CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Bear Valley Marketplace Project

City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California

Prepared for:

Michael Asheghian
MJM Investment Co., LLC
12300 Wilshire Boulevard #410
Los Angeles, California 90025

Prepared by:

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA
BCR Consulting LLC
Claremont, California 91711

Project No. MJM1901

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

BCRCONSULTING LLC

November 20, 2019

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to MJM Investment Co., LLC to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Bear Valley Marketplace Project (the project) in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission, and vertebrate paleontological resources assessment were conducted for the project in partial fulfillment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The records search revealed that 24 cultural resources studies have taken place resulting in the recording of nine cultural resources within one mile of the project site. The project site was previously assessed for cultural resources, and one cultural resource (an isolated prehistoric lithic flake designated P-36-12991) has been previously identified within its boundaries.

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists did not identify any cultural resources within the project site boundaries. Excavations and grading for previous (abandoned) construction project have disturbed the entire project. Based on negative findings during the field survey combined with the high level of disturbance, development of the proposed project is not anticipated to result in significant impacts to archaeological or historical resources, and no further investigations or monitoring are recommended. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

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INTRODUCTION

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to MJM Investment Co., LLC to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Bear Valley Marketplace Project (the project) in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and vertebrate paleontological resources assessment were conducted for the project in partial fulfillment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is located in the southwest quarter of Section 33, Township 5 North, Range 4 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Hesperia* (1980), *California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

NATURAL SETTING

Geology

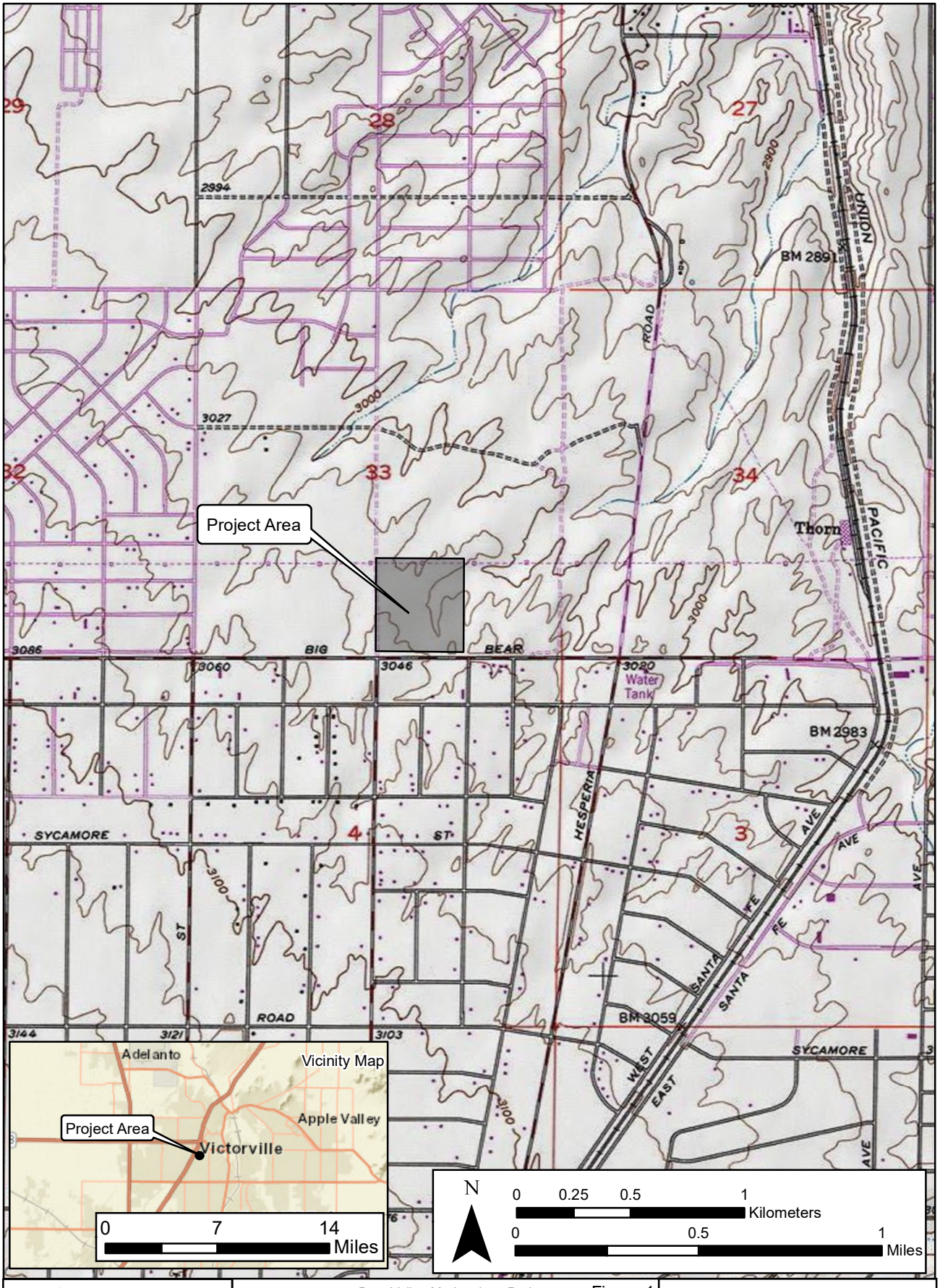
The project is located in the southwestern portion of the Mojave Desert. Sediments within the project boundaries include a geologic unit composed of young alluvial-fan deposits formed during the late Pleistocene and Holocene Epochs of the Quaternary Period (Miller and Matti 2006, Lambert 1994:17). The unit is composed of "slightly consolidated, undissected to slightly dissected deposits of poorly sorted sand and silt containing scattered subangular pebbles" (Miller and Matti 2006). Field observations during the current study are basically consistent with these descriptions, and are described further in Results, below.

Hydrology

The project elevation is approximately 3,046 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Sheetwashing and some rilling occur from southwest to northeast, and water from an unnamed drainage flowing across the project site eventually empties into the Mojave River approximately four miles to the northeast. To the south, the peaks of the San Gabriel Mountains rise above 10,000 feet and are often capped with snow until late spring or early summer. The area currently exhibits a relatively arid climate, with dry, hot summers and cool winters. Rainfall ranges from five to 15 inches annually (Jaeger and Smith 1971:36-37). Precipitation usually occurs in the form of winter and spring rain or snow at high elevations, with occasional warm monsoonal showers in late summer.

Biology

The mild climate of the late Pleistocene allowed piñon-juniper woodland to thrive throughout most of the Mojave (Van Devender et al. 1987). The vegetation and climate during this epoch attracted significant numbers of Rancholabrean fauna, including dire wolf, saber toothed cat, short-faced bear, horse, camel, antelope, mammoth, as well as birds which included pelican, goose, duck, cormorant, and eagle (Reynolds 1988). The drier climate of the middle Holocene resulted in the local development of complementary flora and fauna, which remain largely intact to this day. Common native plants include creosote, cacti, rabbit bush, interior golden bush, cheese bush, species of sage, buckwheat at higher elevations and near drainages, Joshua tree, and various grasses. Common native animals include include coyotes, cottontail and jackrabbits, rats, mice, desert tortoises, roadrunners, raptors, turkey vultures, and other bird species (see Williams et al. 2008).



BCR CONSULTING LLC

Bear Valley Marketplace Project

Figure 1

Reference: ESRI; USGS Quad: Hesperia, California (2018)

MJM Investment Co., LLC

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Context

The prehistoric cultural setting of the Mojave Desert has been organized into many chronological frameworks (see Warren and Crabtree 1986; Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Lanning 1963; Hunt 1960; Wallace 1958, 1962, 1977; Wallace and Taylor 1978; Campbell and Campbell 1935), although there is no definitive sequence for the region. The difficulties in establishing cultural chronologies for the Mojave are a function of its enormous size and the small amount of archaeological excavations conducted there. Moreover, throughout prehistory many groups have occupied the Mojave and their territories often overlap spatially and chronologically resulting in mixed artifact deposits. Due to dry climate and capricious geological processes, these artifacts rarely become integrated in-situ. Lacking a milieu hospitable to the preservation of cultural midden, Mojave chronologies have relied upon temporally diagnostic artifacts, such as projectile points, or upon the presence/absence of other temporal indicators, such as groundstone. Such methods are instructive, but can be limited by prehistoric occupants' concurrent use of different artifact styles, or by artifact re-use or re-sharpening, as well as researchers' mistaken diagnosis, and other factors (see Flenniken 1985; Flenniken and Raymond 1986; Flenniken and Wilke 1989). Recognizing the shortcomings of comparative temporal indicators, this study recommends the findings of Warren and Crabree (1986), who have drawn upon this method to produce a commonly cited and relatively comprehensive chronology.

Ethnography

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

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

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

History

Historic-era California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish or Mission Period (1769 to 1821), the Mexican or Rancho Period (1821 to 1848), and the American Period (1848 to present).

Spanish Period. The first European to pass through the project area is thought to be a Spaniard called Father Francisco Garces. Having become familiar with the area, Garces acted as a guide to Juan Bautista de Anza, who had been commissioned to lead a group across the desert from a Spanish outpost in Arizona to set up quarters at the Mission San Gabriel in 1771 near what today is Pasadena (Beck and Haase 1974). This is the first recorded group crossing of the Mojave Desert and, according to Father Garces' journal, they camped at the headwaters of the Mojave River, one night less than a day's march from the mountains. Today, this is estimated to have been approximately 11 miles southeast of Victorville (Marenczuk 1962). Garces was followed by Alta California Governor Pedro Fages, who briefly explored the western Mojave region in 1772. Searching for San Diego Presidio deserters, Fages had traveled north through Riverside to San Bernardino, crossed over the mountains into the Mojave Desert, and then journeyed westward to the San Joaquin Valley (Beck and Haase 1974).

Mexican Period. In 1821, Mexico overthrew Spanish rule and the missions began to decline. By 1833, the Mexican government passed the Secularization Act, and the missions, reorganized as parish churches, lost their vast land holdings, and released their neophytes (Beattie and Beattie 1974).

American Period. The American Period, 1848–Present, began with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In 1850, California was accepted into the Union of the United States primarily due to the population increase created by the Gold Rush of 1849. The cattle industry reached its greatest prosperity during the first years of the American Period. Mexican Period land grants had created large pastoral estates in California, and demand for beef during the Gold Rush led to a cattle boom that lasted from 1849–1855. However, beginning about 1855, the demand for beef began to decline due to imports of sheep from New Mexico and cattle from the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys. When the beef market collapsed, many California ranchers lost their ranchos through foreclosure. A series of disastrous floods in 1861–1862, followed by a significant drought diminished the economic impact of local ranching. This decline combined with ubiquitous agricultural and real estate

developments of the late 19th century, set the stage for diversified economic pursuits that have continued to proliferate to this day (Beattie and Beattie 1974; Cleland 1941).

PERSONNEL

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA acted as the Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the current study. He also complied the technical report. BCR Consulting Archaeological Crew Chief Joseph Orozco, M.A., RPA conducted the cultural resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) located at California State University, Fullerton, and completed the field assessment.

METHODS

Research

Prior to fieldwork, a records search was conducted at the SCCIC. This archival research reviewed the status of all recorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, and survey and excavation reports completed within one mile of the project site. Additional resources reviewed included the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and documents and inventories published by the California Office of Historic Preservation. These include the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures.

Field Survey

An archaeological field survey of the project site was conducted on September 27, 2019. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart across 100 percent of the accessible project site. All soil exposures were carefully inspected for evidence of cultural resources.

RESULTS

Research

Research completed through the SCCIC revealed that 24 cultural resources studies have taken place resulting in the recording of nine cultural resources within one mile of the project site. The project site was previously assessed for cultural resources, and one cultural resource (an isolated prehistoric lithic flake designated P-36-12991) has been previously recorded within its boundaries. A summary of the records search results is included below.

Table A. Cultural Resources and Studies within One Mile of the Project Site

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle	Cultural Resources Within One Mile of Project Site	Reports Within One Mile of Project Site
Hesperia (1980), California	P-36-7061: historic-period road (adjacent N) P-36-12991*: prehistoric isolated flake (Within) P-36-12596: prehistoric lithic scatter (3/4 Mile N) P-36-27463: isolated prehistoric core (1 Mile S) P-36-60841-5: five isolated lithics (1/2 Mile E)	SB-106-0794, 0996, 0535, 1218, 1820, 2668, 2738, 2739, 3773, 4181, 4221, 5215, 5370, 5462, 5468, 5766, 5773*, 6544, 6545, 6956, 6999, 7156, 7403, 7843

*Within project site.

Field Survey

The project site exhibited approximately 70 percent surface visibility. Artificial disturbances within the project site boundaries were severe and resulted from over-excavation, grading, foundation pad construction, and trenching for water lines associated with an abandoned construction project. The natural topography of the property is generally flat, with a gradual 3-4 percent slope exhibiting a north-easterly aspect. Vegetation includes creosote and some sparse scrub and seasonal grasses. Soils include silty sand with 10-15 percent gravels measuring less than five centimeters in diameter. No cultural resources of any kind were identified during the field survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although an isolated prehistoric lithic flake was previously identified within the project site boundaries, severe disturbances have rendered any sensitivity for buried prehistoric resources negligible. Furthermore, isolated artifacts have limited data potential and are not considered "historical resources" under CEQA. It does not warrant further consideration. Based on the results of this study, BCR Consulting recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring is necessary during proposed project activities associated with the Bear Valley Marketplace Project. Therefore, no significant impacts related to archaeological or historical resources is anticipated and no further investigations are recommended for the proposed project unless:

- the proposed project is changed to include areas not subject to this study;
- the proposed project is changed to include the construction of additional facilities;
- cultural materials are encountered during project activities.

Although the current study has not indicated sensitivity for cultural resources within the project boundaries, ground disturbing activities always have the potential to reveal buried deposits not observed on the surface during previous surveys. Prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, field personnel should be alerted to the possibility of buried prehistoric or historic cultural deposits. In the event that field personnel encounter buried cultural materials, work in the immediate vicinity of the find should cease and a qualified archaeologist should be retained to assess the significance of the find. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop or divert construction excavation as necessary. If the qualified archaeologist finds that any cultural resources present meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register, plans for the treatment, evaluation, and mitigation of impacts to the find will need to be developed. Prehistoric or historic cultural materials that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities include:

- historic artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;
- historic structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements;
- prehistoric flaked-stone artifacts and debitage (waste material), consisting of obsidian, basalt, and or cryptocrystalline silicates;
- groundstone artifacts, including mortars, pestles, and grinding slabs;

- dark, greasy soil that may be associated with charcoal, ash, bone, shell, flaked stone, groundstone, and fire affected rocks;

If human remains are encountered during the undertaking, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Project Site Overview (Northwest View)

2. Project Site Overview (East View)

APPENDIX B

NAHC SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Cultural and Environmental Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (916) 373-3710
Email: nahc@nahc.ca.gov
Website: http://www.nahc.ca.gov
Twitter: @CA_NAHC

October 11, 2019

Joseph Orozco
BCR Consulting

VIA Email to: josephorozco513@gmail.com

RE: Bear Valley Marketplace Project, San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Orozco:

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 positive. Please contact the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians on the attached list for more information. 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 the NAHC. 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: steven.quinn@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Steven Quinn
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

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

Chemehuevi Indian Reservation
Charles Wood, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1976 1990 Palo Verde Drive — Chemehuevi
Havasu Lake, CA, 92363
Phone: (760) 858 - 4219
Fax: (760) 858-5400
chairman@cit-nsn.gov

Kern Valley Indian Community
Brandy Kendricks,
30741 Foxridge Court — Kawaiisu
Tehachapi, CA, 93561 — Tubatulabal
Phone: (661) 821 - 1733 — Koso
krazykendricks@hotmail.com

Kern Valley Indian Community
Julie Turner, Secretary
P.O. Box 1010 — Kawaiisu
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240 — Tubatulabal
Phone: (661) 340 - 0032 — Koso

Kern Valley Indian Community
Robert Robinson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1010 — Kawaiisu
Lake Isabella, CA, 93283 — Tubatulabal
Phone: (760) 378 - 2915 — Koso
bbutterbredt@gmail.com

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Denisa Torres, Cultural Resources Manager
12700 Pumarra Rroad — Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 — Serrano
Phone: (951) 849 - 8807
Fax: (951) 922-8146
dtorres@morongo-nsn.gov

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Rroad — Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 — Serrano
Phone: (951) 849 - 8807
Fax: (951) 922-8146
dtorres@morongo-nsn.gov

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
Donna Yocum, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838 — Kitanemuk
Newhall, CA, 91322 — Vanyume
Phone: (503) 539 - 0933 — Tataviam
Fax: (503) 574-3308
ddyocum@comcast.net

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Lee Clauss, Director of Cultural Resources
26569 Community Center Drive — Serrano
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 864 - 8933
Fax: (909) 864-3370
lclauss@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 — Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (253) 370 - 0167
serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 — Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (909) 528 - 9032
serranonation1@gmail.com

Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
Robert L. Gomez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 226 — Tubatulabal
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240
Phone: (760) 379 - 4590
Fax: (760) 379-4592

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 Bear Valley Marketplace Project, San Bernardino County.

APPENDIX C

PALEONTOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

WESTERN SCIENCE CENTER

October 8, 2019

BCR Consulting, Inc.
Joseph Orozco
505 West 8th Street
Claremont, CA 91711

Dear Mr. Orozco,

This letter presents the results of a record search conducted for the Bear Valley Marketplace Project in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The project site is located north of Bear Valley Road, south of Jasmine Street between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue in Section 33, Township 5 North, and Range 4 West on the Hesperia USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle.

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

Any fossil specimen recovered from the Bear Valley Marketplace Project would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with development of the project area that occurs in native or previously undisturbed sediment would impact the paleontologically sensitive Pleistocene alluvial units and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation plan be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils associated with the study area..

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

Sincerely,

Darla Radford
Collections Manager