and sand containing sparse granule and pebble lenses and scattered, matrix-supported, pebble-sized clasts (Morton and Miller 2006) deposited in the Holocene Epoch (11,700 years ago to today).

Holocene-age deposits are typically assigned a low paleontological sensitivity, as their young age prevents the accumulation and preservation of significant biological material. However, Holocene deposits often transition with depth into older, high sensitivity Pleistocene-age deposits. The City of Victorville General Plan 2030 Draft Environmental Impact Report (p. 5.5-15 – 5.5-16) assigns a high paleontological potential to the Project limits, due to the potential for older Pleistocene deposits at depth.

Morgan Bender, M.A., RPA, Archaeologist at DUKE CRM, who is cross-trained in the identification of paleontological resources, conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project on August 19, 2021 with parallel transects spaced no greater than 15 meters (m) apart. The survey included the 24-acres in the area of the proposed Project (see Attachment A, Aerial Map). The surface visibility was good, ranging from 90-100 percent. The area has sparsely scattered small bushes and debris with a mean elevation of approximately 3225 feet above sea level. Two minor roads have been graded through the site. See photographs in Attachment B. No paleontological resources were observed as a result of the field survey.

Cultural Resources

On July 27, 2021, DUKE CRM requested a records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC). The SCCIC records search results are pending as of August 27, 2021. The SCCIC data will be included in an updated report once the data become available. The SCCIC is part of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) and is located at California State University, Fullerton. The records search will include a review of all recorded cultural resources and reports within a 1/2-mile radius of the Project. In addition, the California Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) was examined, which includes the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California Historical Landmarks (CHL), and California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI). The BERD failed to identify cultural resources within the Project Area.

The cultural resources records search was obtained from the SCCIC on September 23, 2021. The SCCIC reported that no cultural resources have been previously identified with the Project. Three resources are reported within the 1/2-mile search radius (Table 1). The resources consist of the remnants of the Oro Grande Wash Road and associated trash scatters dating from both pre- and post-WWII.

Table 1: Cultural Resources within 1/2 mile of the Project

Resource No.	Site Type	Description	NRHP/CRHR Eligibility	Distance
P-36-004269	Historic-era site	Oro Grande Wash Road	Not evaluated	0.1 miles
P-36-021381	Historic-era site	Historic trash scatters	Not eligible	0.2 miles

Resource No.	Site Type	Description	NRHP/CRHR Eligibility	Distance
P-36-032469	Historic-era site	Historic trash scatters	Not evaluated	0.4 miles

SCCIC records indicate two cultural resources reports cover the Project and an additional nine reports cover portions of the ½-mile search radius (Table 2). Report SB-00986 covers several sections, including the Project area as part of a water line assessment. No resources were reported with the Project area. Report SB-04975 is a linear assessment of existing pipelines. No resources were recorded as a result of the assessment.

Table 1: Cultural Resource Reports within ½ mile of the Project

Report No.	Year	Report Title	Authors	Sites within or adjacent to APE
SB-00372	1976	Archaeological – Historical Resources Assessment of Approximately 52 acres West of Interstate 15 and South of Bear Valley Road Cut-off, Sec. 1, T4N R5W	Harris, Ruth D.	None
SB-00986	1980	Baldy Mesa Water Lines, Cultural Resources Assessment	Reynolds, Robert E..	None
SB-04412	2004	Cultural Resource Assessment of a 1.5 acre Parcel in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA.	Cerreto, Richard and Christy Malan	None
SB-04975	2005	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Baldy Mesa Water District Arsenic Treatment Project, Cities of Victorville and Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California.	Wetherbee, Matthew	None
SB-05219	2006	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Baldy Mesa Water District Well Sites and Pipeline Project, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California.	Tang, Bai, Michael Hogan, Josh Smallwood and Laura Hensley Shaker	None
SB-05466	2007	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Victor Valley Water District Pipeline Project, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California	Tang, Bai, Josh Smallwood and Laura Hensley Shaker	None
SB-07081	2010	Cultural Resources Assessment for the Mojave Water Agency Oro Grande Wash Recharge (OGWR) Project, San Bernardino County, CA	Gust, Sherri	None
SB-07156	2011	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Water Supply System Improvements Projects, Fiscal Years 2010/2011 – 2014/2015, Victorville Water District, San Bernardino County, California.	Tang, Bai “Tom”, Daniel Ballester, and Nina Gallardo	None
SB-07495	2011	Cultural Resource Assessment for the Mojave Water Agency Groundwater Regional Recharge and Recovery (R3) Project, San Bernardino County, California.	Gust, Sherri and Molly Valasik	None
SB-07496	2012	Monitoring Compliance Report for Construction of the Mojave Water Agency Regional Recharge and Recovery (R3) Project, San Bernardino County, California.	Gust, Sherri and Courtney Richards	None
SB-07971	2007	Cultural Resources Survey of Approximately 522.7 Acres Within the Oro Grande Wash North - Recharge Basins Project Area for the Mojave Water Agency Water Banking Project	McDougall, Dennis	None

An inquiry to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was submitted to ascertain the presence of known sacred sites, Native American cultural resources, and/or human remains within the boundaries of the proposed Project. On July 23, 2021, the NAHC indicated that there have been Native American cultural resources identified within their Sacred Lands File for the Project location. They recommended contacting the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe.

Morgan Bender, M.A., RPA, Archaeologist at DUKE CRM, conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project on August 19, 2021 as described above. No cultural resources were observed as a result of the field survey.

Conclusions

DUKE CRM assessed the proposed Project for impacts to paleontological and cultural resources according to CEQA. Research and pedestrian survey did not identify either cultural or paleontological resources on the surface of the Project boundaries. It is unlikely either prehistoric or historic-era resources are present within the Project, and no further investigation is warranted.

Based on published data, the Project is considered to have a high sensitivity for paleontological resources at depths exceeding 4 feet. This would result in potentially significant impacts to paleontological resources according to CEQA. Therefore, paleontological construction monitoring is recommended during ground disturbance within the Project. This, along with appropriate recording and recovery efforts, will mitigate the potential impact to a level that is less than significant for the purposes of CEQA.

Paleontological Monitoring

A paleontological monitor shall be present during ground disturbing activities below 4 feet in depth within the Project. The monitor shall work under the direct supervision of a qualified paleontologist (B.S./B.A. in geology, or related discipline with an emphasis in paleontology and demonstrated competence in paleontological research, fieldwork, reporting, and curation).

1. The qualified paleontologist shall be on-site at the pre-construction meeting to discuss monitoring protocols.
2. The paleontological monitor shall be present full-time during initial ground disturbance below 4 feet in depth within the Project, including but not limited to grading, trenching, utilities, and off-site easements. If, after excavation begins, the qualified paleontologist determines that the sediments are not likely to produce fossil resources, monitoring efforts shall be reduced.
3. The monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect grading efforts if paleontological resources are discovered.
4. In the event of a paleontological discovery the monitor shall flag the area and notify the construction crew immediately. No further disturbance in the flagged area shall occur until the qualified paleontologist has cleared the area.
5. In consultation with the qualified paleontologist, the monitor shall quickly assess the nature and significance of the find. If the specimen is not significant it shall be quickly mapped, documented, removed, and the area cleared.
6. If the discovery is significant the qualified paleontologist shall notify the CLIENT and CITY immediately.
7. In consultation with the CLIENT and CITY the qualified paleontologist shall develop a plan of mitigation which will likely include full-time monitoring, salvage excavation, scientific removal of the find, removal of sediment from around the specimen (in the laboratory), research to identify and categorize the find, curation of the find in a local qualified repository, and preparation of a report summarizing the find.

The Project Area is considered to have low sensitivity for cultural resources and it is not likely that cultural resources will be impacted by the Project. DUKE CRM does not recommend any additional work for cultural resources. Project changes may have the potential to disturb sediment that are previously undisturbed and may impact previously unidentified cultural resources.

If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the 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 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 the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Thank you for contacting DUKE CRM on this Project. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (714) 345-9883, or by e-mail at brianglenn@dukecrm.com.

Sincerely,

DUKE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC



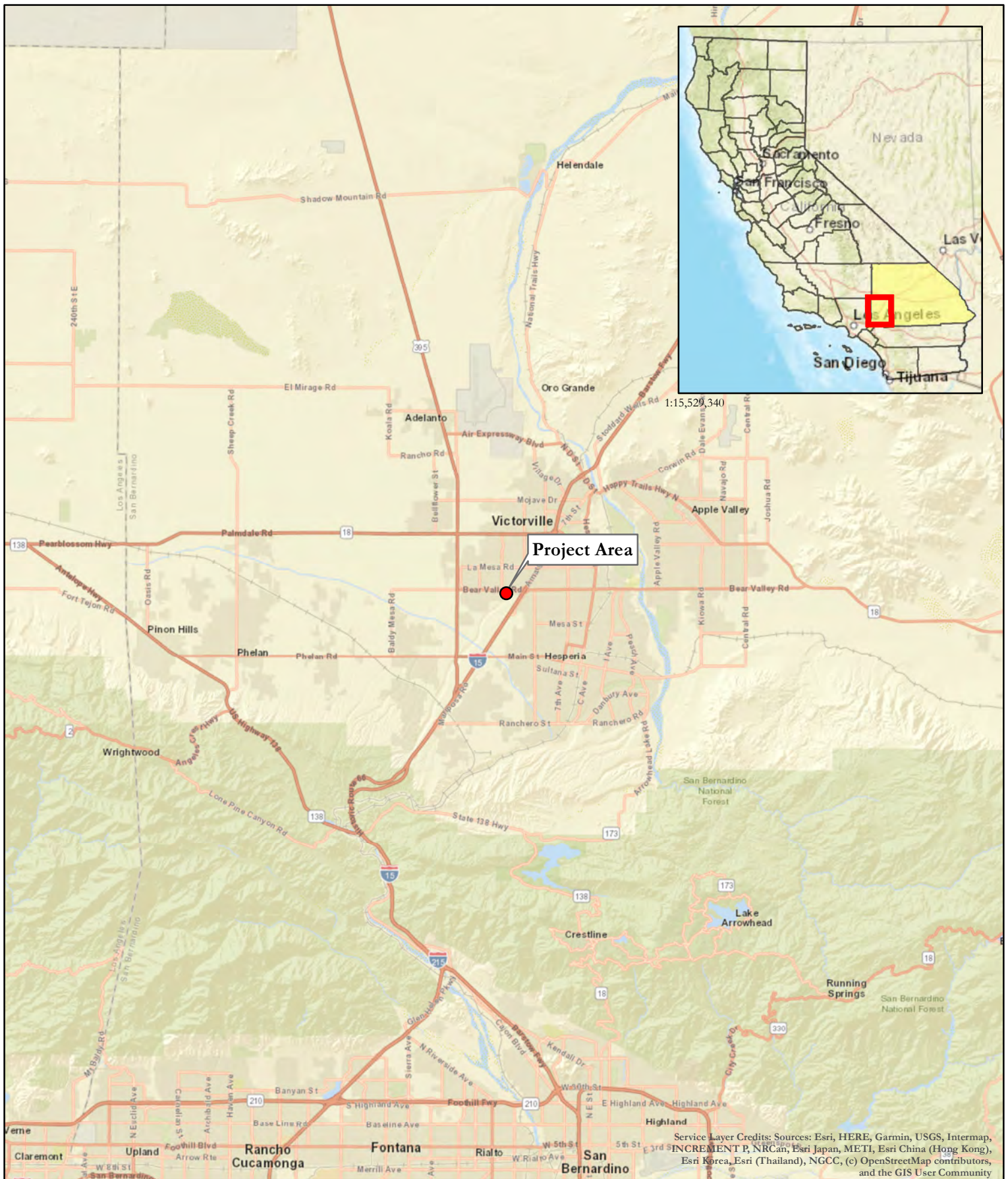
Brian K. Glenn
Principal Archaeologist

Attachments

- A: Project Maps
- B: Project Photographs

ATTACHMENT A

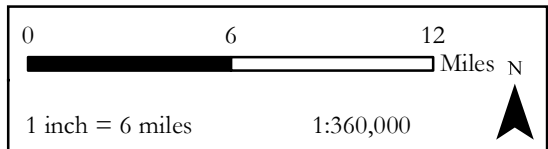
PROJECT MAPS



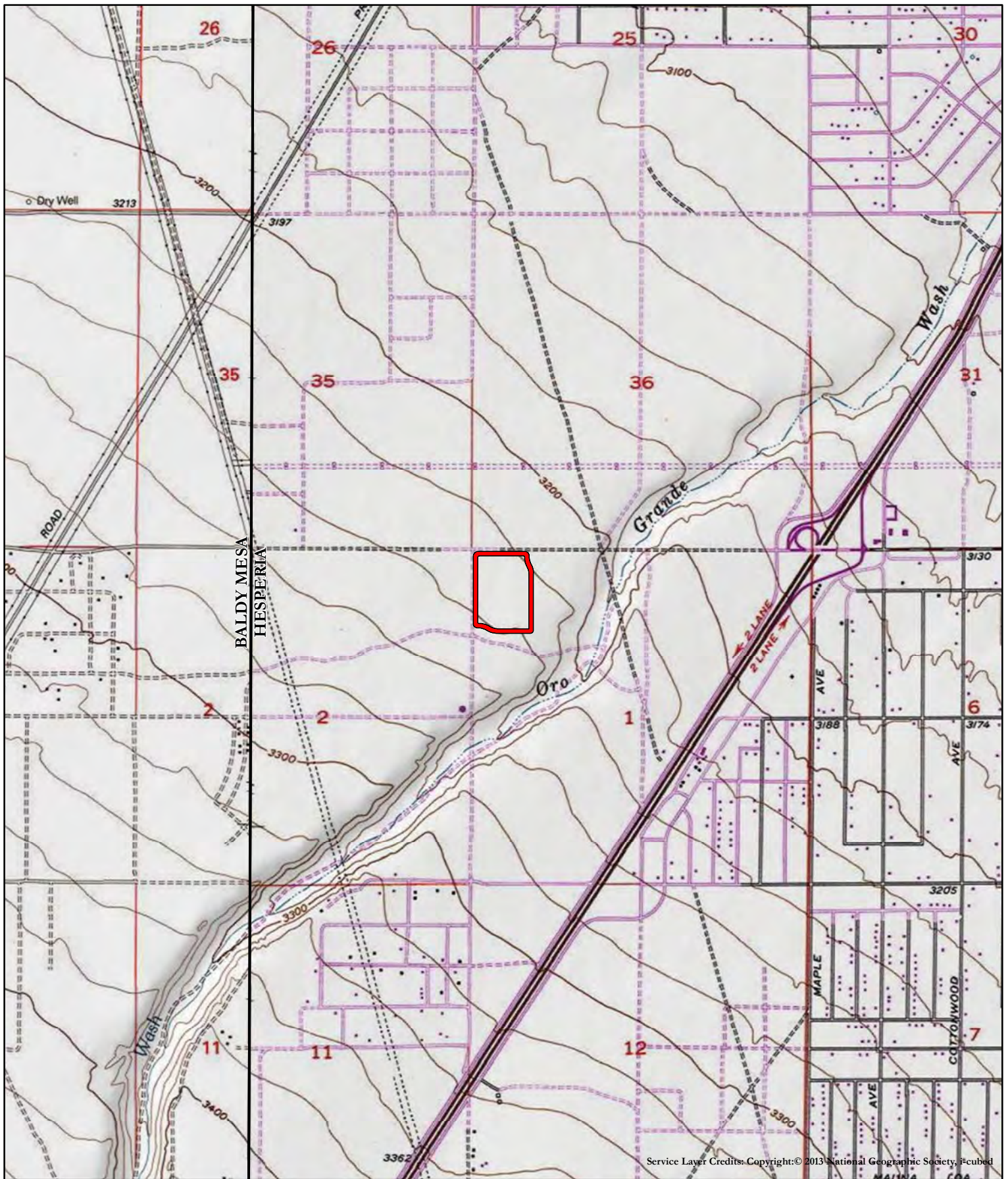
Map 1 - Project Vicinity
 24-acre Victorville, C-0370



● Project Area



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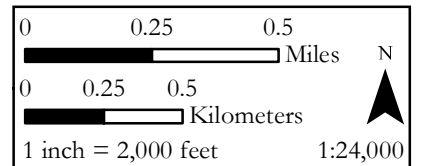


Map 2 - Project Location
 24-acre Victorville, C-0370

Hesperia, Calif USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle
 T4N, R5W, Section 1
 Date of Map: 1956 / Photorevised: 1980



- ▭ Project Boundary
- USGS 7.5' Quads



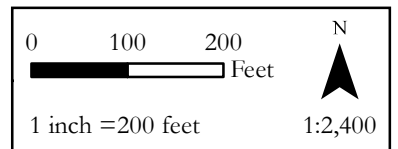
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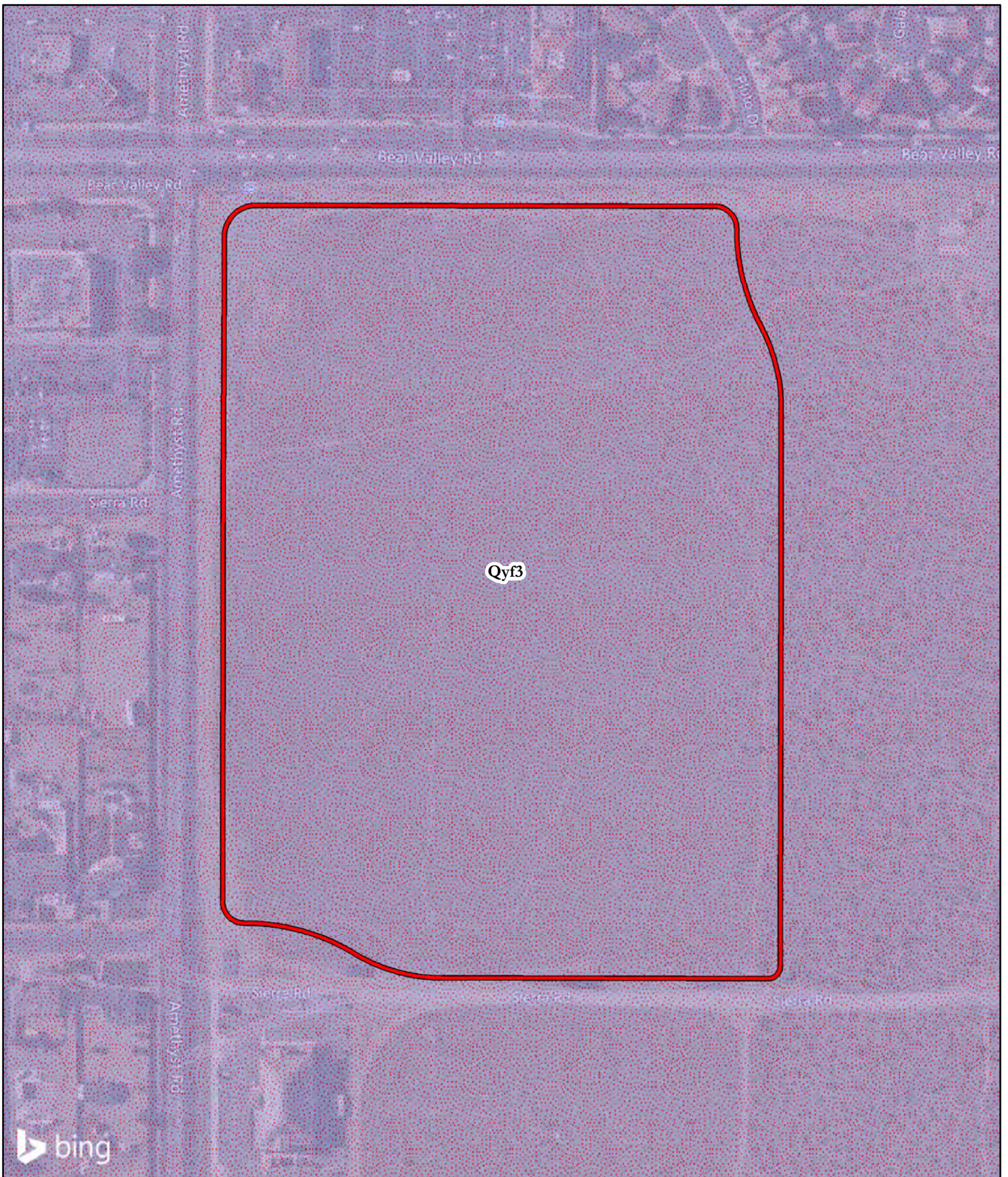


Map 3 - Project Aerial
24-acre Victorville, C-0370



 Project Area




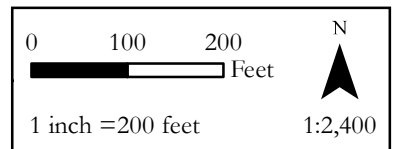


Map 4 - Project Geology
 24-acre Victorville, C-0370



 Project Area

Geology from Morton and Miller (2006):
 Qyf3: young alluvial-fan deposits, Unit 3



ATTACHMENT B

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Project overview. View to north.



Project overview. View to east.



Project overview. View to southeast.



Ground cover/ vegetation. View to south.



Path through Project. View to northeast.



Ground cover/ rodent disturbance. View to north.



Concrete debris in north end of site. View to northwest.



Project overview. View to northwest.