

# **CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

## **Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California**

Prepared for:

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Project No. PMA2201

### **National Archaeological Data Base (NADB) Information:**

*Type of Study:* Intensive Survey

*Resources Recorded:* Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields

*USGS Quadrangle:* 7.5-minute La Habra, California (1981)



**BCRCONSULTING LLC**

June 13, 2022

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Phil Martin & Associates to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project (project) located in the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California. A cultural resources records search, additional research, intensive-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).

BCR Consulting personnel conducted the cultural resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton. The records search data revealed that three cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of one cultural resource within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site. Of these studies, none have occurred within the project site and no cultural resources have been previously identified within its boundaries. During the field survey, BCR Consulting personnel identified the historic-period Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields within the project site boundaries. This resource has been recorded on California State Department of Park and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms, as required. It has been evaluated and recommended not eligible for California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) listing eligibility. As such it is not significant under CEQA. Based on these results, BCR Consulting recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring is necessary for any proposed project activities. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

Findings were negative during the Sacred Lands File search with the NAHC. The City will initiate AB 52 Native American Consultation for the project. Since the City will initiate and carry out the required Native American Consultation, the results of the consultation are not provided in this report. However, this report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff is available to answer questions and address concerns as necessary.

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

The geologic units directly underlying this project are mapped as Pliocene siltstone and claystone in the Fernando/Pico Formation, along with nearby alluvial gravel, sand, and silt from the early Holocene and late Pleistocene periods (Dibblee and Ehrenspeck, 2001). Holocene alluvial units are considered to be of high preservation value, but material found is unlikely to be fossil material due to the relatively modern associated dates of the deposits. However, if development into the nearby Holocene units requires any substantial depth of disturbance, or if the project extends to the Pleistocene units, the likelihood of reaching Pleistocene alluvial sediments would increase. Pliocene siltstone/claystone units like the Pico Formation are considered to be of high paleontological sensitivity, and can yield

invertebrate fossil specimens and fossil shark teeth [citations provided in Appendix E].

Any fossil specimens recovered from the Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area would impact the paleontologically sensitive Pliocene units, and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation program be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils from the study area.

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, 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 Phil Martin & Associates to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project (project) in the City of Whittier (City), Los Angeles County, California. A cultural resources records search, additional research, intensive-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 project site is located in Section 26 of Township 2 South, Range 11 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The project is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *La Habra, California* (1981) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

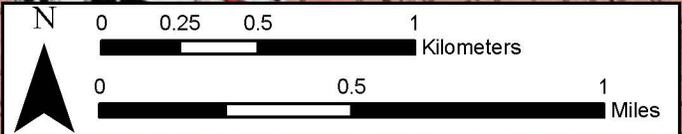
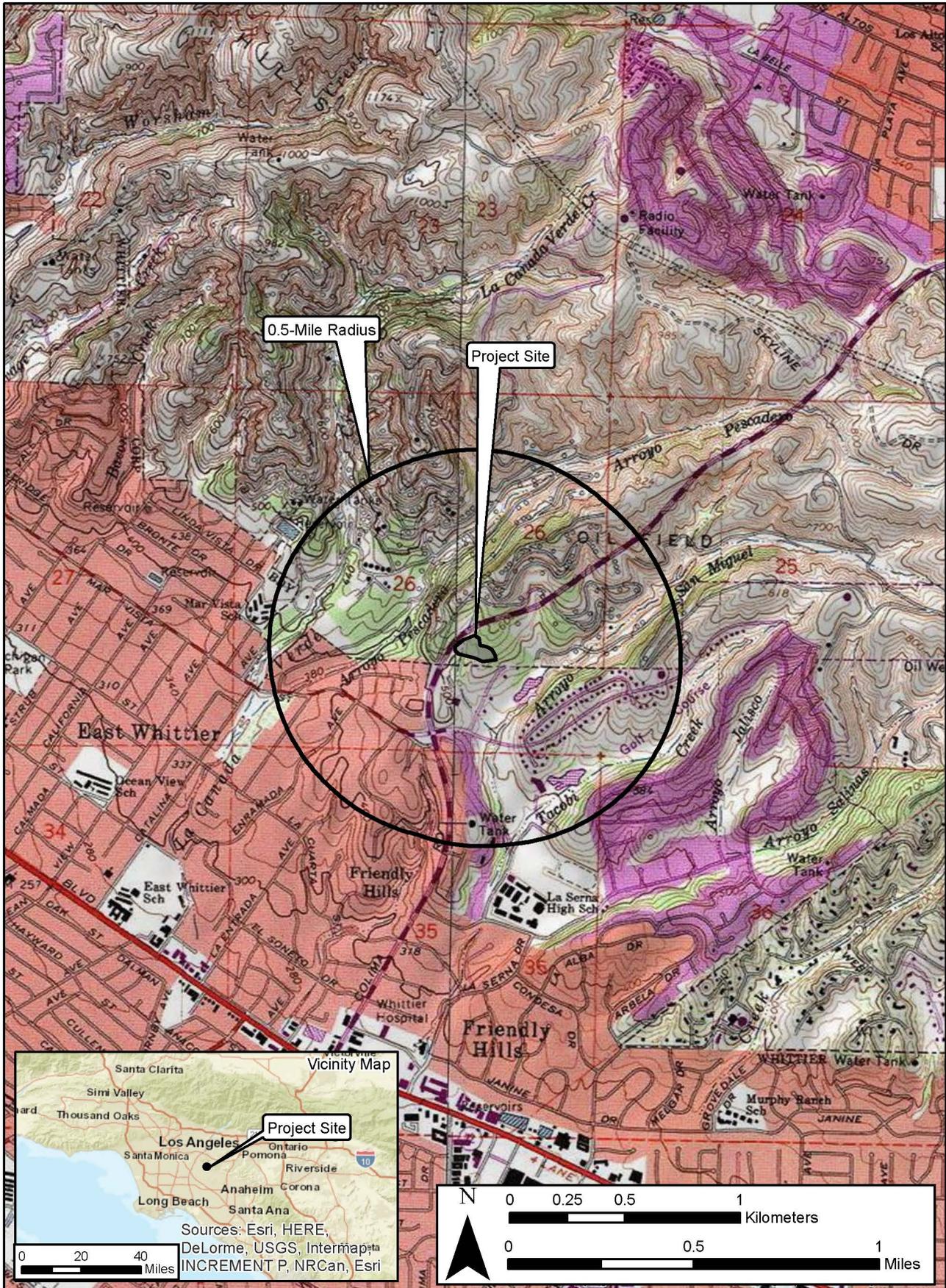
### Regulatory Setting

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

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

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

The significance of a historical resource is impaired when a project demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for the California Register. If an



impact on a historical or archaeological resource is significant, CEQA requires feasible measures to minimize the impact (State CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4 (a)(1)). Mitigation of significant impacts must lessen or eliminate the physical impact that the project will have on the resource.

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

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

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

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

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

AB 52 establishes “tribal cultural resources” (TCRs) as a new category of resources under CEQA. As defined under Public Resources Code Section 21074, TCRs are “sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe” that are either: (1) included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR; included in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k); or (2) determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to the criteria for inclusion in the CRHR set forth in Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c), if supported by substantial evidence and taking into account the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. A “historical resource” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21084.1, a “unique archaeological resource” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g), or a “nonunique archaeological resource” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(h) may also be TCRs.

AB 52 further establishes a new consultation process with California Native American tribes for proposed projects in geographic areas that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with that tribe. Per Public Resources Code Section 21073, “California Native American tribe” includes federally and non-federally recognized tribes on the NAHC contact list. Subject to certain prerequisites, AB 52 requires, among other things, that a lead agency consult with the geographically affiliated tribe before the release of an environmental review document for a proposed project regarding project alternatives, recommended mitigation measures, or potential significant effects, if the tribe so requests in writing. If the tribe and the lead agency agree upon mitigation measures during their consultation, these mitigation measures must be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document (Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21084.2, and 21084.3).

Since the City will initiate and carry out the required AB52 Native American Consultation, the results of the consultation are not provided in this report. However, this report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff are available to answer questions and address comments as necessary.

## **NATURAL SETTING**

The local geologic region coincides with the physiographic area known as the Los Angeles Basin. It is characterized as a transverse-oriented lowland basin and coastal plain approximately 50 miles long and 20 miles wide. The basin originated as a deep marine trough during the Pliocene (7-2 million years ago) that eventually filled with shallow water fossil bearing sediments. By the beginning of the Pleistocene (after 2 million years ago) uplifting created the series of plains and mesas along the coast that now characterize the area (Lambert 1994, Mendenhall 1905, Woodford et al. 1954). Local rainfall ranges from 5 to 15 inches annually (Jaeger and Smith 1971:36-37). Local vegetation communities are naturally dominated by coastal sage scrub and riparian vegetation, although urbanization prevents its proliferation in much of the project region (Williams et al. 2008:117, 122). See Bean and Saubel (1972) for use of these biotic communities by prehistoric and historic inhabitants. Excavation for building construction on the project site have disturbed sediments beyond depths at which buried cultural resources are likely.

## **CULTURAL SETTING**

### **Prehistoric Context**

The local prehistoric cultural setting has been organized into many chronological frameworks (see Warren and Crabtree 1986; Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Lanning 1963; Hunt 1960; Wallace 1958, 1962, 1978; Campbell and Campbell 1935), although there is no definitive sequence for the region. The difficulties in establishing cultural chronologies for southern California are a function of its enormous size and the small amount of archaeological excavations. Moreover, throughout prehistory many groups have occupied the area 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, local 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 review of Warren and Crabtree (1986), who have drawn upon this method to produce a relatively comprehensive chronology.

### **Ethnography**

The Gabrielino probably first encountered Europeans when Spanish explorers reached California's southern coast during the 15th and 16th centuries (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1925). The first documented encounter, however, occurred in 1769 when Gaspar de Portola's expedition crossed Gabrielino territory (Bean and Smith 1978). Other brief encounters took place over the years, and are documented in McCawley 1996 (citing numerous sources). The Gabrielino name has been attributed by association with the Spanish mission of San Gabriel, and refers to a subset of people sharing speech and customs with other Cupan speakers (such as the Juaneño/Luiseño/Ajachemem) from the greater Takic branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family (Bean and Smith 1978). Gabrielino villages occupied the watersheds of various rivers (locally including the Santa Ana) and intermittent streams. Chiefs were usually descended through the male line and often administered several villages. Gabrielino society was somewhat stratified and is thought to have contained three hierarchically ordered social classes which dictated ownership rights and social status and obligations (Bean and Smith 1978:540-546). Plants utilized for food were heavily relied upon and included acorn-producing oaks, as well as seed-producing grasses and sage. Animal protein was commonly derived from rabbits and deer in inland regions, while coastal populations supplemented their diets with fish, shellfish, and marine mammals (Boscana 1933, Heizer 1968, Johnston 1962, McCawley 1996). Dog, coyote, bear, tree squirrel, pigeon, dove, mud hen, eagle, buzzard, raven, lizards, frogs, and turtles were specifically not utilized as a food source (Kroeber 1925).

## 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 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). Garces was followed by Alta California Governor Pedro Fages, who briefly explored the region in 1772. Searching for San Diego Presidio deserters, Fages had traveled 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 further diminished the economic impact of local ranching. This decline combined with ubiquitous agricultural and real estate developments of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, set the stage for diversified economic pursuits that continue to this day (Beattie and Beattie 1974; Cleland 1941).

**Little League.** Research has shown that the Murphy Ranch Little League Fields are historic in age. Therefore, a brief history of Little League (from Little League 2022) is provided for context. The game of baseball was adapted from cricket in the U.S. in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and was probably formally known as baseball since the 1840s. Civil War soldiers from the north and south played baseball between battles, and in 1869 the first professional team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, was established. Baseball grew in popularity and became “America’s Pastime” in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Children’s leagues formed in the 1880s and pickup baseball was popular in streets and sand lots, but teams were poorly equipped and lacked organization. Formal youth teams were formed for teens in the 1920s by the American Legion and many schools, but there were few organized leagues for pre-teens. Baseball enthusiast Carl Stotz of Williamsport, Pennsylvania recognized the void, and began to try out various field dimensions and equipment suitable for younger age groups with his nephews and neighborhood children. In 1939 Stotz founded Little League

baseball and formed three teams with fellow charter managers George Bebble and Bert Bebble. The three teams were funded by local businesses and the first game was played on June 6, 1939. Little League caught on quickly, and since that time has grown from 3 to 200,000 teams, spread throughout all 50 U.S. states and more than 80 countries. Sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork remain Little Leagues fundamental principals to this day.

## PERSONNEL

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA acted as the Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the current study and authored the technical report. Mr. Brunzell also completed the cultural resource records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), completed additional research through various repositories and internet resources, and filled out the California Department of Park and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms. BCR Consulting Archaeological Crew Chief Nicholas Shepetuk, B.A. conducted the field survey.

## METHODS

This work was completed pursuant to CEQA, the Public Resources Code (PRC) Chapter 2.6, Section 21083.2, and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15064.5. The pedestrian cultural resources survey was intended to locate and document previously recorded or new cultural resources, including archaeological sites, features, isolates, and historic-period buildings, that exceed 45 years in age within defined project boundaries. The project site was examined using 15-meter transect intervals. This study is intended to determine whether cultural resources are located within the project boundaries, whether any cultural resources are significant pursuant to the above-referenced regulations and standards. Tasks include:

- Cultural resources records search to review studies and archaeological/historical resources recorded within a one half-mile radius of the project boundaries
- Systematic pedestrian survey of the entire project site
- California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) eligibility evaluation for any cultural resources identified
- Development of recommendations for cultural resources documented within the project boundaries, following CEQA
- Completion of DPR 523 forms for any discovered cultural resources.
- Vertebrate paleontology resources report through the Western Science Center.

## Records Search

Mr. Brunzell completed the archaeological records search at the SCCIC using California State University, Fullerton records on March 9, 2022. The records search included a review of all recorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, as well as a review of known cultural resources, and survey and excavation reports generated from projects completed within 0.5-miles of the project site. In addition, a review was conducted of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and documents and inventories from the California Office of Historic Preservation including the lists of California Historical

Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures. Additional research was performed through the General Land Office records of the Bureau of Land Management, the Los Angeles County Assessor, and various internet resources.

**Field Survey**

An archaeological pedestrian field survey of the project site was conducted on March 21, 2022. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart across 100 percent of the project site, where accessible. Where necessary, vegetation was moved aside to enhance surface visibility. Soil exposures, including natural and artificial clearings were carefully inspected for evidence of cultural resources.

**RESULTS**

**Records Search**

BCR Consulting completed the records search at the SCCIC at California State University, Fullerton. The records search data revealed that three cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of one cultural resource within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site. Of these studies, none have occurred within the project site and no cultural resources have been previously identified within its boundaries. The records search results are summarized as follows, and a complete records search bibliography is provided as Appendix A.

**Table A. Cultural Resources and Reports Located Within 1/2-Mile of the Project Site**

<i>La Habra, California</i> (1981)	P-19-3341: Historic-Period Oil Field (Adjacent North)	LA-1776, 3737, 8248
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**Additional Research.** The project site lies within Section 26 of Township 2 South, Range 11 West. General Land Office records indicate that a Serial Patent for 5155.29 acres including the Southwest ¼ of Section 26 (and the project site) was issued to the State of California on June 2, 1875 by authority of the January 21, 1927: Indemnity Selections (44 Stat. 1022; Bureau of Land Management 2022). Aerial photos and historic topographic maps show that the project site was never developed or cultivated from 1896 until 1967 (see [historicaerials.com](http://historicaerials.com)). The project site is currently owned by the City of Whittier and occupied by the Murphy Ranch Little League Fields. The Murphy Ranch Little League was established at Whittier Boulevard and La Serna in Whittier when developer John Lusk made local land available in 1959. Fundraising began for two new baseball fields in 1965. Funds were secured and the two fields were constructed and in use by April of 1967 (East Review 24 September 1959 “Thanx [Photo Caption]”; East Review 16 Dec. 1965 “League Kicks off Fund Raising Drive”; Whittier Star Review 04 May 1967 “Two-Hitter Opens New Diamonds”; electronic documents accessed at [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com)). Each field originally contained a home and visitor’s dugout, home and visitor’s bleachers, an announcer/scorekeeper booth behind home plate, backstops, and fencing that remain in place. Aerial photos show that a concrete masonry unit concession and storage building, access roads, parking lots, and shade awnings were added between 2009 and 2012 (United States Department of Agriculture 2009, 2012), and electronic scoreboards were

added at an unknown date. Both fields retain the original orientation, but some grass has been eliminated in favor of dirt in the infield and behind home plate. The little league field contains a bullpen and batting cage. A third baseball or softball field was added in the left field corner of the Junior League field in about 1993 (United States Department of Agriculture 1993).

### **Field Survey**

During the field survey, BCR Consulting staff carefully inspected the project site and identified the historic-period Murphy Little League Baseball Fields, currently known as the Murphy Ranch Baseball Complex. All features noted above were identified during the field survey. These included the two main fields; a Junior League size (larger) field located to the west, and a Little League size (smaller) field to the east. The original home and visitor's dugout, home and visitor's bleachers, an announcer/scorekeeper booth behind home plate, backstops, and fencing all remained in place at each field. The newer concrete masonry unit concession and storage building, access roads, parking lots, shade awnings, and electronic scoreboards were also identified. The third baseball or softball field built in about 1993 also remains in place as indicated above. All features were photographed and described in detail on DPR 523 forms (Appendix B and Appendix C). Vegetation is dominated by grass in the infield and outfield, and the entire property has been landscaped.

### **SIGNIFICANCE EVALUATIONS**

During the field survey the historic-period Murphy Little League Baseball Fields and associated features were identified. CEQA calls for the evaluation and recordation of historic and archaeological resources. The criteria for determining the significance of impacts to cultural resources are based on Section 15064.5 of the *CEQA Guidelines* and Guidelines for the Nomination of Properties to the California Register. Properties eligible for listing in the California Register and subject to review under CEQA are those meeting the criteria for listing in the California Register, or designation under a local ordinance.

#### **Significance Criteria**

**California Register of Historical Resources.** The California Register criteria are based on National Register criteria. For a property to be eligible for inclusion on the California Register, one or more of the following criteria must be met:

1. It is associated with the events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the U.S.;
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or U.S. history;
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic values; and/or

4. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the California Register requires that sufficient time has passed since a resource's period of significance to "obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resources." (CCR 4852 [d][2]). The California Register also requires that a resource possess integrity. This is defined as the ability for the resource to convey its significance through seven aspects: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The California Register evaluations of the resource identified within the project site boundaries are provided below.

### California Register Evaluation

**Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields.** Criterion 1: Substantial research has not indicated a close association between the subject property and any important events. It is therefore not eligible for the California Register under Criterion 1. Criterion 2: Research has failed to connect the subject property with the lives of persons important in California's past. It is therefore not eligible for the California Register under Criterion 2. Criterion 3: The subject property exhibits a style common to little league parks in southern California. It lacks architectural distinction and does not display significant elements of the era during which it was constructed. It does not significantly represent the work of an important creative individual or possess high artistic values. Therefore, the subject property is not eligible under Criterion 3. Criterion 4: The subject property has not and is not likely to yield information important in prehistory or history and is therefore not eligible for listing under Criterion 4. The subject property and its historic-age structures are therefore recommended not eligible under any of the four criteria for listing on the California Register, and as such are not recommended historical resources under CEQA.

**Integrity.** As the subject property remains in its original position and is still in use as a little league, it retains integrity of location, setting, and association. Alterations have minimally diminished integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

During the records search, additional research, and field survey, BCR Consulting personnel identified the historic-period Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields within the project site boundaries. This resource has been recorded on DPR 523 forms, as required. The resource has been evaluated and recommended not eligible for California Register listing eligibility. As such it is not significant under CEQA. Based on these results, BCR Consulting recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring is necessary for any proposed project activities. 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;

Findings were negative during the Sacred Lands File search with the NAHC. The City will initiate AB 52 Native American Consultation for the project. Since the City will initiate and carry out the required Native American Consultation, the results of the consultation are not provided in this report. However, this report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff is available to answer questions and address concerns as necessary.

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

The geologic units directly underlying this project are mapped as Pliocene siltstone and claystone in the Fernando/Pico Formation, along with nearby alluvial gravel, sand, and silt from the early Holocene and late Pleistocene periods (Dibblee and Ehrenspeck, 2001). Holocene alluvial units are considered to be of high preservation value, but material found is unlikely to be fossil material due to the relatively modern associated dates of the deposits. However, if development into the nearby Holocene units requires any substantial depth of disturbance, or if the project extends to the Pleistocene units, the likelihood of reaching Pleistocene alluvial sediments would increase. Pliocene siltstone/claystone units like the Pico Formation are considered to be of high

paleontological sensitivity, and can yield invertebrate fossil specimens and fossil shark teeth [citations provided in Appendix E].

Any fossil specimens recovered from the Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area would impact the paleontologically sensitive Pliocene units, and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation program be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils from the study area.

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, 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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**APPENDIX A**  
**RECORDS SEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## Report List

PMA2201

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
LA-01776		1989	Whitney-Desautels, Nancy A.	Cultural Resource Survey Report on the Whittier Property	Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.	
LA-03737		1997	Dillon, Brian D.	Archaeological Survey of the Colima Vegetation Management Plan (prescribed Burn) Los Angeles County, California	Consulting Archaeologist	
LA-08248		2006	Fulton, Terri and Deborah McLean	Cultural Resource Assessment for the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, Los Angeles County, California	LSA Associates, Inc.	19-003341, 19-003342, 19-003345, 19-100504, 19-100505, 19-186935, 19-186936, 19-186937, 19-186938, 19-186939, 19-186943

## Resource List

PMA2201

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-19-003341	CA-LAN-003341H	Resource Name - LSA-PUE430-S-7 Whittier Oil Field; Other - Whittier Oil Field	Site	Historic	AH02; AH07; AH16	2004 (Terri Fulton, Phil Fulton, LSA Associates, Inc)	LA-08248

## **APPENDIX B**

### **DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND RECREATION 523 FORMS**

---

**P1. Other Identifier:**

\*P2. Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted

\*a. County: Los Angeles

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: La Habra Date: 1981

T2S; R11W; 26; SBBM

c. Address: 7550 Colima Road City: Whittier Zip: 90605

d. UTM: Zone: N/A mE/

Elevation: 520' AMSL

e. Other Locational Data: The subject property is located on the southeast side of Colima Road approximately ¼ mile northeast of the intersection of Colima Road and Mar Vista Street.

\*P3a. Description: The subject property is currently known as the Murphy Ranch Baseball Complex and comprises two main fields of Murphy Ranch Little League. The two main fields abut one another; a Junior League size (larger) field located to the west, and a Little League size (smaller) field to the east. Each field contains a home and visitor's dugout, home and visitor's bleachers, an announcer/scorekeeper booth behind home plate, backstops, and fencing that appear to be original. Aerial photos show that a concrete masonry unit concession and storage building, access roads, parking lots, and shade awnings were added between 2009 and 2012 (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2009, 2012) and electronic scoreboards were added at an unknown date. Both fields retain the original orientation, but some grass has been eliminated in favor of dirt in the infield and behind home plate. The little league field contains a bullpen and batting cage. A third baseball or softball field was added in the left field corner of the Junior League field in about 1993 (USDA 1993). Vegetation is dominated by grass in the infield and outfield, and the entire property has been landscaped.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP42. Stadium/Sports Arena

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



\*P4. Resources Present:

Building  Structure  Object  
 Site  District  Element of District  Other

\*P5b. Description of Photo:

(View, date, accession #) Photo 1: NW Field (View SE), 3/21/22

\*P6. Date Constructed/ Age and Sources:  Historic 1967 (see page 2)  Prehistoric  Both

\*P7. Owner and Address:

City of Whittier  
13230 Penn Street  
Whittier, California 90602

\*P8. Recorded by:

BCR Consulting LLC  
505 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Claremont, California 91711

\*P9. Date Recorded: 3/21/22

\*P10. Survey Type: Intensive.

\*P11. Report Citation: *Cultural Resources Assessment of the Murphy Ranch Little League Lighting Project, City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California.*

\*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):

**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

Page 2 of 2 \*NRHP Status Code: 6Z \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields

B1. Historic Name: Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields B2. Common Name: Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields  
B3. Original Use: Little League Baseball Field B4. Present Use: Residence

\*B5. Architectural Style: Utilitarian

\*B6. Construction History: The Murphy Ranch Little League was established at Whittier Boulevard and La Serna in Whittier when developer John Lusk made local land available in 1959. Fundraising began for two new baseball fields in 1965. Funds were secured and the two fields were constructed and in use by April of 1967 (East Review 24 September 1959 "Thanx [Photo Caption]"; East Review 16 Dec. 1965 "League Kicks off Fund Raising Drive"; Whittier Star Review 04 May 1967 "Two-Hitter Opens New Diamonds"; electronic documents accessed at newspapers.com). Each field originally contained a home and visitor's dugout, home and visitor's bleachers, an announcer/scorekeeper booth behind home plate, backstops, and fencing that remain in place. Aerial photos show that a concrete masonry unit concession and storage building, access roads, parking lots, and shade awnings were added between 2009 and 2012 (United States Department of Agriculture 2009, 2012), and electronic scoreboards were added at an unknown date. Both fields retain the original orientation, but some grass has been eliminated in favor of dirt in the infield and behind home plate. The little league field contains a bullpen and batting cage. A third baseball or softball field was added in the left field corner of the Junior League field in about 1993 (United States Department of Agriculture 1993).

\*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: N/A Original Location: N/A \*B8. Related Features: None

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme: Little League Development Area: Whittier Applicable Criteria: N/A

The only historic-period structures on the property are utilitarian and lack architectural style or ornamentation. The design of the two historic-period baseball fields, backstops, fencing, dugouts, and other ancillary features appear to be common design and to conform to measurements required by Little League.

**History**

**Little League (adapted from Little League 2022).** The project site comprises a Little League baseball complex. The game of baseball was adapted from cricket in the U.S. in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and was probably formally known as baseball since the 1840s. Civil War soldiers from the north and south played baseball between battles, and in 1869 the first professional team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, was established. Baseball grew in popularity and became "America's Pastime" in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Children's leagues formed in the 1880s and pickup baseball was popular in streets and sand lots, but teams were poorly equipped and lacked organization. Formal youth teams were formed for teens in the 1920s by the American Legion and many schools, but there were few organized leagues for pre-teens. Baseball enthusiast Carl Stotz of Williamsport, Pennsylvania recognized the void, and began to try out various field dimensions and equipment suitable for younger age groups with his nephews and neighborhood children. In 1939 Stotz founded Little League baseball and formed three teams with fellow charter managers George Bebble and Bert Bebble. The three teams were funded by local businesses and the first game was played on June 6, 1939. Little League caught on quickly, and since that time has grown from 3 to 200,000 teams in all 50 U.S. states and more than 80 countries. Sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork remain Little Leagues fundamental principals to this day.

Period of Significance: Post World War II Property Type: Sports Field Applicable Criteria: N/A

**Evaluation**

Criterion 1: Substantial research has not indicated a close association between the subject property and any important events. It is therefore not eligible for the California Register under Criterion 1. Criterion 2: Research has failed to connect the subject property with the lives of persons important in California's past. It is therefore not eligible for the California Register under Criterion 2. Criterion 3: The subject property exhibits a style common to little league parks in southern California. It lacks architectural distinction and does not display significant elements of the era during which it was constructed. It does not significantly represent the work of an important creative individual or possess high artistic values. Therefore, the subject property is not eligible under Criterion 3. Criterion 4: The subject property has not and is not likely to yield information important in prehistory or history and is therefore not eligible for listing under Criterion 4. The subject property and its historic-age structures are therefore recommended not eligible under any of the four criteria for listing on the California Register, and as such are not recommended historical resources under CEQA.

**Integrity.** As the subject property remains in its original position and is still in use as a little league, it retains integrity of location, setting, and association. Alterations have minimally diminished integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes N/A

\*B12. References:

Little League 2022. *History of Little League*. Electronic Document: <https://www.littleleague.org/who-we-are/history/>. Accessed 6/13/2022.  
USDA. 1993, 2009, 2012, 1959, 1966. Aerial Photos of Los Angeles County. Electronic Document: [historicaerials.com](http://historicaerials.com). Accessed 6/13/22.

\*B14. Evaluators: David Brunzell, BCR Consulting, Claremont, California

\*Date of Evaluation 6/13/22



## APPENDIX C

### PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS

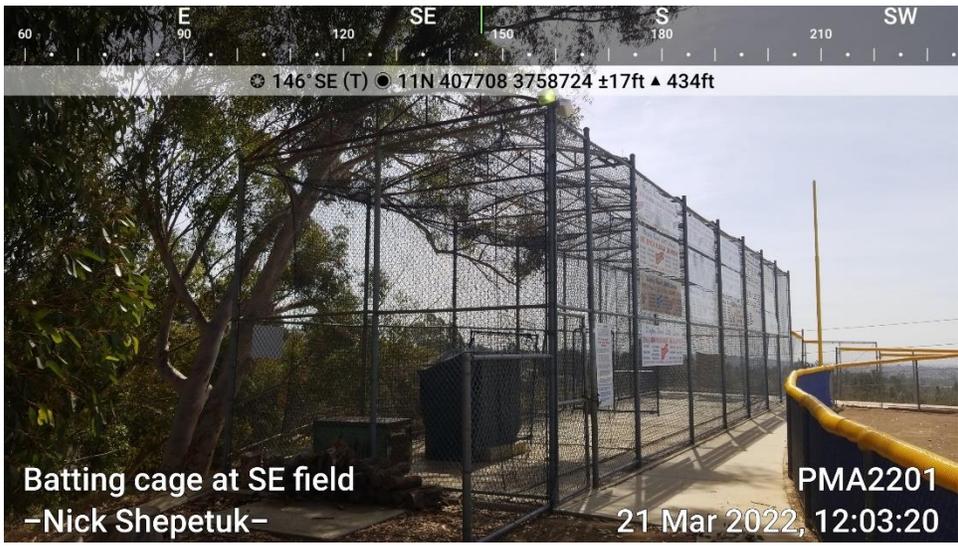




SE field score board  
PMA2201  
21 Mar 2022,  
12:04:52  
-Nick Shepetuk-



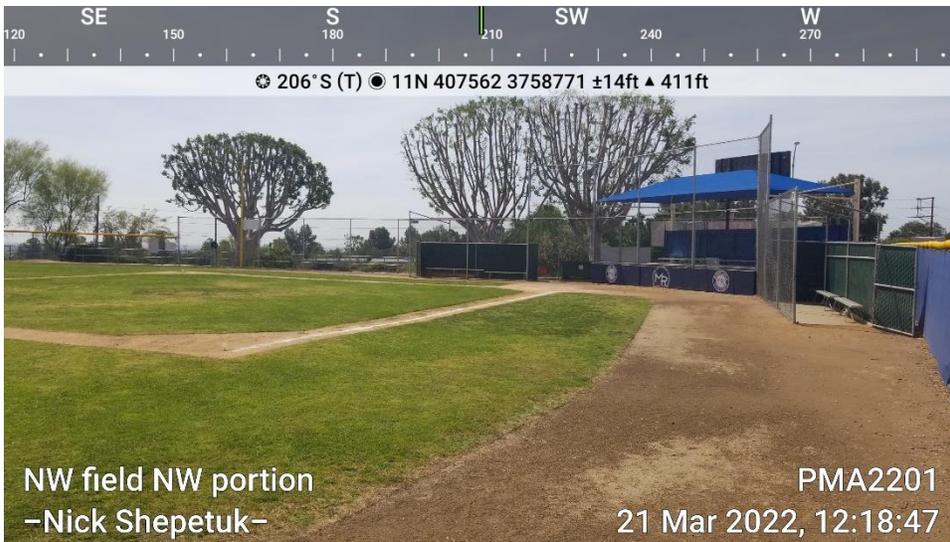
Announcers booth at SE field  
PMA2201  
21 Mar 2022,  
11:58:23  
-Nick Shepetuk-

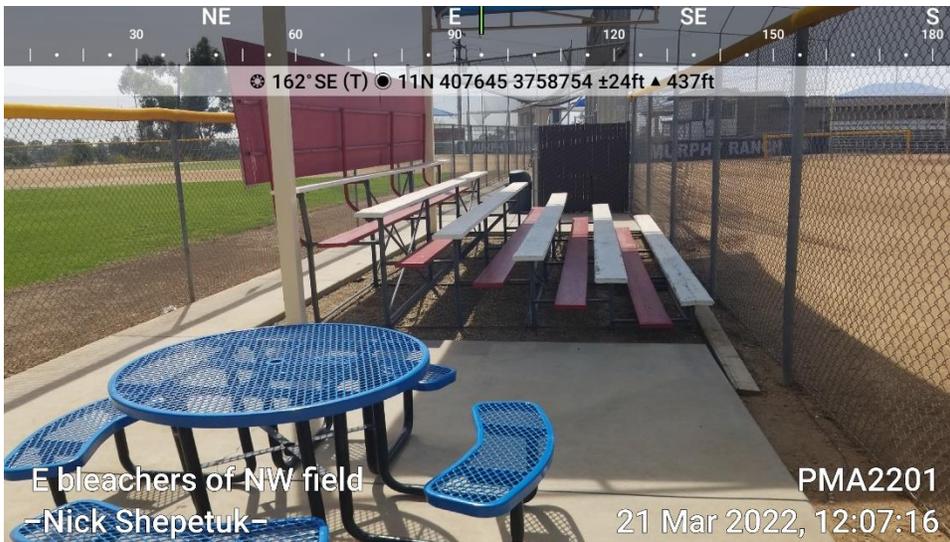
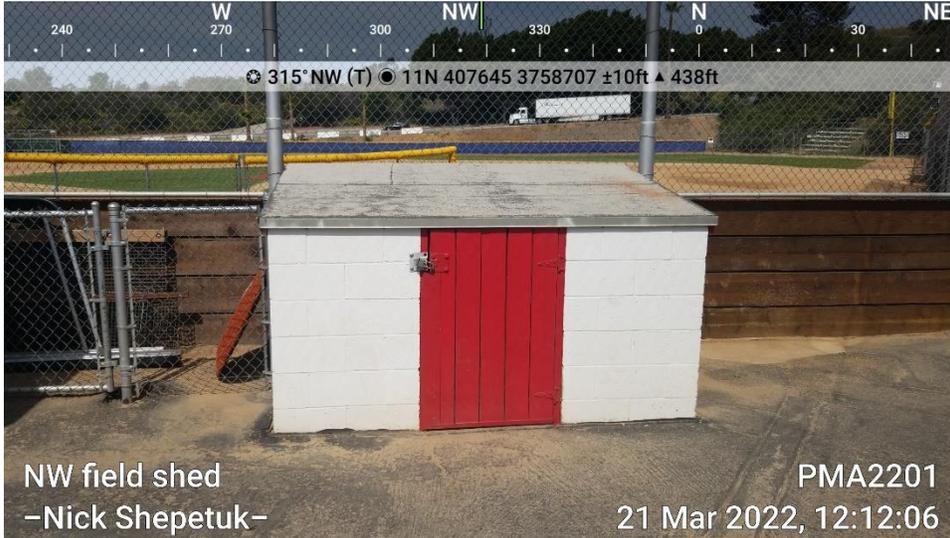


Batting cage at SE field  
PMA2201  
21 Mar 2022, 12:03:20  
-Nick Shepetuk-











## **APPENDIX D**

### **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH**

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

April 19, 2022

David Brunzell  
BCR Consulting

Via Email to: [david.brunzell@yahoo.com](mailto:david.brunzell@yahoo.com)

### Re: The Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Brunzell:

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

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
**Russell Attebery**  
Karuk

SECRETARY  
**Sara Dutschke**  
Miwok

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

COMMISSIONER  
**Isaac Bojorquez**  
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER  
**Buffy McQuillen**  
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,  
Nomlaki

COMMISSIONER  
**Wayne Nelson**  
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER  
**Stanley Rodriguez**  
Kumeyaay

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**Raymond C. Hitchcock**  
Miwok/Nisenan

**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
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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  
4/19/2022**

**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**

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 Nation**

Sandonne Goad, Chairperson  
106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St., Gabrielino  
#231  
Los Angeles, CA, 90012  
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ivivanco@soboba-nsn.gov

**Gabrielino Tongva Indians of  
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Robert Dorame, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 490 Gabrielino  
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Phone: (562) 761 - 6417  
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gtongva@gmail.com

**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 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 The Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project, Los Angeles County.

## **APPENDIX E**

### **PALEONTOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**



March 25, 2022

BCR Consulting, LLC  
Nicholas Shepetuk  
505 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Claremont, CA 91711

Dear Mr. Shepetuk,

This letter presents the results of a record search conducted for Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project located in the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California. The project site is located directly to the east of Colima Road and north of Mar Vista Street in Township 2 South, Range 11 West, Section 26 on the *La Habra, CA* USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle.

The geologic units directly underlying this project are mapped as Pliocene siltstone and claystone in the Fernando/Pico Formation, along with nearby alluvial gravel, sand, and silt from the early Holocene and late Pleistocene periods (Dibblee and Ehrenspeck, 2001). Holocene alluvial units are considered to be of high preservation value, but material found is unlikely to be fossil material due to the relatively modern associated dates of the deposits. However, if development into the nearby Holocene units requires any substantial depth of disturbance, or if the project extends to the Pleistocene units, the likelihood of reaching Pleistocene alluvial sediments would increase. Pliocene siltstone/claystone units like the Pico Formation are considered to be of high paleontological sensitivity, and can yield invertebrate fossil specimens<sup>1</sup> and fossil shark teeth.<sup>2</sup>

Any fossil specimens recovered from the Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area would impact the paleontologically sensitive Pliocene units, and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation program be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils from the study area.

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<sup>1</sup> UCMP (University of California Museum of Paleontology) Invertebrate Collection Pliocene Locality Coverage  
<https://ucmp.berkeley.edu/science/inverts/pliocene.php>

<sup>2</sup> Hunt, ReBecca K., Vincent L. Santucci and Jason Kenworthy. 2006. "A preliminary inventory of fossil fish from National Park Service units." in S.G. Lucas, J.A. Spielmann, P.M. Hester, J.P. Kenworthy, and V.L. Santucci (ed.s), *Fossils from Federal Lands*. New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin 34, pp. 63–69.



If you have any questions, or would like further information, please feel free to contact me at [bstoneburg@westerncentermuseum.org](mailto:bstoneburg@westerncentermuseum.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney Stoneburg", written in a cursive style.

Brittney Elizabeth Stoneburg  
Collections Technician

# Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project

project area + one mile radius

**Legend**

-  Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project
-  One Mile Radius
-  Q: Quaternary alluvium and marine deposits (Pliocene to Holocene)

