



# Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project

## Cultural Resources Assessment

*prepared for*

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# Executive Summary

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## Purpose and Scope

The City of Whittier (City) retained Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) to conduct a cultural resources assessment for the Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project (project) located in the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California. The project is in response to necessary repairs and improvements to the existing Murphy West Reservoir and Murphy East Reservoir, collectively referred to as the Murphy Reservoirs.

This assessment was prepared to support compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and applicable local guidelines and regulations. The City is the lead agency under CEQA. The assessment was prepared in accordance with best professional practices and includes searches of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF), background and archival research, review of historical maps and aerial imagery, a pedestrian archaeological and built environment field survey of the project site, and preparation of this report.

## Dates of Investigation

Rincon contacted the NAHC on June 23, 2021 to request a SLF search and to obtain contact information for Native American groups or individuals who may have knowledge of cultural resources within the reservoir sites. On July 15, 2021, the NAHC provided a response stating the SLF search was completed with negative results. A pedestrian field survey of the project site was completed on August 19, 2021.

## Summary of Findings

The background research and survey confirmed the project site contains one site comprised of two reservoir tanks, a retention basin reservoir, and a booster pump station that are at least 45 years of age and serve as the Murphy Reservoirs, providing water for the City of Whittier. As a result of the current study, the Murphy Reservoirs (subject property) is recommended ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or as a City of Whittier Landmark under any applicable criteria. The Murphy Reservoirs were constructed in 1955 as part of the city's expansion. The research conducted for this study demonstrated that although associated with the development of the city, it was part of an expected response to the increasing need for a reliable water system and is not significant to the city's history.

This study concluded that the property does not meet the requirements for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or a City of Whittier Landmark and, therefore, does not qualify as a historical resource under CEQA. Based on the findings of the current investigation, Rincon recommends a finding of ***no impact*** under CEQA.

The results of the SCCIC records search, negative SLF search, background research, and archaeological field survey indicate there are no known archaeological resources in the project site. In the event cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the

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immediate area must halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) must be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the discovery proves to be eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR, additional work may be warranted, such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation to treat the find.

If human remains are unexpectedly encountered, the State of California 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. In the unlikely event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human 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). The MLD has 48 hours from being granted site access to make recommendations for the disposition of the remains. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the landowner shall reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from subsequent disturbance. With adherence to these recommendations (presented in Section 6), Rincon recommends a finding of ***less than significant impact to archaeological resources with mitigation*** under CEQA.

# 1 Introduction

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The City of Whittier (City) retained Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) to conduct a cultural resources assessment for the Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project (project) located in the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California. The project is in response to necessary repairs and improvements to the existing Murphy West Reservoir and Murphy East Reservoir, collectively referred to as the Murphy Reservoirs.

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## 1.1 Project Location

Located at 7900 Ocean View Avenue in Whittier, Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1), the project site is located on City-owned property. The project site is depicted on Township 02 South, Range 11 West, Section 26 of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Whittier* 7.5-minute quadrangle (Figure 2). The site is surrounded by designated open space lands within the La Cañada Verde Open Space Area (“Open Space Area”), which is managed by the Puente Hills Native Habitat Preservation Authority (“Habitat Authority”).

## 1.2 Project Description

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore the integrity and storage capacity for the existing Murphy Reservoirs, thereby facilitating the City’s ability to continue providing a clean, reliable water supply to its residents. Both Murphy Reservoirs were constructed in 1955 with a storage capacity of 500,000 gallons per reservoir. The existing reservoirs are both cylindrical concrete reservoirs with a diameter of 60 feet and height of 24 feet (City of Whittier 2016a). The City has determined through previous analyses and feasibility investigations that the recommended course of action at this time is to replace both reservoirs. Under the proposed project, the two existing reservoirs would be replaced by one new reservoir, located on the same site as the existing reservoirs.

The replacement of the existing Reservoirs is included in the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP), based upon a condition assessment conducted in November 2016 and the City’s Water Master Plan Update of 2018. The CIP identifies the proposed project as CIP No. WF-01, Murphy West and East Reservoirs Replacement (City of Whittier 2018). The CIP describes that the replacement reservoirs would be built with a capacity of 1.0 million gallons (MG) for in-kind replacement of the existing reservoirs’ capacity; however, to address the water storage and conveyance requirements described in the City’s Water Master Plan Update (City of Whittier 2016a) and the City’s Urban Water Management Plan (City of Whittier 2016b), the replacement reservoir will have a storage capacity of approximately 2.31 MG.

Figure 1 Vicinity Map

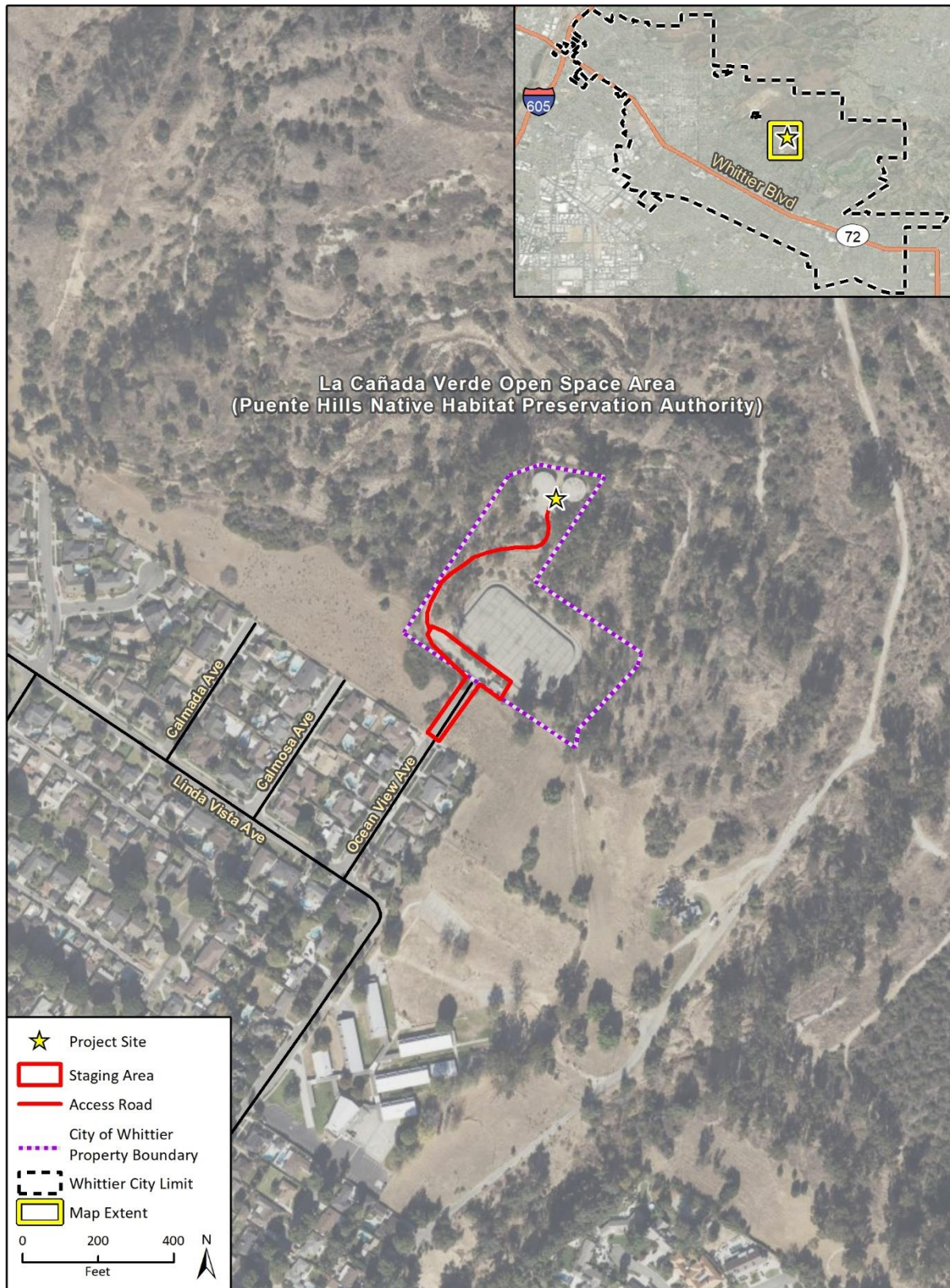
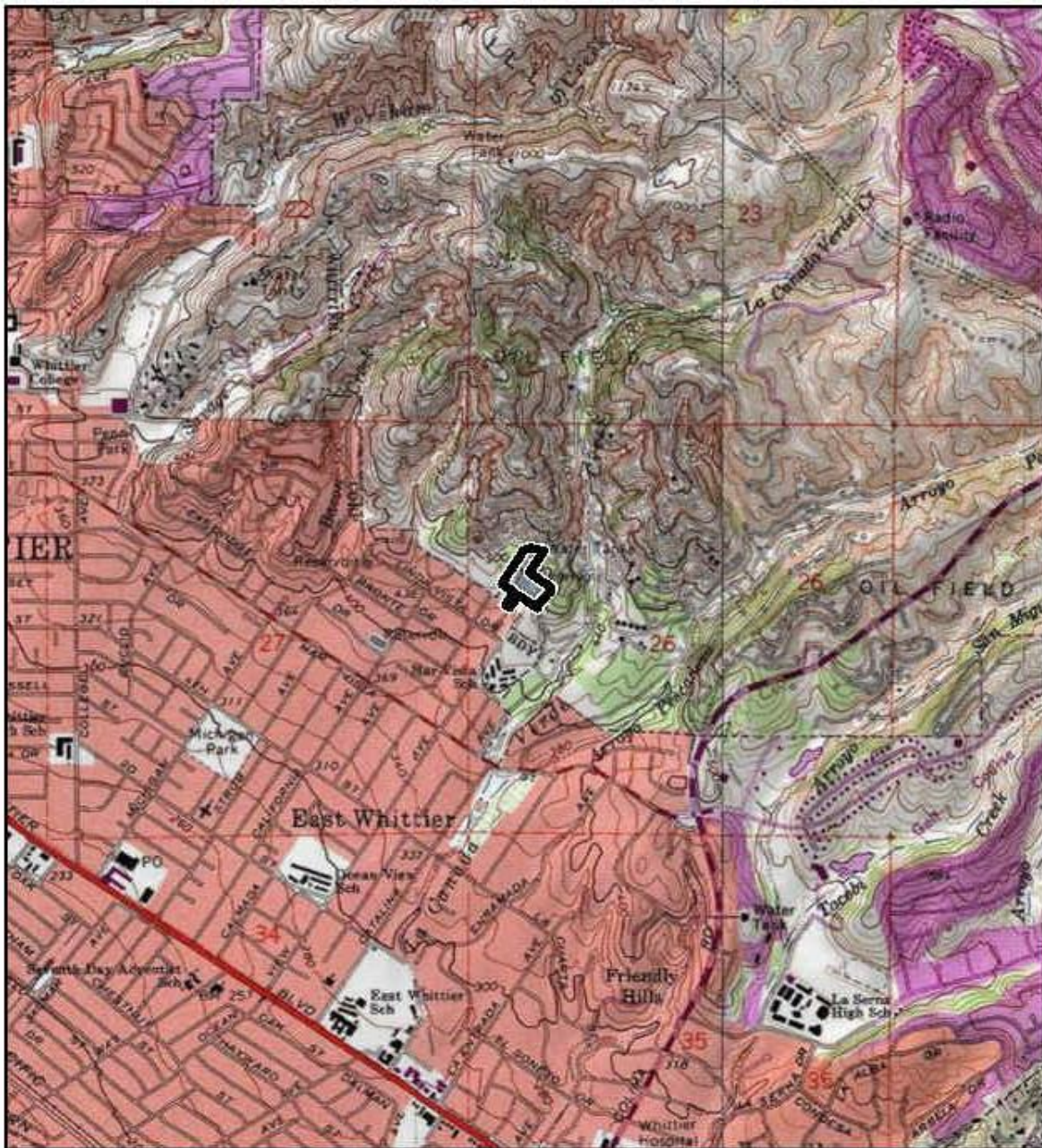




Figure 2 Project Location Map



Imagery provided by National Geographic Society, Esri, and their licensors © 2021. Whittier Quadrangle, T02S R11W S26. The topographic representation depicted in this map may not portray all of the features currently found in the vicinity today and/or features depicted in this map may have changed since the original topographic map was assembled.



**Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project**

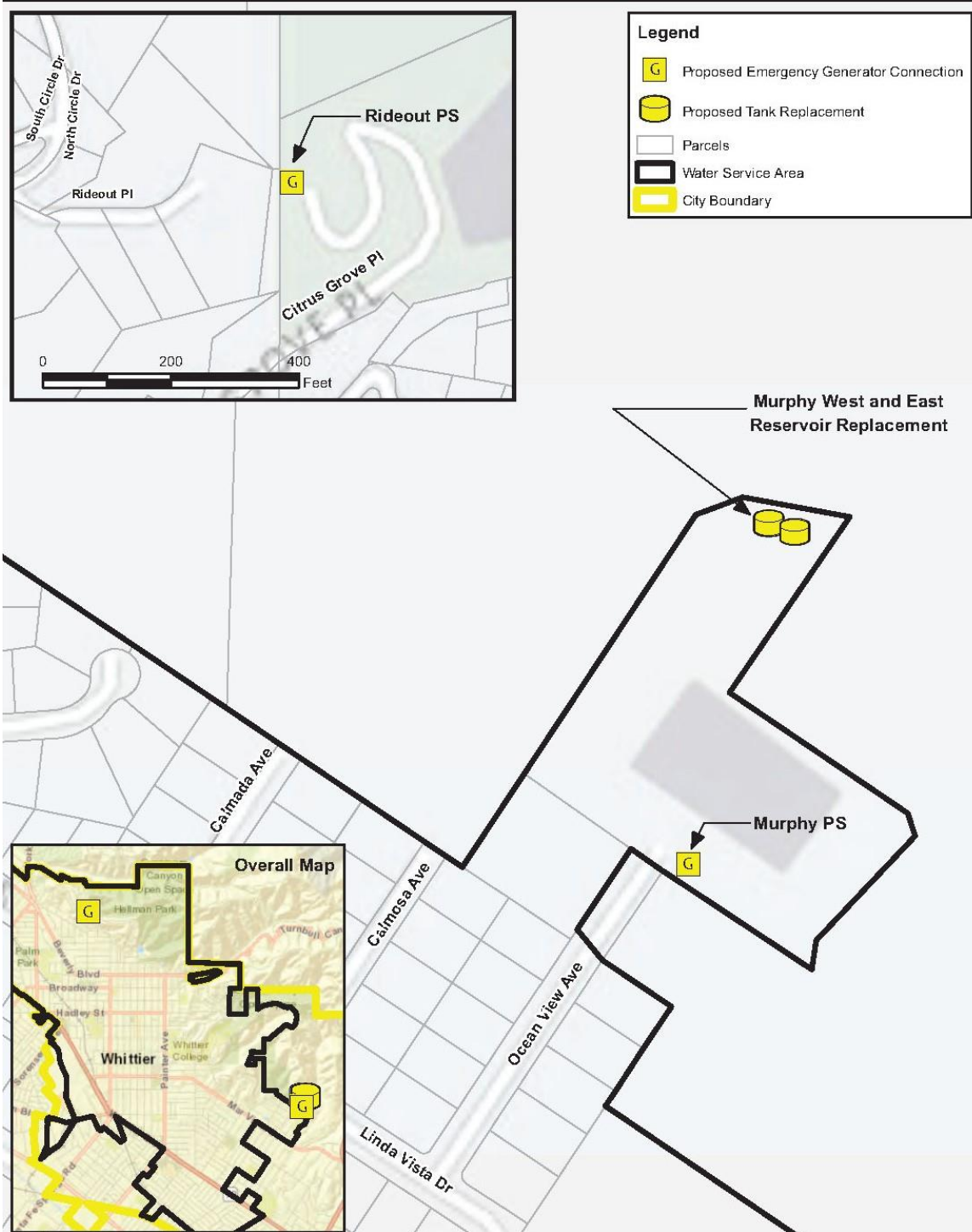
Implementation of the proposed project would include demolishing the existing reservoirs, constructing a new reservoir, and replacing all other site infrastructure. To ensure a continuous supply of water to Zone 577, City-owned portable generators would be delivered to Murphy Pump Station and Greenleaf Pump Station, for use in ensuring continuous power to Painter Reservoir while the Murphy Reservoirs are under construction; Painter Reservoir provides water supply service to the same pressure zone (577) as the Murphy Reservoirs, and would remain in operation throughout construction of the proposed project. In addition, the City will install an automatic transfer switch (ATS) at each pump station, to provide the continuous delivery of electric power from one of two power sources to electrical equipment. This would ensure uninterrupted water supply service to Zone 577 while Murphy Reservoirs are reliant upon smaller, temporary storage reservoirs during the construction period. Installation of the ATS components would be a simple electrical upgrade and would involve no ground disturbance. Figure 3 portrays the location of the existing Murphy Reservoirs in relation to the existing Murphy Pump Station and Greenleaf Pump Station. Additional improvements to Murphy Pump Station would be implemented under CIP No. WR-04, *Murphy Pump Station Improvements*; however, such additional improvements are separate and independent of the proposed project.

The replacement reservoir would be comprised of pre-stressed concrete and would be situated partially below-ground, whereas the existing reservoirs are entirely above-ground and cast in place concrete. The new reservoir and all appurtenances will be certified as meeting the specifications of National Sanitation Foundation International/American National Standards Institute (NSF/ANSI) Standard 61 for drinking water contact. The purpose of this design is to provide geotechnical integrity and stability while accommodating the replacement reservoir's storage capacity of 2.31 MG. As mentioned above, the existing reservoirs' combined capacity is 1.0 MG, although the existing reservoirs are currently only providing 0.5 MG of storage, as the Murphy West Reservoir has been out of commission since 2015. The replacement reservoir's capacity of 2.31 MG is designed to fully address the current water storage deficiency in Zone 577 of 1.81 MG plus the capacity of the Murphy West Reservoir of 0.5 MG.

### 1.3 Personnel

Cultural Resources Assistant Project Manager Pedro Gonzalez completed the cultural resources records search request, SLF request, and field survey for the project. Cultural Resources Project Manager Matthew Gonzalez and Architectural Historian Project Manager JulieAnn Murphy authored this report. Senior Architectural Historian Steven Treffers, MHP, provided senior oversight. Principal and Senior Archaeologist Christopher A. Duran, MA, RPA, managed the archaeological analysis summarized in this report and reviewed this report for quality assurance and quality control. GIS Analyst Allysen Valencia prepared the figures found in the report. Mr. Treffers and Mr. Duran both meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards in their respective fields (36 CFR, Part 61).

Figure 3 Murphy Reservoirs and Murphy Pump Station



Source: City of Whittier 2018 (Exhibit WF-01)

## 2 Regulatory Setting

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This section includes a discussion of the applicable state and local laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards governing cultural resources that should be adhered to before and during implementation of the proposed project.

### 2.1 California Environmental Quality Act

California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21804.1 requires lead agencies determine if a project could have a significant impact on historical resources. As defined in PRC Section 21084.1, a historical resource is a resource listed in, or determined eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); a resource included in a local register of historical resources or identified in a historical resources survey pursuant to PRC Section 5024.1(g); or any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant. PRC Section 21084.1 also states a resource meeting any of the above criteria is generally considered historically or cultural significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates otherwise. Resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are automatically listed in the CRHR and are, therefore, historical resources under CEQA.

According to CEQA, an effect that results in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is considered a significant effect on the environment. A substantial adverse change could result from physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of the historical resource would be materially impaired (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 [b][1]). Material impairment is defined as demolition or alteration in an adverse manner [of] those characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for inclusion in, the CRHR or a local register (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5[b][2][A]).

#### National Register of Historic Places

Although the project does not have a federal nexus, properties which are listed in or have been formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP are automatically listed in the CRHR. The NRHP was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as “an authoritative guide to be used by Federal, State, and local governments, private groups and citizens to identify the Nation’s cultural resources and indicate what properties should be considered for protection from destruction or impairment.” (CFR 36 CFR 60.2) The NRHP recognizes properties that are significant at the national, state, and local levels. To be eligible for listing in the NRHP, a resource must be significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of potential significance must also possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A property is eligible for the NRHP if it meets one or more of the following criteria.

- Criterion A** Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- Criterion B** Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- Criterion C** Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of installation, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or

that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

**Criterion D** Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition to meeting at least one of the above designation criteria, resources must also retain integrity, or enough of their historic character or appearance to be “recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance” (California Office of Historic Preservation 2006). The National Park Service (NPS) recognizes seven aspects or qualities that, considered together, define historic integrity. To retain integrity, a property must possess several, if not all, of these seven qualities, defined in the following manner:

- 1) **Location.** The place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred;
- 2) **Design.** The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property;
- 3) **Setting.** The physical environment of a historic property;
- 4) **Materials.** The physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property;
- 5) **Workmanship.** The physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory;
- 6) **Feeling.** The property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time and/or;
- 7) **Association.** The direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property (NPS 2002).

## California Register of Historical Resources

The CRHR was created by Assembly Bill 2881, which was established in 1992. The CRHR is an authoritative listing and guide to be used by State and local agencies, private groups, and citizens in identifying the existing historical resources of the State and to indicate which resources deserve to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (Public Resources Code, 5024.1(a)). The criteria for eligibility for the CRHR are consistent with the National Register criteria but have been modified for state use in order to include a range of historical resources that better reflect the history of California (Public Resources Code, 5024.1(b)). Certain properties are determined by the statute to be automatically included in the CRHR by operation of law, including California properties formally determined eligible for, or listed in, the NRHP.

Properties are eligible for listing in the CRHR if they meet one of more of the following criteria:

- Criterion 1:** Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage
- Criterion 2:** Is associated with the lives of persons important to our past
- Criterion 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
- Criterion 4:** Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

In addition, if it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a *unique archaeological resource*, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that resources cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (PRC §21083.2[a], [b]).

PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a *unique archaeological resource* as an artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- Criterion 1:** Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information
- Criterion 2:** Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type
- Criterion 3:** Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person

## 2.2 Local Regulations

### City of Whittier

The historic preservation regulations in the City of Whittier Municipal Code (Section 18.84) establishes the procedures for identifying, designating, and preserving historic resources. A property may be listed as a City of Whittier Landmark if it meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources; or if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- A. It is particularly representative of a distinct historical period, type, style, region or way of life;
- B. It is connected with someone renowned, important, or a local personality;
- C. It is connected with a use that was once common, but is now rare;
- D. It represents the work of a master builder, engineer, designer, artist or architect whose individual genius influenced his/her age;
- E. It is the site of an important historic event or is associated with events that have made a meaningful contribution to the nation, state or city;
- F. It exemplifies a particular architectural style;
- G. It exemplifies the best remaining architectural type of a neighborhood;
- H. It embodies elements of outstanding attention to architectural or engineering design, detail, material or craftsmanship; or
- I. It has a unique location, singular characteristic or is an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the city.

## 3 Natural and Cultural Setting

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### 3.1 Environmental Setting

Located in the Los Angeles Basin with an elevation that ranges from approximately 450 to 575 feet above mean sea level, the project site is bounded by residences on Ocean View Ave to the southwest, and by vegetated hills of the Puente Hills Preserve on all other sides. The nearest water sources are season drainages located in canyons within the Preserve, and the San Gabriel River, which is located approximately 4.25 miles to the west. The sediments in the project site primarily consist of alluvial fan deposits on top of Sandstone, siltstone, shale, and conglomerate. (California Soil Resource Lab 2021).

### 3.2 Prehistoric Setting

During the twentieth century, many archaeologists developed chronological sequences to explain prehistoric cultural changes within all or portions of southern California (c.f., Jones and Klar 2007; Moratto 1984). Wallace (1955, 1978) devised a prehistoric chronology for the southern California coastal region that included four horizons: Early Man, Milling Stone, Intermediate, and Late Prehistoric. Wallace based his chronology on early studies but lacked the chronological precision of absolute dates (Moratto 1984). Since then, Wallace's (1955) synthesis has been modified and improved using thousands of radiocarbon dates obtained by southern California researchers over recent decades (Byrd and Raab 2007; Koerper and Drover 1983; Koerper et al. 2002; Mason and Peterson 1994). The prehistoric chronological sequence for southern California presented below is a composite based on Wallace (1955) and Warren (1968) as well as later studies, including Koerper and Drover (1983).

#### **Early Man Horizon (ca. 10,000–6,000 BCE)**

Numerous pre-8,000 BCE sites have been identified along the mainland coast and Channel Islands of southern California (c.f., Erlandson 1991; Johnson et al. 2002; Jones and Klar 2007; Moratto 1984; Rick et al. 2001). One of them, the Arlington Springs site on Santa Rosa Island, produced human remains dating to approximately 13,000 years ago (Arnold et al. 2004; Johnson et al. 2002). On San Miguel Island, human occupation at Daisy Cave (SMI-261) has also been dated to nearly 13,000 years ago. Some of the earliest examples of basketry on the Pacific Coast, dating to over 12,000 years old (Arnold et al. 2004), were found at the site.

Although few Clovis or Folsom style fluted points have been found in southern California (e.g., Dillon 2002; Erlandson et al. 1987), Early Man Horizon sites are generally associated with a greater emphasis on hunting than later horizons. Recent data indicate that the Early Man economy was a diverse mixture of hunting and gathering, including a significant focus on aquatic resources in coastal areas (e.g., Jones et al. 2002) and on inland Pleistocene lakeshores (Moratto 1984). A warm and dry 3,000-year period called the Altithermal began around 6,000 BCE. The conditions of the Altithermal are likely responsible for the change in human subsistence patterns at this time, including a greater emphasis on plant foods and small game.

### **Milling Stone Horizon (6,000–3,000 BCE)**

Wallace (1955) defined the Milling Stone Horizon as “marked by extensive use of milling stones and mullers, a general lack of well-made projectile points, and burials with rock cairns.” The predominance of such artifact types indicates a subsistence strategy oriented around collecting plant foods and small animals. A broad spectrum of food resources including small and large terrestrial mammals, sea mammals, birds, shellfish and other littoral and estuarine species, near-shore fishes, and seeds and other plant products was consumed (Kowta 1969; Reinman 1964). Variability in artifact assemblages over time and between coastal and inland sites indicates that Milling Stone Horizon subsistence strategies adapted to environmental conditions (Jones 1996; Byrd and Raab 2007). Locally available tool stone dominate Lithic artifacts associated with Milling Stone Horizon sites. Chopping, scraping, and cutting tools are very common along with ground stone tools such as manos and metates. The mortar and pestle, associated with acorns or other foods processed through pounding, were first used during the Milling Stone Horizon, and increased dramatically in later periods (Wallace 1955, 1978; Warren 1968).

Two types of artifacts considered diagnostic of the Milling Stone Horizon are the cogged stone and discoidal, most of which have been found in sites dating between 4,000 and 1,000 BCE (Moratto 1984), though possibly as far back as 5,500 BCE (Couch et al. 2009). The cogged stone is a ground stone object with gear-like teeth on the perimeter and produced from a variety of materials. The function of cogged stones is unknown, although ritualistic or ceremonial uses have been postulated (Eberhart 1961). Discoidals, although similar to cogged stones, are found in the archaeological record subsequent to the introduction of the cogged stone. Cogged stones and discoidals often purposefully were buried, or “cached.” Cogged stones have been collected in Los Angeles County, although their distribution appears to center on the Santa Ana River basin (Eberhart 1961).

### **Intermediate Horizon (3,000 BCE–500 CE)**

Wallace’s Intermediate Horizon dates from approximately 3,000 BCE – Common Era (CE) 500 and is characterized by a shift toward a hunting and maritime subsistence strategy, as well as greater use of plant foods. A noticeable trend towards a greater adaptation to local resources including a broad variety of fish, land mammals, and sea mammals along the coast occurred during the Intermediate Horizon. Tool kits for hunting, fishing, and processing food and materials reflect this increased diversity, with flake scrapers, drills, various projectile points, and shell fishhooks being manufactured.

Mortars and pestles became more common during this transitional period, gradually replacing manos and metates as the dominant milling equipment. This change in milling stone technology is believed to signal a transition from the processing and consumption of hard seed resources to the increased reliance on acorns (Glassow et al. 1988; True 1993). Mortuary practices during the Intermediate Horizon typically included fully flexed burials oriented toward the west (Warren 1968).

### **Late Prehistoric Horizon (500 CE–Historic Contact)**

During Wallace’s (1955, 1978) Late Prehistoric Horizon, the diversity of plant food resources and land and sea mammal hunting increased even further than during the Intermediate Horizon. A greater variety of artifact types was observed during this period and high quality exotic lithic materials were used for small, finely worked projectile points associated with the bow and arrow. Steatite containers were made for cooking and storage, and an increased use of asphaltum for waterproofing is noted. More artistic artifacts were recovered from Late Prehistoric Horizon sites



and cremation became a common mortuary custom. Larger, more permanent villages supported an increased population size and social structure (Wallace 1955). This change in subsistence focus, material culture, and burial practices coincides with the westward migration of Uto-Aztecan language speakers from the Great Basin region to Los Angeles, Orange, and western Riverside counties (Sutton 2008; Potter and White 2009).

### 3.3 Ethnographic Context

#### **Gabrielino – Tongva**

The project site is located within the traditional territory of the Native American group known as the Gabrielino. The name Gabrielino was applied by the Spanish to those natives that were attached to Mission San Gabriel (Bean and Smith 1978). Today, most contemporary Gabrielino prefer to identify themselves as Tongva, a term that will be used throughout the remainder of this section (King 1994).

Tongva territory included the Los Angeles basin and southern Channel Islands as well as the coast from Aliso Creek in the south to Topanga Creek in the north. Their territory encompassed several biotic zones, including Coastal Marsh, Coastal Strand, Prairie, Chaparral, Oak Woodland, and Pine Forest (Bean and Smith 1978).

The Tongva language belongs to the Takic branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family, which can be traced to the Great Basin region (Mithun 2004). This language family includes dialects spoken by the nearby Juaneño and Luiseño but is considerably different from those of the Chumash people living to the north and the Diegueño (including Ipai, Tipai, and Kumeyaay) people living to the south.

Tongva society was organized along patrilineal non-localized clans, a common Takic pattern. Each clan had a ceremonial leader and contained several lineages. The Tongva established large permanent villages and smaller satellite camps throughout their territory. Recent ethnohistoric work (O’Neil 2002) suggests a total tribal population of nearly 10,000, considerably more than earlier estimates of around 5,000 people (Bean and Smith 1978).

Tongva subsistence was oriented around acorns supplemented by the roots, leaves, seeds, and fruits of a wide variety of plants. Meat sources included large and small mammals, freshwater and saltwater fish, shellfish, birds, reptiles, and insects. (Bean and Smith 1978; Langenwalter et al. 2001; Kroeber 1925; McCawley 1996). The Tongva employed a wide variety of tools and implements to gather and hunt food. The digging stick, used to extract roots and tubers, was frequently noted by early European explorers (Rawls 1984). Other tools included the bow and arrow, traps, nets, blinds, throwing sticks and slings, spears, harpoons, and hooks. Like the Chumash, the Tongva made oceangoing plank canoes (known as a *ti’at*) capable of holding six to 14 people and used for fishing, travel, and trade between the mainland and the Channel Islands. Tule reed canoes were employed for near-shore fishing (Blackburn 1963; McCawley 1996).

Chinigchinich, the last in a series of heroic mythological figures, was central to Tongva religious life at the time of Spanish contact (Kroeber 1925). The belief in Chinigchinich was spreading south among other Takic-speaking groups at the same time the Spanish were establishing Christian missions. Elements of Chinigchinich beliefs suggest it was a syncretic mixture of Christianity and native religious practices (McCawley 1996).

Prior to European contact, deceased Tongva were either buried or cremated, with burial more common on the Channel Islands and the adjacent mainland coast and cremation on the remainder

of the coast and in the interior (Harrington 1942; McCawley 1996). After pressure from Spanish missionaries, cremation essentially ceased during the post-contact period (McCawley 1996).

## 3.4 History

Post-European contact history for the state of California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), the Mexican Period (1822–1848), and the American Period (1848–present). Each of these periods is briefly described below. The subject property is located in Whittier, and a brief history of the city is included below.

### **Spanish Period (1769–1822)**

Spanish exploration of California began when Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo led the first European expedition into the region in 1542. During this expedition, he anchored in Malibu Lagoon and named the area Pueblo de las Canoas for the Chumash canoes. For more than 200 years after his initial expedition, Spanish, Portuguese, British, and Russian explorers sailed the California coast and made limited inland expeditions, but they did not establish permanent settlements (Bean 1968; Rolle 2003). In 1769, Gaspar de Portolá and Franciscan Father Junipero Serra established the first Spanish settlement at Mission San Diego de Alcalá. This was the first of 21 missions erected by the Spanish in what was then known as Alta (upper) California between 1769 and 1823. Mission San Gabriel Arcángel was founded in 1771. It was during this time that initial Spanish settlement of the project vicinity began.

### **Mexican Period (1822–1848)**

The Mexican Period commenced when news of the success of the Mexican Revolution (1810-1821) against the Spanish crown reached California in 1822. This period saw the privatization of mission lands in California with the passage of the Secularization Act of 1833. This Act enabled Mexican governors in California to distribute mission lands to individuals in the form of land grants. Successive Mexican governors made more than 700 land grants between 1822 and 1846, putting most of the state's lands into private ownership for the first time (Shumway 2007). About 45 land grants (ranchos) were located in Los Angeles County.

The Mexican Period for Los Angeles County and adjacent areas ended in early January 1847. Mexican forces fought combined US Army and Navy forces in the Battle of the San Gabriel River on January 8 and in the Battle of La Mesa on January 9 (Nevin 1978). American victory in both battles confirmed the capture of Los Angeles by American forces (Rolle 2003). On January 10, leaders of the Pueblo of Los Angeles surrendered peacefully after Mexican General Jose Maria Flores withdrew his forces. Shortly thereafter, newly appointed Mexican Military Commander of California Andrés Pico surrendered all of Alta California to US Army Lieutenant Colonel John C. Fremont in the Treaty of Cahuenga (Nevin 1978).

### **American Period (1848–Present)**

The Mexican Period officially ended in early January 1848 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, formally concluding the Mexican-American War. Per the treaty, the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$15 million for conquered territory, including California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming. California gained statehood in 1850, and this political shift set in motion a variety of factors that began to erode the rancho system.

In 1848, the discovery of gold in northern California led to the California Gold Rush, though the first gold was found in 1842 in San Francisquito, about 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles (Workman 1935; Guinn 1976). By 1853, the population of California exceeded 300,000. Horticulture and livestock, based primarily on cattle as the currency and staple of the rancho system, continued to dominate the southern California economy through the 1850s. A severe drought in the 1860s, however, decimated cattle herds and drastically affected rancheros' source of income. Thousands of settlers and immigrants continued to pour into the state, particularly after the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869. Property boundaries loosely established during the Mexican era led to disputes with new incoming settlers, problems with squatters, and lawsuits. The initiation of property taxes proved onerous for many southern California ranchers, given the size of their holdings. Rancheros were often encumbered by debt and the cost of legal fees to defend their property. As a result, much of the rancho lands were sold or otherwise acquired by Americans. Most of these ranchos were subdivided into agricultural parcels or towns (Dumke 1944).

In the 1880s, a dramatic boom fueled by various factors including increasingly accessible rail travel, agricultural development and improved shipment methods, and favorable advertisement occurred in southern California (Dumke 1994). In 1883, the California Immigration Commission designed an advertisement declaring the state as "the Cornucopia of the World" (Poole 2002:36). New southern Californian towns were promoted as havens for good health and economic opportunity.

### **City of Whittier**

The City of Whittier was established in 1887 as a colony of the Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, to create a community with distinctive bucolic character. Before the establishment of the city, it was purchased by Pio de Jesus Pico IV, who had served as Governor of Alta California Mexican territory from 1832 to 1846. He transformed the land from mostly livestock ranch to focus on other agricultural products including citrus, grapes, corn, and wheat.

In 1868 160 acres of Pico's land was granted to German immigrant Jacob F. Gerkins, through the Homestead Act of 1862. It was then transferred to John M. Thomas, who continued its agricultural use. In 1887 Aquilla H. Pickering, a Chicago businessman and Southern Pacific Railroad executive, traveled to California with a group of Quakers seeking to establish a West Coast colony for their religious community. Pickering purchased Thomas' land, attracted to its quality and its "beautiful situation."

Following Pickering's purchase, he collaborated with Quaker leaders Johnathan Bailey, John Painter, and William Coffin to establish the Pickering Land and Water Company to oversee the development of the colony. The development was named in honor of Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier. The city was developed with a grid plan oriented around the primary intersection of Greenleaf and Philadelphia Streets. The city developed around the core bounded by Hadley Street to the north, Painter Avenue to the east, Penn Street to the south, and Pickering Avenue to the west, with residential development focused north of Penn Street.

The development of Whittier coincided with a period of extensive growth throughout Southern California driven by large expanses of affordable fertile land for agricultural use and a newly constructed railroad infrastructure. The development of the colony was further spurred by the construction of a freshwater flume to the San Gabriel River, reservoir, and pumping station by Simon Murphy in 1891.

Whittier continued to grow and expand, and agricultural activities increased. In 1897 land in Puente Hills was sold to Central Oil Well Company and the city became an important oil industry center and

**Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project**

companies including the Murphy, Standard, Union, and Richfield Oil Companies constructed oil wells in nearby hills. The city was incorporated in 1898, thereby affirming its ability to sustain itself through its agricultural and oil-based economy.

After incorporation development continued. Typical of many Southern California communities, Whittier's greatest period of expansion followed World War II. In 1961 with City of Whittier annexed portions of Whittier Boulevard and East Whittier, significantly increasing Whittier's size and population (Chattel 2013). In the following years, Whittier's growth steadied, and the population has remained consistent for the past twenty years.

## 4 Background Research

### 4.1 Cultural Resources Records Search

On June 22, 2021, a CHRIS search was requested from the SCCIC at California State University, Fullerton. The results of the records search were received on July 28, 2021. The purpose of the records search was to identify all previously conducted cultural resources studies and previously recorded cultural resources in the project site and a 0.5-mile radius surrounding it. Rincon also reviewed the NRHP, the CRHR, the California Historical Landmarks list, and the Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD). Review of those records did not identify any cultural resources within the project site or immediate vicinity. Additionally, Rincon reviewed the Archaeological Determination of Eligibility list. Results of the records search can be found in Appendix A of this cultural resources assessment.

#### Previous Studies

The SCCIC records search identified four (4) previously conducted cultural resources studies in a 0.5-mile radius of the project site, three (LA-01776, LA-03737, LA-08248 of which included the project site (Table 1).

**Table 1 Previous Cultural Resources Studies within 0.5-Mile of the Project Site**

Report Number	Author(s)	Year	Title	Relationship to Project Site
LA-01776	Whitney-Desautels, Nancy A.	1989	Cultural Resource Survey Report on the Whittier Property.	Within
LA-03737	Dillon, Brian D.	1997	Archaeological Survey of the Colima Vegetation Management Plan (prescribed Burn) Los Angeles County, California.	Within
LA-04197	McLean, Deborah K.	1998	Archaeological Assessment for Pacific Bell Mobile Services Telecommunications Facility La 830-01, 7581u Colima Drive, City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, California.	Outside
LA-08248	Fulton, Terri, and Deborah McLean	2006	Cultural Resource Assessment for the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, Los Angeles County, California.	Within

Source: South Central Coastal Information Center, 2021

#### Previously Recorded Resources

The SCCIC records search identified two (2) previously recorded cultural resources in a 0.5-mile radius of the project site, one (P-19-003341) of which has a boundary mapped partially within the project site. One (1) resource is a historic-era built resources (P-19-1785680) and the other is a historic-era archaeological sites (P-19-003341) (Table 2).

**Table 2 Previously Recorded Resources within a 0.5-Mile Radius of the Project Site**

Primary Number	Trinomial	Resource Type	Description	Recorder(s) and Year(s)	NRHP/CRHR Status	Relationship to Project Site
P-19-003341	CA-LAN-003341H	Historic era Site	Whittier Oil Field	2004 (Terri Fulton, Phil Fulton, LSA Associates, Inc)	Eligible for listing in NRHP and CRHR under Criterion A/1	<b>Within</b>
P-19-178568	–	Historic-era Building	Swain House, Flor-Ada Villa	1977 (Pamela Lee Gray, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles)	Locally registered.	Outside

Source: South Central Coastal Information Center, 2021

### **Resource P-19-003341**

Resource P-19-003341 (Fulton and Fulton 2004) consists of the oil well pads, pipeline remnants, well markers, and access roads associated with the Whittier Oil Field. However, the Primary Record for this resource does not have these features locations mapped, so their exact locations of the features in relation to the project site are unknown. The oil field was first developed in 1897 and was in production into the latter part of the 20th century. The oilfield was associated with the development of petroleum resources in the Los Angeles Basin, the development of Whittier as a center of the oil industry and as a commercial residential center supporting oil production, and was known for the production of high-quality petroleum. The Whittier Oil Field is eligible for listing on the NRHP and the CRHR under Criterion A/1 for its association with the development of the petroleum industry in southern California, and as the first oil field in the Los Angeles Basin. The oil field made the City of Whittier the base for oil development in the region.

## **4.2 Historic Resources in Whittier**

The City of Whittier has 109 locally designated historic landmarks. A majority of the City’s designated city landmarks were documented and evaluated as part a historic resources survey conducted in 2013. The survey focused on the City’s residential architecture and the subject property was therefore not recorded during this previous effort. In addition, a search of the California Office of Historic Preservation’s Building Environment Resource Directory revealed that the subject property was not subject to previous evaluation. None of the locally designated landmarks are within the APE.

In addition to local historic landmarks, the city has four local historic districts. The Central Park Historic District is a residential district of 45 houses that was designated by the City in 1990. The Hadley-Greenleaf Historic District, also designated in 1990, is comprised of over 190 largely residential properties. Both districts are in the City’s historic downtown core, west of the subject property.

The College Hills Historic District is a residential historic district comprised of the city’s first planned hillside development. It is was designated by the City of Whittier in 2002. The Earlham Historic District, designated in 2011, is a residential neighborhood that dates from 1903-1940 and many of the homes within the district were associated with Whittier College administrators and faculty. Both

districts are adjacent to the Whittier College campus and are west of the subject property (City of Whittier, 2021). None of the City’s historic districts are within the project APE.

### 4.3 Archival and Background Research

Archival research was completed from July to August 2021 and focused on the review of a variety of primary and secondary source materials relating to the history and development of the project site and its surroundings. Sources included, but were not limited to, historic maps and aerial photographs, contemporary newspaper articles, and written histories of the area. The following is a list of sources consulted during research pertaining to the subject property.

- Historic aerial photographs accessed digitally via Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Online, Inc. and the University of California, Santa Barbara Map & Imagery Lab
- Historic topographic maps accessed digitally via United States Geologic Survey
- Historic maps accessed digitally via the Los Angeles Public Library
- Historic newspaper articles accessed digitally via newspapers.com
- Caltrans Historic Context Statement *Water Conveyance Systems in California*
- Additional sources as indicated in the References section

### 4.4 Sacred Lands File Search

Rincon contacted the NAHC on June 23, 2021, to request an SLF search and a contact list of Native Americans culturally affiliated with the project area. A response was received from the NAHC on July 15, 2021, stating the SLF search had been completed with “negative” results. Appendix B provides the SLF results provided by the NAHC.

### 4.5 Field Survey

On August 19, 2021, Rincon Cultural Resources Specialist Pedro Gonzalez conducted an intensive pedestrian field survey of the project site to identify archaeological and built environment resources. Mr. Gonzalez utilizing parallel transects spaced approximately 10-15 meters apart in open space areas. Areas of exposed ground were inspected for prehistoric artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, ground stone milling tools), ecofacts (marine shell and bone), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, and features that might suggest the potential for former structures or buildings (e.g., standing exterior walls, postholes, foundations) or historic debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Ground disturbances such as burrows and drainages were also visually inspected.

Mr. Gonzalez also visually inspected all buildings, structures, and landscaped features located within and immediately adjacent to the project site, documenting their style, method of construction, and physical condition in detailed notes and digital photographs.

## 5 Results

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As a result of the background research and field survey, one built environment resource, the Murphy Reservoirs, was identified within the project site. The property was recorded on California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 Series forms and evaluated for listing in the NRHP and the CRHR. Described in greater detail below, the property is comprised of two reservoir tanks, a retention basin, and a pump house that are 45 years and older. Only permanent buildings were included in the evaluation of the property. The complete set of DPR 523 Series forms for the property can be found in Appendix C of this report.

### 5.1 Murphy Reservoirs

#### Architectural Description

Located within the City of Whittier at 7900 Ocean View Avenue, Los Angeles County, California the Murphy Reservoirs are located on the east side of a residential neighborhood and at the western boundary of the La Cañada Verde Open Space Area, which is managed by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority. The L-shaped lot is comprised of two reservoir tanks - Murphy West Reservoir (Reservoir 11) and Murphy East Reservoir (Reservoir 10) (1955), a retention basin - Reservoir No 9 (1955) and the Murphy Booster Pump House (1955).

The site is accessed via Ocean View Avenue, which terminates at the reservoir site and is protected by a metal access gate. Beyond the gate, a paved road continues to the eastern end of the site and terminates at two cylindrical reservoir tanks. The two cylindrical reservoirs - Murphy West Reservoir (Reservoir 11) and Murphy East Reservoir (Reservoir 10) are identical. Each reservoir tank is 60' in diameter and is 24' tall. Each cylindrical reservoir has a concrete exterior, that is 1'-2" thick and is topped with a convex concrete roof, with hatch access. Each roof has a pipe railing along the top. Each reservoir has a 500,000 gallon capacity. A footpath encircles the pair of reservoir tanks. The reservoirs are in fair condition with evidence of cracking and repairs at the exterior (Figure 4).



**Figure 4** Murphy Reservoirs, Reservoir 11 (Left) and Reservoir 10 (Right), View North



The drive also provides access to the area of Reservoir No. 9, southwest of Reservoirs 10 and 11. Reservoir No. 9 is a subsurface, rectangular reservoir retention basin topped with concrete slab, with a short parapet above ground. The reservoir has a 4,000,000 gallon capacity and is encircled by a drive. The drive continues from Reservoir No. 9., connecting to the site's main drive (Figure 5).

**Figure 5** Reservoir No. 9 Surface, View Southeast



The area to the west of Reservoir No. 9 includes the Murphy Booster Pump House, at the southern end of the drive. The Booster Pump House is a small, one-story concrete block building with a concrete foundation and a flat asphalt roof and is built at the site's natural grade, which slopes up at

the eastern end. The primary, west elevation features a central man entry door and is otherwise unadorned. The south elevation is void of openings and features projecting 8'x8" concrete blocks, the western portion of the elevation extends beyond the building, creating an enclosing wall adjacent to the building entry. The opposite, north elevation repeats the same configuration with a wall extending beyond the building's east end. The north elevation features ribbon hopper windows along the roofline. The east elevation is devoid of any openings. The building's roofline is topped with a painted copper fascia (Figure 6).

**Figure 6 Primary Elevation of Murphy Booster Pump House, view southeast**



The area to the west of the reservoir tanks includes a monopole cell phone antenna and an associated shed facility. They are not associated with the water conveyance facilities and appear to have been added to the site c. 2009.

### **Property History and Construction Chronology**

Historical aerial photographs suggest the site of Murphy Reservoirs remained largely undeveloped until the reservoir was constructed in 1955 (UCSB 1952; NETROnline 1954) (Figure 7). Before the reservoirs were constructed, the site was part of the Murphy Ranch. The Ranch, originally over 2000 acres and including oil wells for the Murphy Oil Company, sold the remaining 450 acres for further residential development in 1953 (*Whittier News* 1953).

**Figure 7 Historic Aerials Showing Site Development – Construction 1954(L) and 1960(R)**



In 1953, residents of the city voted on a bond measure to expand the city's existing water system to respond to growing consumption and development. The improvements proposed for the expanded system, as recommended by Los Angeles engineering firm Koebig & Koebig, included five reservoirs, a 2,500 gallon per minute booster pump, installation of a parallel pipe for emergency use, installation of additional pipe for new service to the central and eastern areas of the city, and a check system on all reservoirs to read levels (*Whittier News* March 1953). The bond measure passed, and construction of new water facilities followed shortly thereafter. The present-day L-shaped lot was purchased by the City for the construction of the reservoirs in October 1953 (*Whittier News* October 1953). Construction of the three reservoirs and the booster pump station were complete by 1955.

Los Angeles-based firm Koebig & Koebig designed the reservoir and pumping station (Koebig & Koebig, 1954). The site appears largely as it did historically save for the addition of the cellular monopole and wireless equipment shelter, added to the site in c. 2009 (NETROnline 2005, 2009).

Research for this study found no information suggesting the facility's original designers, Koebig & Koebig were significant in the field of engineering. The firm was founded in Los Angeles in 1909 by Adolph H. Koebig, an immigrant from Germany, and his son Adolph H. Koebig, Jr. (Notables of the Southwest 1912). Koebig & Koebig specialized in water projects and worked throughout Southern California. No information of consequence regarding Adolph Koebig, Sr. or Adolph Koebig, Jr. was uncovered as a result of research for this study.

### *Historic Evaluation*

The Murphy Reservoirs is recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or as a City of Whittier Landmark under any applicable criteria. Generally, water conveyance-related properties are generally eligible under NRHP Criterion A/CRHR Criterion 1 if they are associated specific important events (e.g., first long-distance transmission of hydroelectric power) or important patterns of events (e.g., development of irrigated farming) (JRP Historical Consulting Services and Caltrans 2000:93). Archival research indicates the Murphy Reservoirs was one of at least five projects completed as the result of the 1953 bond measure that the city passed to update its water systems. The development of the Murphy Reservoir facility was part of the gradual expansion of the city's system since its inception at the turn of the twentieth century. However, this expansion was due to what could be considered an expected response to the growth of the surrounding community and the increasing need for a reliable water system. The Murphy Reservoirs therefore

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does not appear to be significant within the context of water conveyance systems, or any other event or pattern of events in the history of the county, region, state, or nation (NRHP Criterion A/CRHR Criterion 1/City of Whittier Criterion E).

Archival research failed to identify any individuals associated with the Murphy Reservoirs which can be considered important within the history of the county, region, state, or nation (NRHP Criterion B/CRHR Criterion 2/City of Whittier Criterion B).

Initially developed in 1955, the Murphy Reservoirs, comprised of Murphy West Reservoir (Reservoir 11), Murphy East Reservoir (Reservoir 10), Reservoir No. 9, and the Murphy Booster Pump House, are a series of utilitarian reservoir structures and an associated building. Water conveyance-features are generally found eligible under NRHP Criterion C/CRHR Criterion 3 as the earliest, sole surviving, largest, or best-preserved example of a particular type of water conveyance system or a property which introduced a design innovation or evolutionary trend in engineering (JRP Historical Consulting Services and Caltrans 2000:94). Water storage and distribution reservoirs are of common design, and there is no evidence suggesting the Murphy Reservoirs represented any particular engineering achievement at the time it was constructed. There is also no evidence indicating the associated engineers Koebig & Koebig can be considered masters, and regardless, as a simple concrete-lined reservoirs, the Murphy Reservoirs would not be considered an example of a master's work. The Murphy Reservoirs therefore does not appear to be significant for its architecture (NRHP Criterion C/CRHR Criterion 3/City of Whittier Criteria A,C,D,F,G,H,I).

Lastly, the results of the cultural resources records search or research conducted as part of this evaluation did not reveal anything suggesting the Murphy Reservoirs has the potential to yield important information (NRHP Criterion D/CRHR Criterion 4).

## **Archaeological Resources**

Ground visibility throughout the project site was very poor (approximately 0 percent) in the developed areas, and fair to good (approximately 50-75 percent) in open areas adjacent to the developed areas. Ground obstructions outside of developed areas included vegetation (grass, weeds, bushes, and shrubs) and duff from the mature trees present within and adjacent to the project site (

Figure 8 and Figure 9). Undeveloped areas along the fence-line of the property and adjacent to development within the project site were subject to a systematic survey. The developed areas were subject to a windshield survey and photo documented. Where present, exposed native soil was a medium to dark brown, medium grained sandy silt, intermixed with fragments of sandstone and silt stone. The terrain in the property was slightly sloping upwards to the northeast. Approximately 90 percent of the project site is highly disturbed due to past development. Rodent burrow back dirt allowed visual inspection of subsurface soils. Modern debris in the form of windblown refuse was scattered throughout the site. In addition, the Primary Record for resource P-19-003341 does not have the resource features locations mapped, so their exact locations of the features in relation to the project site are unknown. Recent and historic aerial photographs reveal that there are quite a bit of graded dirt roads in the vicinity of the project site, but it is unknown if these are associated with P-19-003341. No components as described in the Primary Record for resource P-19-003341 were observed within or immediately adjacent to the project site, and it appears that the small portion of the boundary for P-19-003341 that overlaps with the project site was arbitrarily drawn, and the actual oilfield and associated features are not actually located within the project site. Lastly, the project consists of upgrading and existing water conveyance system and will not alter the existing setting or have any impact on and features associated with resource P-19-03341.

**Figure 8 Access Road Near Entrance, Facing Northwest, August 2021**



**Figure 9 Access Road Near Reservoirs, Facing Southwest, August 2021**



## 6 Findings and Conclusions

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The background research and survey confirmed the project site contains one site comprised of two reservoir tanks, a retention basin reservoir, and a booster pump station that are at least 45 years of age and serve as the Murphy Reservoirs, providing water for the City of Whittier. As a result of the current study, the Murphy Reservoirs (subject property) is recommended ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) under any applicable criteria. The Murphy Reservoirs were constructed in 1955 as part of the city's expansion. The research conducted for this study demonstrated that although associated with the development of the city, it was part of an expected response to the increasing need for a reliable water system and is not significant to the city's history.

This study concluded that the property does not meet the requirements for listing in the NRHP or CRHR and, therefore, does not qualify as a historical resource under CEQA. Based on the findings of the current investigation, Rincon recommends a finding of ***less than significant impact to historical resources*** under CEQA.

### 6.1 Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources

In the event cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) must be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the discovery proves to be eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR, additional work may be warranted, such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation to treat the find.

### 6.2 Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

If human remains are unexpectedly encountered, the State of California 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. In the unlikely event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human 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). The MLD has 48 hours from being granted site access to make recommendations for the disposition of the remains. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the landowner shall reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from subsequent disturbance.

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# Appendix A

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CHRIS Records Search Results

**South Central Coastal Information Center**

California State University, Fullerton  
Department of Anthropology MH-426  
800 North State College Boulevard  
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846  
657.278.5395 / FAX 657.278.5542

[sccic@fullerton.edu](mailto:sccic@fullerton.edu)

*California Historical Resources Information System*  
*Orange, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties*

7/28/2021

Records Search File No.: 22572.8720

Pedro Gonzalez  
Rincon Consultants, Inc  
180 N Ashwood Avenue  
Ventura CA 93003

Re: Records Search Results for the 20-10783, City of Whittier Murphy Reservoirs Project

The South Central Coastal Information Center received your records search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Whittier and La Habra, CA USGS 7.5' quadrangles. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, we have temporarily implemented new records search protocols. With the exception of some reports that have not yet been scanned, we are operationally digital for Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties. See attached document for your reference on what data is available in this format. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a ½-mile radius:

As indicated on the data request form, the locations of resources and reports are provided in the following format:  custom GIS maps  shape files  hand drawn maps

Resources within project area: 1	19-003341
Resources within ½-mile radius: 1	SEE ATTACHED LIST
Reports within project area: 3	LA-01776, LA-03737, LA-08248
Reports within ½-mile radius: 1	SEE ATTACHED LIST

- Resource Database Printout (list):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Resource Database Printout (details):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Resource Digital Database (spreadsheet):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (list):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (details):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Digital Database (spreadsheet):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Resource Record Copies:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Copies:**  not scanned  not requested  nothing listed
- OHP Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) 2019:**  available online; please go to [https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=30338](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30338)
- Archaeo Determinations of Eligibility 2012:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Historical Maps:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed  
**Ethnographic Information:**  not available at SCCIC  
**Historical Literature:**  not available at SCCIC  
**GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:**  not available at SCCIC  
**Caltrans Bridge Survey:**  not available at SCCIC; please go to  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm>  
**Shipwreck Inventory:**  not available at SCCIC; please go to  
[http://shipwrecks.slc.ca.gov/ShipwrecksDatabase/Shipwrecks\\_Database.asp](http://shipwrecks.slc.ca.gov/ShipwrecksDatabase/Shipwrecks_Database.asp)  
**Soil Survey Maps: (see below)**  not available at SCCIC; please go to  
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the [California Historical Resources Information System](#),

Michelle Galaz  
Assistant Coordinator

Enclosures:

- (X) Emergency Protocols for LA, Orange, and Ventura County BULK Processing Standards – 2 pages
- (X) GIS Shapefiles – 6 shapes
- (X) Resource Database Printout (list) – 1 page
- (X) Resource Database Printout (details) – 2 pages
- (X) Resource Digital Database (spreadsheet) – 2 lines
- (X) Report Database Printout (list) – 1 page
- (X) Report Database Printout (details) – 4 pages
- (X) Report Digital Database (spreadsheet) – 4 lines
- (X) Resource Record Copies – (within project area) – 4 pages
- (X) Historical Maps – 10 pages
- (X) Invoice # 22572.8720



# Appendix B

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Sacred Lands File Results

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

July 15, 2021

Kyle Cason  
City of Whittier

Via Email to: [kcason@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:kcason@cityofwhittier.org)

**Re: City of Whittier Murphy Reservoirs Project, Los Angeles County**

Dear Mr. Cason:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: [Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Andrew Green  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON  
**Laura Miranda**  
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
Chumash

SECRETARY  
**Merri Lopez-Keifer**  
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
**Russell Attebery**  
Karuk

COMMISSIONER  
**William Mungary**  
Paiute/White Mountain  
Apache

COMMISSIONER  
**Julie Tumamait-Stenslie**  
Chumash

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**Christina Snider**  
Pomo

**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
West Sacramento,  
California 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
NAHC.ca.gov

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
Los Angeles County  
7/15/2021**

**Gabrieleno Band of Mission  
Indians - Kizh Nation**

Andrew Salas, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 393 Gabrieleno  
Covina, CA, 91723  
Phone: (626) 926 - 4131  
admin@gabrielenoindians.org

**Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla  
Indians**

Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair  
P.O. Box 391820 Cahuilla  
Anza, CA, 92539  
Phone: (951) 659 - 2700  
Fax: (951) 659-2228  
Isaul@santarosa-nsn.gov

**Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel  
Band of Mission Indians**

Anthony Morales, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 693 Gabrieleno  
San Gabriel, CA, 91778  
Phone: (626) 483 - 3564  
Fax: (626) 286-1262  
GTTRibalcouncil@aol.com

**Soboba Band of Luiseno  
Indians**

Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson  
P. O. Box 487 Cahuilla  
San Jacinto, CA, 92581 Luiseno  
Phone: (951) 654 - 5544  
Fax: (951) 654-4198  
ivivanco@soboba-nsn.gov

**Gabrielino /Tongva Nation**

Sandonne Goad, Chairperson  
106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St., Gabrielino  
#231  
Los Angeles, CA, 90012  
Phone: (951) 807 - 0479  
sgoad@gabrielino-tongva.com

**Soboba Band of Luiseno  
Indians**

Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural  
Resource Department  
P.O. BOX 487 Cahuilla  
San Jacinto, CA, 92581 Luiseno  
Phone: (951) 663 - 5279  
Fax: (951) 654-4198  
jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov

**Gabrielino Tongva Indians of  
California Tribal Council**

Christina Conley, Tribal  
Consultant and Administrator  
P.O. Box 941078 Gabrielino  
Simi Valley, CA, 93094  
Phone: (626) 407 - 8761  
christina.marsden@alumni.usc.edu

**Gabrielino Tongva Indians of  
California Tribal Council**

Robert Dorame, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 490 Gabrielino  
Bellflower, CA, 90707  
Phone: (562) 761 - 6417  
Fax: (562) 761-6417  
gtongva@gmail.com

**Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe**

Charles Alvarez,  
23454 Vanowen Street Gabrielino  
West Hills, CA, 91307  
Phone: (310) 403 - 6048  
roadkingcharles@aol.com

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

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed City of Whittier Murphy Reservoirs Project, Los Angeles County.

# Appendix C

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California DPR Series 523 Forms

State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #  
HRI #  
Trinomial  
NRHP Status Code 6Z

Other Listings  
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 4

\*Resource Name or #: Murphy Reservoirs

**P1. Other Identifier:**

\*P2. Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted \*a. County: Los Angeles

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Whittier Date: 1984

c. Address: No address

City: Whittier

Zip: 90602

d. UTM: Zone: mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: APN: 8289-021-900

**\*P3a. Description:**

Located within the City of Whittier at 7900 Ocean View Avenue, Los Angeles County, California the Murphy Reservoirs are located on the east side of a residential neighborhood and at the western boundary of the La Cañada Verde Open Space Area, which is managed by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority. The L-shaped lot is comprised of two reservoir tanks - Murphy West Reservoir (Reservoir 11) and Murphy East Reservoir (Reservoir 10) (1955), a retention basin - Reservoir No 9 (1955) and the Murphy Booster Pump House (1955).

The site is accessed via Ocean View Avenue, which terminates at the reservoir site and is protected by a metal access gate. Beyond the gate, a paved road continues to the eastern end of the site and terminates at two cylindrical reservoir tanks. The two cylindrical reservoirs - Murphy West Reservoir (Reservoir 11) and Murphy East Reservoir (Reservoir 10) are identical. Each reservoir tank is 60' in diameter and is 24' tall. Each cylindrical reservoir has a concrete exterior, that is 1'-2" thick and is topped with a convex concrete roof, with hatch access. Each roof has a pipe railing along the top. Each reservoir has a 500,000 gallon capacity. A footpath encircles the pair of reservoir tanks. The reservoirs are in fair condition with evidence of cracking and repairs at the exterior.

*See continuation sheet, p. 4.*

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP39. Other (Distribution reservoir; water tank); HP9. Public utility building; HP4. Ancillary building

\*P4. Resources Present:  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing



P5b. Description of Photo:

View of Murphy Reservoirs 10 and 11, View north

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:

Historic  Prehistoric  Both

See B6. Construction History.

\*P7. Owner and Address:

City of Whittier  
Whittier Utility Authority  
13230 Penn Street  
Whittier, CA 90602

\*P8. Recorded by:

Pedro Gonzalez  
Rincon Consultants  
250 East 1<sup>st</sup> St, Suite 1400  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

\*P9. Date Recorded: August 19, 2021

\*P10. Survey Type: Intensive

**\*P11. Report Citation:**

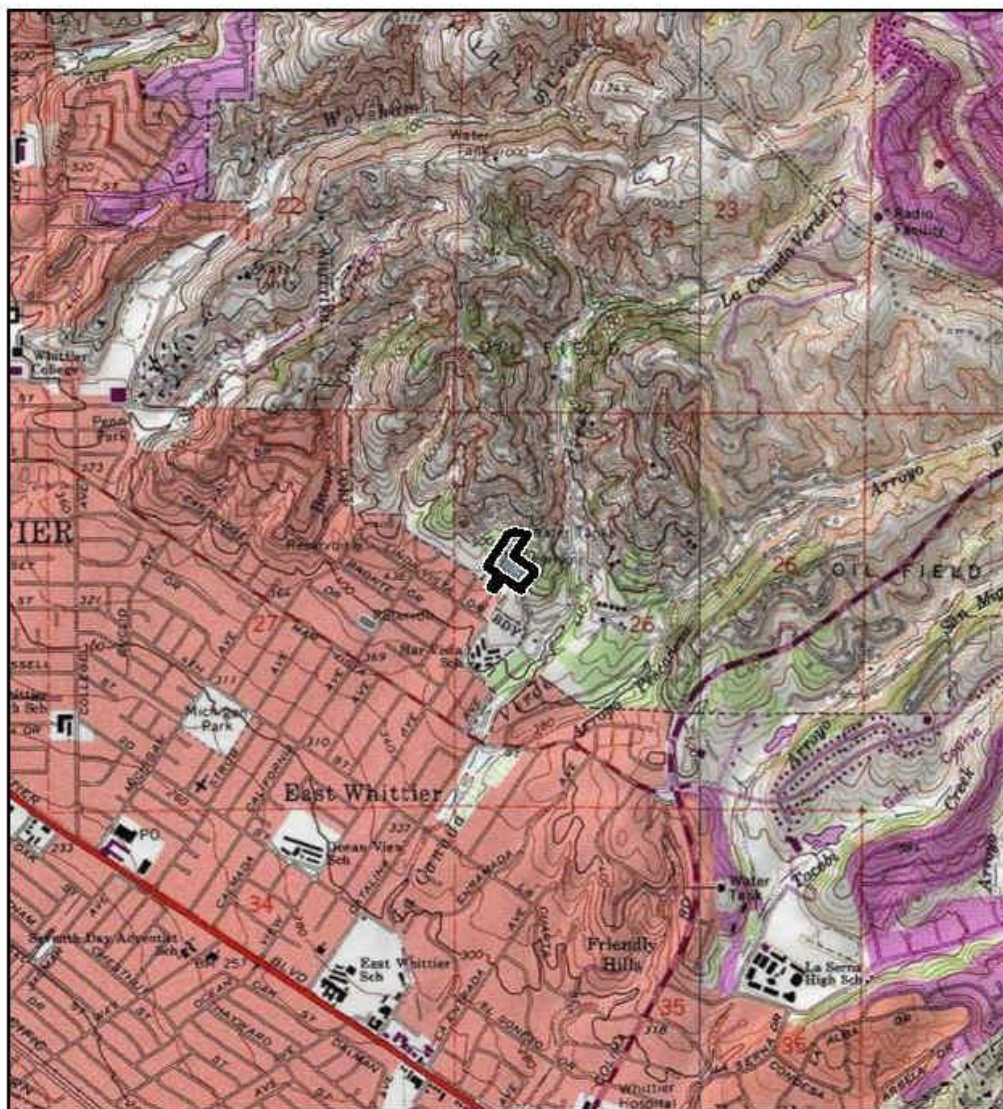
Gonzalez, Matthew, JulieAnn Murphy, Steven Treffers, and Chris Duran

*Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project Cultural Resources Assessment*. Rincon Consultants, Inc. Project No. 20-10783. Report on file at the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton. 2021

\*Attachments:  NONE  Location Map  Sketch Map  Continuation Sheet  Building, Structure, and Object Record

Archaeological Record  District Record  Linear Feature Record  Milling Station Record  Rock Art Record

Artifact Record  Photograph Record  Other (List):



*Imagery provided by National Geographic Society, Esri, and their licensors © 2021. Whittier Quadrangle, T02S R11W S26. The topographic representation depicted in this map may not portray all of the features currently found in the vicinity today and/or features depicted in this map may have changed since the original topographic map was assembled.*



State of California X The Resources Agency Primary #  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI#  
**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

\*Resource Name or # Murphy Reservoirs

\*NRHP Status Code 6Z

Page 3 of 4

B1. Historic Name: Murphy Reservoirs  
 B2. Common Name: N/A  
 B3. Original Use: Municipal water treatment and distribution B4. Present Use: Municipal water treatment and distribution

\*B5. Architectural Style: N/A

\*B6. Construction History:

Murphy Reservoirs were constructed in 1955, inclusive of Murphy Reservoir West (Reservoir No. 11), Murphy Reservoir East (Reservoir No. 10), Reservoir No. 9, and the Murphy Booster Pump Station (Koebig & Koebig, 1954).

\*B7. Moved?  No  Yes  Unknown Date: N/A Original Location: N/A

\*B8. Related Features: None

B9a. Architect: Koebig & Koebig Consulting Engineers b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme N/A Area N/A

Period of Significance N/A Property Type N/A Applicable Criteria N/A

Historical aerial photographs suggest the site of Murphy Reservoirs remained largely undeveloped until the reservoir was constructed in 1955 (UCSB 1952; NETROnline 1954). Before the reservoirs were constructed, the site was part of the Murphy Ranch. The Ranch, originally over 2000 acres and including oil wells for the Murphy Oil Company, sold the remaining 450 acres for further residential development in 1953 (Whittier News 1953).

In 1953, the residents of the city voted on a bond measure to expand the city's existing water system to respond to growing consumption and development. The improvements proposed for the expanded system, as recommended by Los Angeles engineering firm Koebig & Koebig, included five reservoirs, a 2500 gallon per minute booster pump, installation of a parallel pipe for emergency use, installation of additional pipe for new service to the central and eastern areas of the city, and a check system on all reservoirs to read levels (Whittier News March 1953). The bond measure passed and construction of new water facilities followed shortly thereafter. The present-day L-shaped lot was purchased by the city for the construction of the reservoirs in October 1953 (Whittier News October 1953). Construction of the three reservoirs and the booster pump station were complete by 1955.

Los Angeles-based firm Koebig & Koebig designed the reservoir and pumping station (Koebig & Koebig, 1954). The site appears largely as it did historically save for the addition of the cellular monopole and associated wireless equipment shelter, added to the site in c. 2009 (NETROnline 2005, 2009).

Research for this study found no information suggesting the facility's original designers, Koebig & Koebig were significant in the field of engineering. The firm was founded in Los Angeles in 1909 by Adolph H. Koebig, an immigrant from Germany, and his son Adolph H. Koebig, Jr. (Notables of the Southwest 1912). Koebig & Koebig specialized in water projects and worked throughout Southern California. No information of consequence regarding Adolph Koebig, Sr. or Adolph Koebig, Jr. was uncovered as a result of research for this study.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: N/A

\*B12. References:

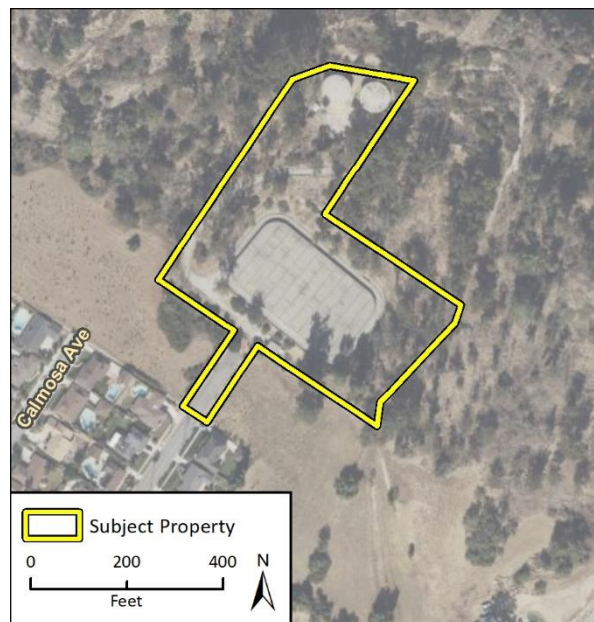
See continuation sheet, p. 4.

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. Evaluator: JulieAnn Murphy, Rincon Consultants

\*Date of Evaluation: August 2021

(This space reserved for official comments.)



\*Recorded by: JulieAnn Murphy, Rincon Consultants

\*Date: August 2021

■ Continuation

□ Update

**P3a. Description (continued):**

The drive also provides access to the area of Reservoir No. 9, southwest of Reservoirs 10 and 11. Reservoir No. 9 is a subsurface, rectangular reservoir retention basin topped with concrete slab, with a short parapet above ground. The reservoir has a 4,000,000 gallon capacity and is encircled by a drive. The drive continues from Reservoir No. 9., connecting to the site's main drive.

The area to the west of Reservoir No. 9 includes the Murphy Booster Pump House, at the southern end of the drive. The Booster Pump House is a small, one-story concrete block building with a concrete foundation and a flat asphalt roof and is built at the site's natural grade, which slopes up at the eastern end. The primary, west elevation features a central man entry door and is otherwise unadorned. The south elevation is void of openings and features projecting 8"x8" concrete blocks, the western portion of the elevation extends beyond the building, creating an enclosing wall adjacent to the building entry. The opposite, north elevation repeats the same configuration with a wall extending beyond the building's east end. The north elevation features ribbon hopper windows along the roofline. The east elevation is devoid of any openings. The building's roofline is topped with a painted copper fascia.

The area to the west of the reservoir tanks includes a monopole cell phone antenna and an associated shed facility. They are not associated with the water conveyance facilities and appear to have been added to the site c. 2009.

**B10. Significance (continued):**

**Historical Resources Evaluation**

The Murphy Reservoirs is recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or as a City of Whittier Landmark under any applicable criteria. Generally, water conveyance-related properties are generally eligible under NRHP Criterion A/CRHR Criterion 1 if they are associated specific important events (e.g., first long-distance transmission of hydroelectric power) or important patterns of events (e.g., development of irrigated farming) (JRP Historical Consulting Services and Caltrans 2000:93). Archival research indicates the Murphy Reservoirs was one of at least five projects completed as the result of the 1953 bond measure that the city passed to update its water systems. The development of the Murphy Reservoir facility was part of the gradual expansion of the city's system since its inception at the turn of the twentieth century. However, this expansion was due to what could be considered an expected response to the growth of the surrounding community and the increasing need for a reliable water system. The Murphy Reservoirs therefore does not appear to be significant within the context of water conveyance systems, or any other event or pattern of events in the history of the county, region, state, or nation (NRHP Criterion A/CRHR Criterion 1/City of Whittier Criterion E).

Archival research failed to identify any individuals associated with the Murphy Reservoirs which can be considered important within the history of the county, region, state, or nation (NRHP Criterion B/CRHR Criterion 2/City of Whittier Criterion B).

Initially developed in 1955, the Murphy Reservoirs, comprised of Murphy West Reservoir (Reservoir 11), Murphy East Reservoir (Reservoir 10), Reservoir No. 9, and the Murphy Booster Pump House, are a series of utilitarian reservoir structures and an associated building. Water conveyance-features are generally found eligible under NRHP Criterion C/CRHR Criterion 3 as the earliest, sole surviving, largest, or best preserved example of a particular type of water conveyance system or a property which introduced a design innovation or evolutionary trend in engineering (JRP Historical Consulting Services and Caltrans 2000:94). Water storage and distribution reservoirs are of common design, and there is no evidence suggesting the Murphy Reservoirs represented any particular engineering achievement at the time it was constructed. There is also no evidence indicating the associated engineers Koebig & Koebig can be considered masters, and regardless, as a simple concrete-lined reservoirs, the Murphy Reservoirs would not be considered an example of a master's work. The Murphy Reservoirs therefore does not appear to be significant for its architecture (NRHP Criterion C/CRHR Criterion 3/City of Whittier Criteria A,C,D,F,G,H,I).

Lastly, the results of the cultural resources records search or research conducted as part of this evaluation did not reveal anything suggesting the Murphy Reservoirs has the potential to yield important information (NRHP Criterion D/CRHR Criterion 4).

**B12. References (continued):**

JRP Historical Consulting Services and Caltrans

2000 Water Conveyance Systems in California, Historic Context Development and Evaluation Procedures. December.

Koebig & Koebig Consulting Engineers

1954 Reservoirs and Appurtenances Reservoirs No. 9, 10, 11. January, updated April.

National Environmental Title Research (NETRonline)

Var. "Historic Aerials." [digital photograph database]. Aerial images and topographical maps of the project area and vicinity viewed online. <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>. Accessed July 20, 2021.

Notables of the Southwest

1912 Press Reference Library, "Koebig, Adolph H."

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Press\\_Reference\\_Library/j-IDAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&bsq=koebig](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Press_Reference_Library/j-IDAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&bsq=koebig). Accessed July 2021.

The Whittier News

1953 "Reasons for Whittier Water Bond Vote Explained," March 25, 1953. Newspapers.com, Accessed June 2021.

1953 "Whittier Has Enough Water for Larger City," August 9, 1953. Newspapers.com, Accessed June 2021.

1953 "Sale of Murphy Ranch Recalls Area's Early History," October 23, 1953. Newspapers.com, Accessed June 2021.