A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY FOR THE NISQUALLI ROAD TRAILER LOT EXPANSION PROJECT

CITY OF VICTORVILLE, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

APN 3090-571-04

Project Site Location: Section 27, Township 5 North, Range 4 West of the *Hesperia* USGS Quadrangle Topographic Map

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Archaeological Report Summary Information

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Report Title:	A Phase I Cultural Resources Study for the Nisqualli Road Trailer Lot Expansion Project, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California
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Assessor's Parcel Numbers:	309-057-117
USGS Quadrangle:	Section 27, Township 5 North, Range 4 West of the USGS *Hesperia*, *California* (7.5-minute) Quadrangle.
Study Area:	10.04 acres
Key Words:	Archaeological survey program; City of Victorville; 10 acres; *Hesperia* USGS topographic quadrangle; negative: no further archaeological study recommended.

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1.0 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

The following report describes the results of the cultural resources survey conducted by BFSA Environmental Services, a Perennial Company (BFSA), for the Nisqualli Road Trailer Lot Expansion Project. The survey included 10.04 acres (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 3090-571-04) located within the city of Victorville in western San Bernardino County, California. The proposed project is located east of Enterprise Way, between Nutro Way and Nisqualli Road, in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. Further, the project is situated within Section 27, Township 5 North, Range 4 West of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (7.5-minute) *Hesperia, California* topographic quadrangle map. As designed, the project proposes to improve the 10.04-acre project site for a tractor-trailer lot.

BFSA conducted this assessment to locate and record any cultural resources identified within the project site in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and following City of Victorville environmental guidelines. A records search was conducted by BFSA at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton (CSU Fullerton). The search did not identify any previously recorded resources within the project site; however, six resources (all prehistoric isolates) are recorded within one-half mile of the subject property. The records search also identified 14 previous studies conducted within one-half mile of the project site, two of which include the project site (Weil 1981; Hogan 2004). The previous studies did not identify any cultural resources within the subject property. Further, a search of the Sacred Lands Files (SLF) was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to determine if any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance are present within the project site. The SLF search has been returned with positive results for potential sites or locations of Native American importance within the vicinity. The NAHC suggested contacting the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Chemehuevi Indian Tribe for further information. This additional outreach will be conducted by the lead agency under the official Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Native American consultation process. All correspondence with the NAHC can be found in Appendix C.

1.1 Purpose of Investigation

The purpose of this investigation was to complete background research in regard to the cultural resource sensitivity of the project, survey the project site acreage, identify any archaeological resources within the project site, and test and evaluate any cultural resources that may be impacted by the proposed development. The site plan shows the configuration of the proposed development (Figure 2.0–3).

1.2 Major Findings

A review of the records search results shows that the property was previously surveyed (Weil 1981), and that at least the western portion of the property was graded in 2004 (Hogen 2004). A review of aerial photographs confirmed that the entirety of the project site was cleared and

subjected to some level of grading between 2003 and 2005. The survey confirmed the property had been previously developed, and the property was characterized as a gravel and dirt lot currently being used for the storage of tractor-trailers. The survey did not result in the identification of any historic or prehistoric cultural resources within the project site.

1.3 Recommendation Summary

Based upon the findings presented within this report, no further archaeological studies are necessary as part of the CEQA review process. Further, mitigation monitoring is not recommended as part of project approval since there is little to no potential to encounter any cultural sites during the development of this property. However, in the event that any historic or prehistoric cultural resources are inadvertently discovered, all construction work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall stop, and a qualified archaeologist shall determine if further mitigation measures are warranted. Should human remains be discovered, treatment of these remains shall follow California Public Resources Code (PRC) 5097.9. Any human remains that are determined to be Native American shall be reported to the San Bernardino County Medical Examiner and Coroner and subsequently to the NAHC. A copy of this report will be filed with the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton. All notes, photographs, and other materials related to this project will be curated at the archaeological laboratory of BFSA in Poway, California.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

BFSA was retained by the applicant to conduct a cultural resources study of the proposed Nisqualli Road Trailer Lot Expansion Project in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California (Figure 2.0–1). The archaeological survey was conducted in order to comply with CEQA and City of Victorville guidelines with regard to development-generated impacts to cultural resources. The project is located in an area of low to moderate cultural resource sensitivity, as suggested by known site density and predictive modeling. Sensitivity for cultural resources in a given area is usually indicated by known settlement patterns, which in the western San Bernardino County area are focused around environments with accessible food and water.

The proposed project is located east of Enterprise Way, between Nutro Way and Nisqualli Road, in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California (Figure 2.0–1). The project site is situated within the northwest quarter of Section 27, Township 5 North, Range 4 West of the USGS (7.5-minute) *Hesperia*, *California* topographic quadrangle (Figure 2.0–2). As designed, the project proposes to improve the 10.04-acre project site (APN 3090-571-04) for a tractor-trailer lot. The open area of the project site is in the eastern portion, while a long panhandle driveway extends from the southeastern corner of the project site approximately 1,000 feet west of Enterprise Way. The development proposed on the project site would be an expansion to an existing industrial building located immediately to the south (Figure 2.0–3).

Principal Investigator Tracy A. Stropes, M.A., RPA, directed the cultural resources study for the project. Field Archaeologist Mary Chitjian conducted the pedestrian survey in 10-meter interval transects. The survey conditions were generally good. Andrew J. Garrison, M.A., RPA, prepared the technical report. Emily T. Soong created the report graphics and Jacob Tidwell conducted technical editing and report production. Qualifications of key personnel are provided in Appendix A.

2.1 Previous Work

An archaeological records search was conducted by BFSA at the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton. The records search did not identify any resources within the project site; however, six resources are recorded within one-half mile of the project site. The records search also identified 14 previous studies which have been conducted within one-half mile of the project site, two of which include the project site (Weil 1981; Hogan 2004). The previous study did not identify any cultural resources within the subject property.

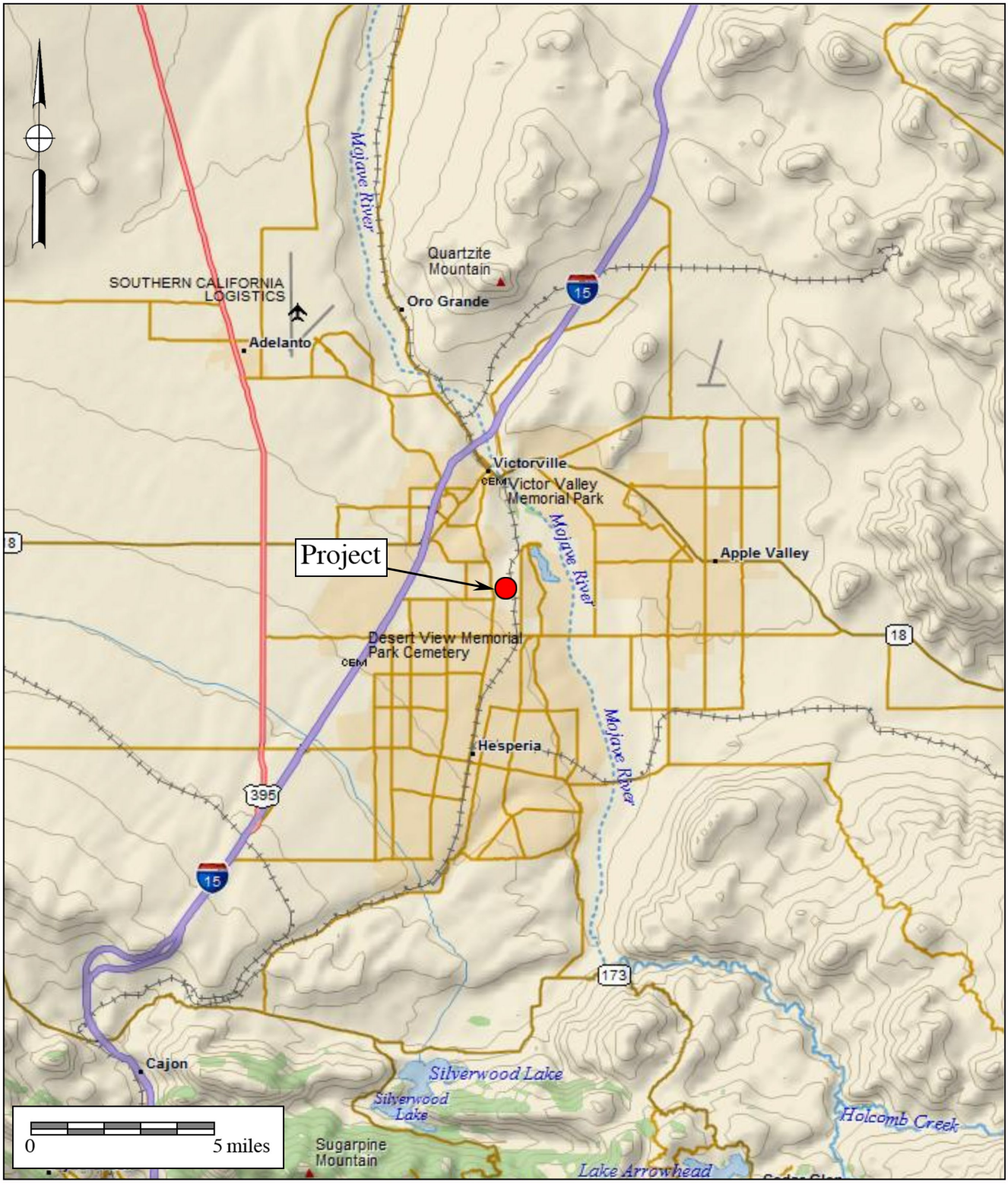

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Figure 2.0–1

General Location Map

The Nisqualli Road Trailer Lot Expansion Project

DeLorme (1:250,000 series)

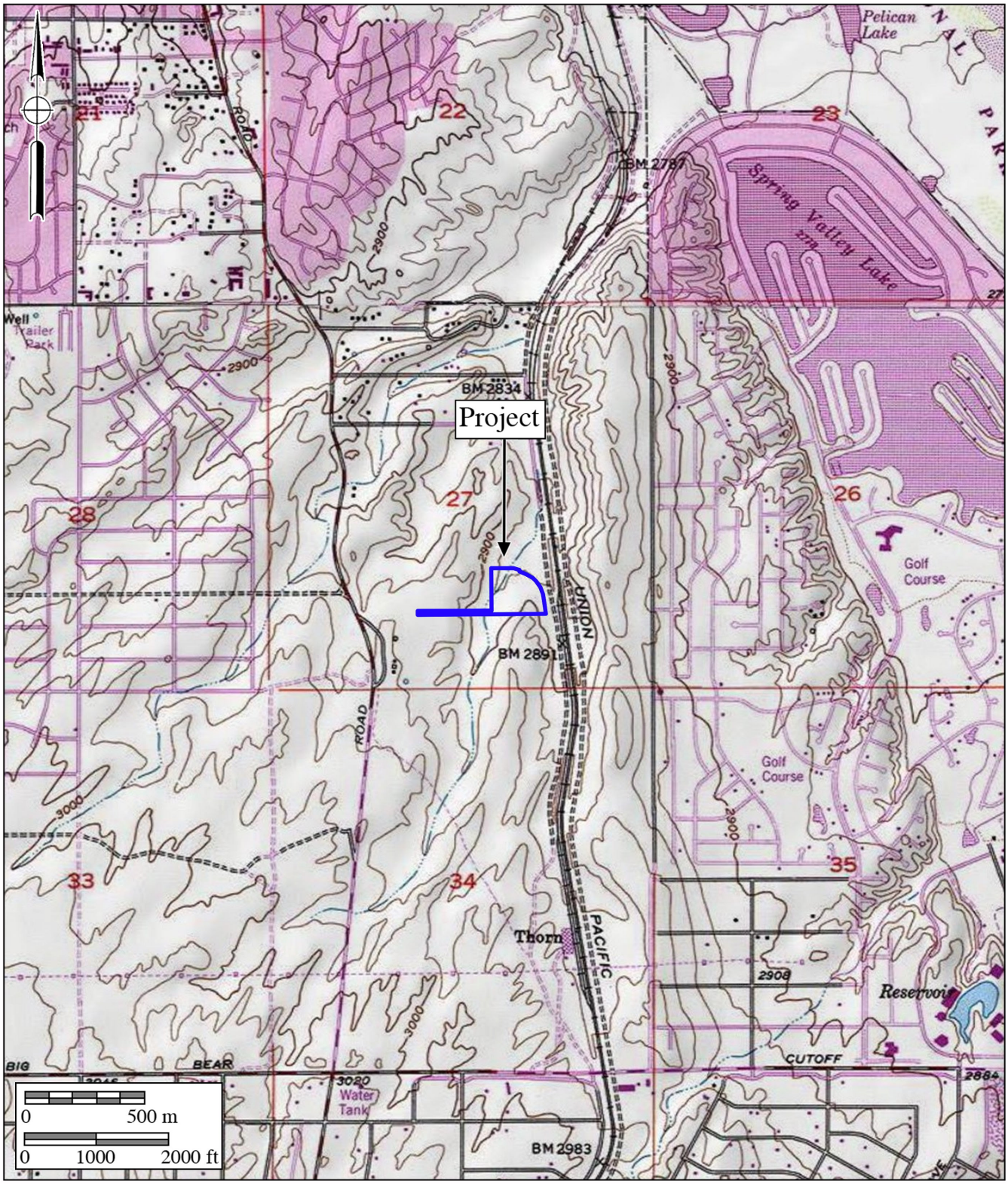

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Figure 2.0–2
Project Location Map

The Nisqualli Road Trailer Lot Expansion Project

USGS *Hesperia* Quadrangle (7.5-minute series)

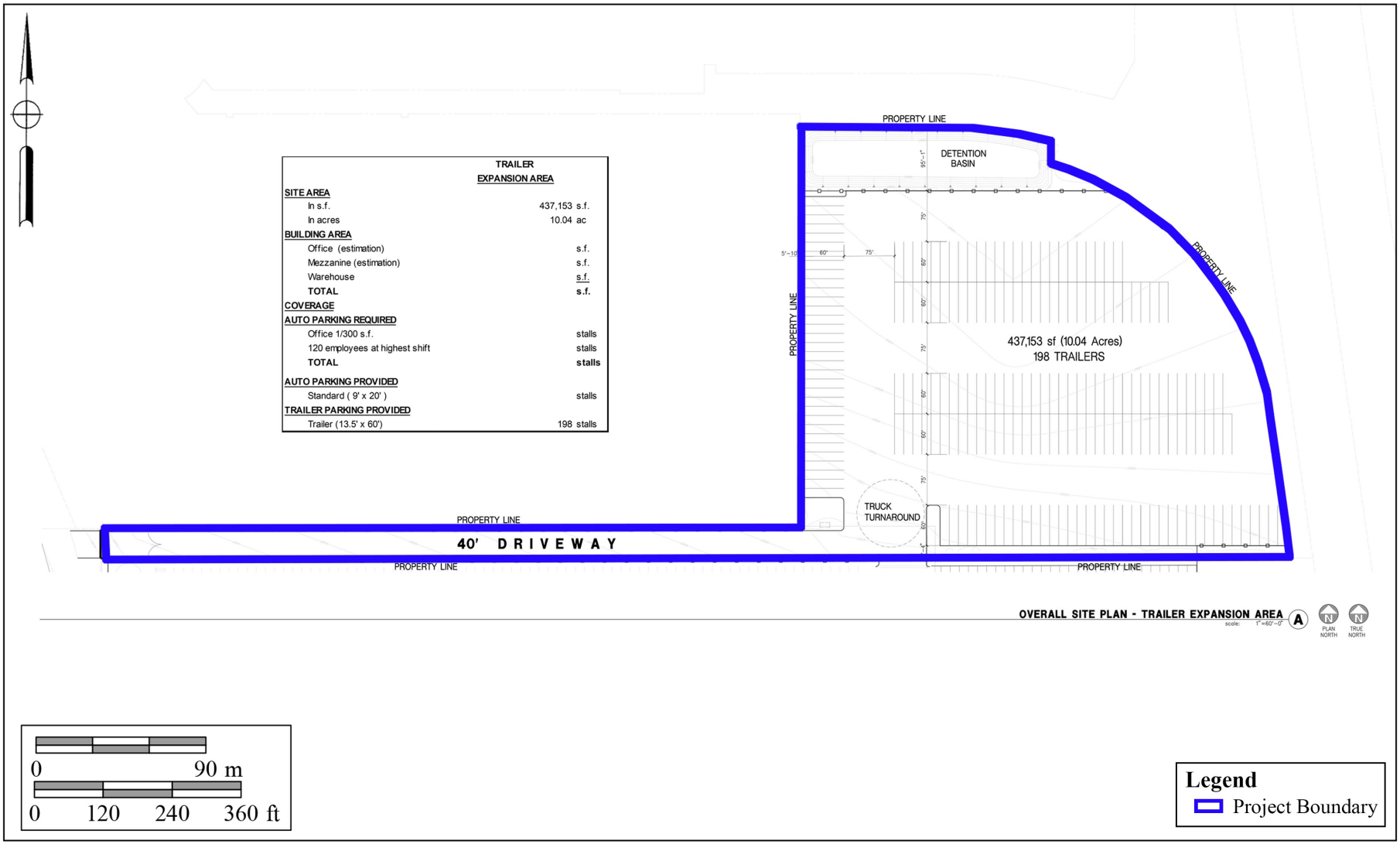

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Figure 2.0–3
Conceptual Site Plan
The Nisqualli Road Trailer Lot Expansion Project

2.2 Project Setting

The subject property is located east of the Peninsular Ranges Geologic Province of southern California. The range, which lies in a northwest-to-southeast trend through the county, extends some 1,000 miles from the Raymond-Malibu Fault Zone in western Los Angeles County to the southern tip of Baja California. The subject property is located north of the San Gabriel Mountain range and the San Bernardino National Forest and south of the Ord Mountain range in the Mojave River drainage basin in the southern portion of the Mojave Desert. Geologically, the project site primarily overlies middle to early Pleistocene very old alluvial-fan deposits (Morton and Miller 2006). The specific soils within the project site consist of Bryman loamy fine sand and Cajon sand (NRCS 2022). The property is generally flat and aerial photographs show the property was cleared and graded between 2003 and 2005. As such, the elevations within the project site range from approximately 2,900 to 2,910 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Currently, the vegetation on the property consists of creosote bushes and non-native weeds and grasses generally found along the perimeter. The dominant plant species in the vicinity include creosote bush, saltbush, bursage, and Joshua trees.

2.3 Cultural Setting

The subject property straddles the traditional territory of multiple Native American groups including the Serrano and the Vanyume. Although there may be considered a range of cultural variations among these groups, they all have language derived from a base Uto-Aztecan language stock. In the same instance, although they may have held differing worldviews and maintained variations in their social structures, how they exploited the natural resources of their territories remained similar.

Although the Mojave Desert is an area believed to have had limited prehistoric subsistence resources, it has historically supported a long and occasionally dense population. Evidence of villages and camps, burials, quarries, rock features, and bedrock mortars has been documented at archaeological sites across the desert, some of which contain evidence of a lengthy prehistoric time span. Although early archaeological remains are not found frequently, when they are, they are generally located along the margins of former pluvial lakes or in areas of dune deflation. In contrast, artifacts on the desert floor may be sparse, widely scattered, and mixed with the desert pavements. For the region, archaeologists have reached a broad consensus regarding the general cultural chronology. The identified sequence includes the Paleo Indian Period, the Pinto Period, the Gypsum Period, the Saratoga Springs Period, and the Ethnohistoric Period.

2.3.1 Paleo Indian Period (12,000 to 7,000 Years Before the Present [YBP])

The earliest documented evidence of human occupation in the Mojave Desert comes from the Paleo Indian Period, a cultural expression referred to as the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition (WPLT). The WPLT occurred in the western Great Basin and covered an area that stretched from the now arid lands of southern California to Oregon. A cultural adaptation to pluvial conditions

(*e.g.,* lakes, marshes, and grasslands) flourished for thousands of years after approximately 9000 B.C., but disappeared in response to the warming and drying trends of the Altithermal Climatic Period (Moratto 1984). One of the most well-known expressions of the WPLT is the Lake Mojave Complex, which is thought to have covered a vast area including parts of the southwestern Great Basin and the Mojave Desert, maybe reaching as far south as the San Diego area. Artifacts indicative of the Lake Mojave Complex include foliated points and knives, Lake Mojave points, Silver Lake points, and flaked-stone crescents. Similar artifacts have been subsequently recorded along the shoreline of many other pluvial lakes in the Mojave Desert.

2.3.2 Pinto Period (7,000 to 4,000 YBP)

The Pinto Period dates to the end of the Pleistocene, when the severe and dramatic environmental change from pluvial to arid conditions began. Pinto Period sites are found mostly near ephemeral lakes and now dry streams and springs, suggesting a wetter climate than the present. Projectile points associated with the Pinto Period are characterized as larger atlatl dart points, as opposed to arrowhead points, which were introduced later. This period has been described as a highly mobile desert economy, with an emphasis on hunting that was supplemented by the use of processed seeds (Moratto 1984). Pinto Period artifacts have been interpreted as indications of temporary or seasonal occupations by small groups of people.

2.3.3 Gypsum Period (4,000 to 1,500 YBP)

The presence of Humboldt Concave Base, Gypsum Cave, Elko Eared, or Elko corner-notched points are believed to be indicative of the Gypsum Period (radiocarbon dated from 4,000 to 1,500 years ago). The Gypsum Period reflects a more intensive desert occupation. Indications of trade with coastal populations are evidenced by the shell beads in the archaeological record. An increase in milling stones and manos has been found in association with this period, which indicates an increased use of hard seeds (Moratto 1984). Several scholars associate this period with the division of the Uto-Aztecan language, approximately 3,000 to 2,500 years ago. The major language groups that emerged from this division are Numic, spoken by the Kawaiisu and Piute; Takic, spoken by the Kitanemuk, Serrano, Gabrieliño, and other southern California Shoshonean speakers; Hopic, spoken in the southwest; and Tubatulabalic, spoken by the Tubatulabal in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. A shift in settlement patterns toward a more sedentary lifestyle occurred during this period, characterized by the emergence of large permanent or semi-permanent village sites and associated cemeteries.

2.3.4 Saratoga Springs Period (1,500 to 800 YBP)

The Saratoga Springs Period is characterized by a transition from larger dart points to smaller arrow points. This, combined with evidence from rock art motifs, leads scholars to argue for a shift from atlatls to the use of the bow and arrow either during the end of the Gypsum Period or the beginning of the Saratoga Springs Period. This period saw an increase in trade with Arizona

and other areas of the Southwest. Evidence in the archaeological record shows that Brown and Buff wares (pottery styles) characteristic of Arizona made their way to the California desert by A.D. 900. It is also believed that the Anasazi mined turquoise in the eastern California desert about this time.

2.3.5 Ethnohistoric Period (800 YPB to the Time of European Contact)

During the Ethnohistoric Period, the Vanyume and potentially the Serrano occupied the project area. The territory of the Vanyume was covered by small and relatively sparse populations focused primarily along the Mojave River, north of the Serrano and southeast of the Kawaiisu. It is believed that the southwestern extent of their territory went as far as Cajon Pass and portions of Hesperia. Bean and Smith (1978) noted that it was uncertain if the Vanyume spoke a dialect of Serrano or a separate Takic-based language. However, King and Blackburn (1978) suggest that the Vanyume and other Kitanemuk speakers once occupied most of Antelope Valley. In contrast to the Serrano, the Vanyume maintained friendly social relations with the Mohave and Chemehuevi to the east and northeast (Kroeber 1925). As with the majority of California native populations, Vanyume populations were decimated around the 1820s by placement in Spanish missions and asistencias. It is believed that by 1900, the Vanyume had become extinct (Bean and Smith 1978). However, given the settlement patterns reported for the Vanyume, it is more probable that the population was dispersed rather than completely wiped out.

The Serrano and Vanyume were primarily hunters and gatherers. Individual family dwellings were likely circular, domed structures. Vegetal staples varied with locality; acorns and piñon nuts were found in the foothills, and mesquite, yucca roots, cacti fruits, and piñon nuts were found in or near the desert regions. Diets were supplemented with other roots, bulbs, shoots, and seeds (Heizer 1978). Deer, mountain sheep, antelopes, rabbits, and other small rodents were among the principal food packages. Various game birds, especially quail, were also hunted. The bow and arrow was used for large game, while smaller game and birds were killed with curved throwing sticks, traps, and snares. Occasionally, game was hunted communally, often during mourning ceremonies (Benedict 1924; Drucker 1937; Heizer 1978). In general, manufactured goods included baskets, some pottery, rabbit-skin blankets, awls, arrow straighteners, sinew-backed bows, arrows, fire drills, stone pipes, musical instruments (rattles, rasps, whistles, bull-roarers, and flutes), feathered costumes, mats, bags, storage pouches, and nets (Heizer 1978). Food acquisition and processing required the manufacture of additional items such as knives, stone or bone scrapers, pottery trays and bowls, bone or horn spoons, and stirrers. Mortars, made of either stone or wood, and metates were also manufactured (Strong 1929; Drucker 1937; Benedict 1924).

2.3.6 Historic Period

Prior to the European presence in North America, Native American groups subsisted along the shores of the no longer extant lakes of the Great Basin region that covered the major portion of the present-day Mojave Desert. It was along these shores that Native Americans made their

homes, produced their tools, and left an indelible mark upon the landscape. However, by the time the first Spanish explorers ventured into what is now southern California in 1769, the pluvial lakes had long since vanished, leaving the Mojave River to support primarily the Paiute and the Mohave tribes.

The earliest documentation of any movement through the region is from the journal of a Spanish Franciscan priest, Francisco Garces (Kyle 1990). Garces was in search of a passable immigration route from what is now southern Arizona to the northern Spanish missions of what is now California. This, he thought, would allow an easier route for trade between the missions located in present-day New Mexico and present-day California. It is believed that in 1776, Garces passed what would later become Barstow, California.

Up until the 1850s, the majority of traffic through the region took place along the "Old Spanish Trail," which forked northward from Mojave Road, located a few miles east of present-day Barstow (Steele 1975). These early travelers were not likely organized groups, and more often than not, were raiders, mission escapees, slave traders, fur trappers, soldiers, explorers, stockmen, merchants, guides, gold prospectors, and immigrants.

By the early 1860s, many early pioneers began settling along the Mojave River, deriving their income from the road traffic that was now more common in the region. This, in turn, led to the development of way stations that held emergency supplies for travelers, with their most lucrative trade being liquor. It was around this same time that settlers also began agricultural and stock-raising ventures. Despite the early forays into gold mining that began as early as the 1850s, large-scale local developments did not begin until nearly 1881. This was likely a result of the harsh nature of the region, which forced costly freight charges and had crude mineral recovery methods, a scarcity of water, and an overall lack of local subsistence.

It was not until the discovery of silver in Calico and the construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad from Mojave to Daggett in 1882 that the region became a mining center. This gave rise to the now famous 20-mule teams. Ten teams were hitched together with two wagons and a water wagon to haul ore from Daggett to the town of Calico. It would follow that rich silver deposits gave birth to Calico Mines, Waterman Mines, and Daggett Mills (Kyle 1990). These ventures were then bolstered by the non-metallic mining industry, which still represents a significant portion of the desert's commercial industry today.

In 1853, Congress authorized exploration and surveys to determine the most economical route for a rail line from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean (Kyle 1990). Southern Pacific Railroad constructed the desert section of the rail line. The route was completed from Mojave to Needles in 1882 to 1883. Ore was hauled on the Calico Railroad from Calico to the Oro Grande Milling Company, which was across the river from Daggett, around 1888. It was at this same time that the Santa Fe Railroad arrived in the region. In 1886, the California Southern Railroad (a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company) completed the line from National City in San Diego County through Cajon Pass, joining the transcontinental line.

That same year, the plan of the town of Victor was prepared. Named for California Southern Railroad construction superintendent Jacob Nash Victor, the town was established after the construction of the original railroad station located approximately one mile northwest of the narrows of the Mojave River. The plan for the town of Victor included a grid-patterned original subdivision map of approximately 200 acres that would encompass properties between A and G streets and First through Eleventh streets. In 1901, the name of the town was changed from Victor to Victorville, due to confusion by the United States Post Office with Victor, Colorado (City of Victorville 2015).

Due to the presence of rich soils and an abundance of water from the Mojave River, the town of Victor began to develop agriculturally soon after it was established in the 1880s. This focus was short-lived, however, as in the 1890s, limestone and granite were discovered in Victor Valley. This discovery led to the town shifting its attentions toward the cement manufacturing industry, with the Southwestern Portland Cement Company beginning operations in the town in 1916 (City of Victorville 2015).

Utilizing the existing National Old Trails Highway system, U.S. Route 66 was designated. Although the National Old Trails Highway originally cut through the town of Hesperia, the route was realigned in 1924 to pass through Victorville. The intersection of Seventh Street and D Street in downtown Victorville became a major transportation corridor after the designation (City of Victorville 2015).

As Victorville grew, the United States government became interested in utilizing the lands surrounding the town. The United States Army Corps of Engineers began construction of the Victorville Army Flight Training School in 1941, completing construction in 1942. A total of 10,000 men were stationed at the school when it opened. Following World War II, however, the airfield saw less use until the facility was reactivated in 1950 due to training needs associated with the Korean War. Upon reopening, the facility was renamed George Air Force Base after Brigadier General Harold H. George who was killed in a ground accident on a United States base in Australia in 1942. The base was closed in 1992 and has been converted for civilian use as the Southern California Logistics Airport (City of Victorville 2015).

The town of Victorville was incorporated as a general law city in 1962, its city limits encompassing approximately 10 square miles. In 2007, the city comprised approximately 74 square miles (City of Victorville 2015).

2.4 Research Goals

The primary goal of the research design is to attempt to understand the way in which humans have used the land and resources within the project area through time, as well as to aid in the determination of resource significance. For the current project, the study area under investigation is the western portion of San Bernardino County. The scope of work for the archaeological program conducted for the Nisqualli Road Trailer Lot Expansion Project included the survey of 10.04 acres. Given the area involved and the narrow focus of the cultural resources

study, the research design for this project was necessarily limited and general in nature. Since the main objective of the investigation was to identify the presence of, significance of, and potential impacts to cultural resources, the goal here is not necessarily to answer wide-reaching theories regarding the development of early southern California, but to investigate the role and importance of the identified resources. Nevertheless, the assessment of the significance of a resource must take into consideration a variety of characteristics, as well as the ability of the resource to address regional research topics and issues.

Although initial site evaluation investigations are limited in terms of the amount of information available, several specific research questions were developed that could be used to guide the initial investigations of any observed cultural resources. The basic research effort employed is focused upon gathering sufficient data to determine the boundaries of each resource, the depth, stratigraphy, and contents of any subsurface deposits, and the overall integrity of the site. Testing and recordation of the contents of the site would provide the basis to complete an analysis of spatial relationships of artifacts, features, and natural resources. Ultimately, this information forms the foundation to determine the cultural affiliation of the site, the period of occupation, site function, and potential to address more focused research questions. The following research questions take into account the small size and location of the project area discussed above.

Research Questions:

- Can located cultural resources be situated with a specific time period, population, or individual?
- Do the types of located cultural resources allow a site activity/function to be determined from a preliminary investigation? What are the site activities? What is the site function? What resources were exploited?
- How do the located sites compare to others reported from different surveys conducted in the area?
- How do the located sites fit existing models of settlement and subsistence for valley environments of the region?

Data Needs

At the survey level, the principal research objective is a generalized investigation of changing settlement patterns in both the prehistoric and historic periods within the study area. The overall goal is to understand settlement and resource procurement patterns of the project area occupants. Therefore, adequate information on site function, context, and chronology from an archaeological perspective is essential for the investigation. The fieldwork and archival research were undertaken with these primary research goals in mind:

1) To identify cultural resources occurring within the project area;

2) To determine, if possible, site type and function, context of the deposit, and chronological placement of each cultural resource identified;
3) To place each cultural resource identified within a regional perspective; and
4) To provide recommendations for the treatment of each of the cultural resources identified.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological program for the Nisqualli Road Trailer Lot Expansion Project consisted of an institutional records search, an intensive pedestrian survey of the 10.04-acre project site, and preparation of a technical study. This archaeological study conformed to professional standards in support of City of Victorville guidelines. Statutory requirements of CEQA and subsequent legislation (Section 15064.5) were followed in evaluating the significance of cultural resources. Specific definitions for archaeological resource type(s) used in this report are those established by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO 1995).

3.1 Archaeological Records Search

An archaeological records search for the project site and the surrounding area within a one-half-mile radius was conducted by BFSA at the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton. Land patent records, held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and accessible through the BLM General Land Office (GLO) website, were also reviewed for pertinent project information. In addition, the BFSA research library was consulted for any relevant historical information.

3.2 Field Methodology

In accordance with CEQA review criteria and the policies of the City of Victorville, an intensive pedestrian survey of the project site was conducted that employed a series of parallel survey transects spaced at 10-meter intervals to locate archaeological sites within the project site. The archaeological survey of the project site was conducted on April 24, 2023. The entire project site was covered by the survey process, and photographs were taken to document project site conditions during the survey (see Section 4.2). Ground visibility throughout the property was considered moderate to good.

3.3 Report Preparation and Recordation

This report contains information regarding previous studies, statutory requirements for the project, a brief description of the setting, research methods employed, and the overall results of the survey. The report includes all appropriate illustrations and tabular information needed to make a complete and comprehensive presentation of these activities, including the methodologies employed and the personnel involved. A copy of this report will be placed at the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton. Any newly recorded sites or sites requiring updated information will be recorded on the appropriate Department of Parks and Recreation site forms, which will be filed with the SCCIC.

3.4 Native American Consultation

BFSA also requested a SLF search from the NAHC to search for the presence of any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance within one mile of the project site. This request is not part of any AB 52 Native American consultation.

The results of the SLF are discussed in Section 4.1. All correspondence can be found in Appendix C.

3.5 Applicable Regulations

Resource importance is assigned to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the city of Victorville in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. A number of criteria are used in demonstrating resource importance. Specifically, criteria outlined in CEQA provide the guidance for making such a determination. The following sections detail the CEQA criteria that a resource must meet in order to be determined important.

3.5.1 California Environmental Quality Act

According to CEQA (§15064.5a), the term "historical resource" includes the following:

1) A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) (PRC SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR. Section 4850 et seq.).
2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
3) 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 may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR (PRC SS5024.1, Title 14, Section 4852) including the following:

    a) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
    b) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
    c) 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; or

d) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

4) The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR, not included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to Section 5020.1[k] of the PRC), or identified in an historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in Section 5024.1[g] of the PRC) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an historical resource as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

According to CEQA (§15064.5b), a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA defines a substantial adverse change as:

1) Substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired.
2) The significance of an historical resource is materially impaired when a project:

   a) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the CRHR; or
   b) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or its identification in an historical resources survey, meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or,
   c) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

Section 15064.5(c) of CEQA applies to effects on archaeological sites and contains the following additional provisions regarding archaeological sites:

1) When a project will impact an archaeological site, a lead agency shall first determine whether the site is an historical resource, as defined in subsection (a).

2) If a lead agency determines that the archaeological site is an historical resource, it shall refer to the provisions of Section 21084.1 of the PRC, Section 15126.4 of the guidelines, and the limits contained in Section 21083.2 of the PRC do not apply.
3) If an archaeological site does not meet the criteria defined in subsection (a), but does meet the definition of a unique archaeological resource in Section 21083.2 of the PRC, the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2. The time and cost limitations described in PRC Section 21083.2 (c-f) do not apply to surveys and site evaluation activities intended to determine whether the project location contains unique archaeological resources.
4) If an archaeological resource is neither a unique archaeological nor historical resource, the effects of the project on those resources shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. It shall be sufficient that both the resource and the effect on it are noted in the Initial Study or Environmental Impact Report, if one is prepared to address impacts on other resources, but they need not be considered further in the CEQA process.

Section 15064.5 (d) & (e) contain additional provisions regarding human remains. Regarding Native American human remains, paragraph (d) provides:

(d) When an initial study identifies the existence of, or the probable likelihood, of Native American human remains within the project, a lead agency shall work with the appropriate Native Americans as identified by the NAHC as provided in PRC SS5097.98. The applicant may develop an agreement for treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any items associated with Native American burials with the appropriate Native Americans as identified by the NAHC. Action implementing such an agreement is exempt from:

    1) The general prohibition on disinterring, disturbing, or removing human remains from any location other than a dedicated cemetery (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5).
    2) The requirement of CEQA and the Coastal Act.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Records Search Results

An archaeological records search for the project site and the surrounding area within a one-half-mile radius was conducted by BFSA at the SCCIC at CSU Fullerton (Appendix B). The search results identified six cultural resource sites within the search radius, none of which are located within the project site boundaries. The previously recorded resources are all prehistoric isolates. A brief description of the sites and their proximity to the project site is presented within Table 4.1–1.

Table 4.1–1
Cultural Resources Recorded Within One-Half Mile of the Project Site

Site	Description
P-36-020184, P-36-020290, P-36-064531, P-36-064532, P-36-064607, and P-36-064608	Prehistoric isolate

The records search also identified 14 previous studies within one-half mile of the project site, two of which included the project site (Weil 1981; Hogen 2004). In 1981, Weil surveyed the property and neighboring parcels in anticipation of the development of the project vicinity. In 2004, CRM Tech monitored for paleontological resources during grading. This report includes a handwritten edit indicating they also conducted an archaeological reconnaissance survey. The CRM Tech report also appears to show that their focus was the parcels immediately north and west of the project site, with only the western portion of the current project site included in their monitoring efforts (Hogan 2004). Regardless, the CRM Tech report does indicate that surrounding parcels, including the project site, were graded in 2004, which appears to correspond with the results of a review of aerial photographs discussed further below.

BFSA also reviewed the following sources to help facilitate a better understanding of the historic use of the property:

- The National Register of Historic Places index
- Historic USGS data
- BLM GLO records
- Historic aerial photographs (1952 through 2023)

These sources did not indicate the presence of archaeological resources within the project site. Further, based upon historic USGS data and the aerial photographs, no structures have ever been

hisorically located within the project site. Between 1994 and 2003, an industrial warehouse appears on the property immediately southwest of the project site. Further, the aerial photographs show that the project site, along with the parcel to the north and east, was subjected to grading for development between 2003 and 2005. This corresponds with the monitoring conducted by CRM Tech in 2004. Beginning in 2006, it appears a structure is in the process of being built in the southeast corner of the project site. This structure is present on photographs between 2009 and 2015; however, it is no longer visible on the 2016 and subsequent aerial photographs. Current aerial photographs show the project site as cleared and utilized for tractor-trailer parking, which is likely tied to the neighboring industrial warehouse properties.

BFSA also requested a SLF search from the NAHC to search for the presence of any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance within one mile of the project site. This request is not part of any AB 52 Native American consultation. The SLF search has been returned with positive results for potential sites or locations of Native American importance within the vicinity. The NAHC suggested contacting the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Chemehuevi Indian Tribe for further information. This additional outreach will be conducted by the lead agency under the official AB 52 Native American consultation process. All correspondence is provided in Appendix C.

4.2 Results of the Field Survey

The archaeological survey of the project site was conducted by field archaeologist Mary Chitjian on April 24, 2023. All elements of the survey were directed by Principal Investigator Tracy A. Stropes. The survey included a careful inspection of all exposed ground surfaces, including any rodent burrows and disturbed areas. The archaeological survey of the project site was an intensive reconnaissance consisting of a series of parallel survey transects spaced at approximately 10-meter intervals. The entire property was accessible, with visibility characterized as moderate to good. Vegetation primarily consisted of creosote bushes and non-native plants found along the periphery of the project site. In addition, some areas within the center of the project site were obscured by parked trailers and gravel. Overviews of the project site are provided in Plates 4.2–1 through 4.2–4.

The survey confirmed that the project site had been subjected to previous clearing and some level of grading and development. Again, based upon the aerial photographs and records search information, it appears the project site was cleared and graded in or around 2004 at the same time neighboring parcels were graded. Spoil piles of dirt as well as concrete and pipe debris, were noted in the location where a structure was visible within the project site between 2009 and 2015. The survey did not result in the identification of any historic or prehistoric cultural resources within the project site.

Plate 4.2–1: Overview of the property from the northeastern corner, facing southwest.

Plate 4.2–2: Overview of the property from the northwestern portion of the project, facing east.

Plate 4.2–3: Overview of the panhandle driveway, facing west towards Enterprise Way.

Plate 4.2–4: Overview of the property from the southeast corner, where the structure had been located, facing west.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The cultural resources survey for the Nisqualli Road Trailer Lot Expansion Project did not identify any archaeological resources within the property. These results are also supported by previous investigations within the project site by Weil (1981) and Hogan (2004) that did not identify cultural resources within the project site. In addition, a review of historical maps and aerial photographs shows that the property has never contained any structures and has been previously impacted by clearing and grading. Due to the previous ground-disturbing activities and the absence of identified cultural resources within the project site boundaries, there is little potential for cultural resources to be present or disturbed by the proposed development.

Based upon the findings of this study, no further archaeological studies are necessary as part of the CEQA review process. Further, mitigation monitoring is not recommended as part of project approval since there is little to no potential to encounter any cultural sites during the development of this property. However, in the event that any historic or prehistoric cultural resources are inadvertently discovered, all construction work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall stop, and a qualified archaeologist shall determine if further mitigation measures are warranted. Should human remains be discovered, treatment of these remains shall follow California PRC 5097.9. Any human remains that are determined to be Native American shall be reported to the San Bernardino County Medical Examiner and Coroner and subsequently to the NAHC.

6.0 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this archaeological report, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Andrew J Garrison — July 12, 2023

Andrew J. Garrison — Date
Project Archaeologist

7.0 REFERENCES

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Weil, Edward B.

1981 Cultural Resources Survey of Bear valley Road Redevelopment Project Study Area, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. Larry Seeman Associates, Inc. Unpublished report on file at the South Central Coastal Information Center at California State University Fullerton.

APPENDIX A

Qualifications of Key Personnel

Andrew J. Garrison, MA, RPA

Project Archaeologist

BFSA Environmental Services, A Perennial Company
14010 Poway Road • Suite A •
Phone: (858) 679-8218 • Fax: (858) 679-9896 • E-Mail: agarrison@bfsa.perennialenv.com

Education

Master of Arts, Public History, University of California, Riverside **2009**

Bachelor of Science, Anthropology, University of California, Riverside **2005**

Bachelor of Arts, History, University of California, Riverside **2005**

Professional Memberships

Register of Professional Archaeologists
Society for California Archaeology
Society for American Archaeology
California Council for the Promotion of History
Society of Primitive Technology
Lithic Studies Society
California Preservation Foundation
Pacific Coast Archaeological Society

Experience

Project Archaeologist **June 2017–Present**
BFSA Environmental Serives, A Perennial Company **Poway, California**

Project management of all phases of archaeological investigations for local, state, and federal agencies including National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) level projects interacting with clients, sub-consultants, and lead agencies. Supervise and perform fieldwork including archaeological survey, monitoring, site testing, comprehensive site records checks, and historic building assessments. Perform and oversee technological analysis of prehistoric lithic assemblages. Author or co-author cultural resource management reports submitted to private clients and lead agencies.

Senior Archaeologist and GIS Specialist **2009–2017**
Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. **Orange, California**

Served as Project Archaeologist or Principal Investigator on multiple projects, including archaeological monitoring, cultural resource surveys, test excavations, and historic building assessments. Directed projects from start to finish, including budget and personnel hours proposals, field and laboratory direction, report writing, technical editing, Native American consultation, and final report submittal. Oversaw all GIS projects including data collection, spatial analysis, and map creation.

Preservation Researcher **2009**
City of Riverside Modernism Survey **Riverside, California**

Completed DPR Primary, District, and Building, Structure and Object Forms for five sites for a grant-funded project to survey designated modern architectural resources within the City of Riverside.

Information Officer **2005, 2008–2009**
Eastern Information Center (EIC), University of California, Riverside **Riverside, California**

Processed and catalogued restricted and unrestricted archaeological and historical site record forms. Conducted research projects and records searches for government agencies and private cultural resource firms.

Reports/Papers

2019 A Class III Archaeological Study for the Tuscany Valley (TM 33725) Project National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance, Lake Elsinore, Riverside County, California. Contributing author. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 A Phase I and II Cultural Resources Assessment for the Jack Rabbit Trail Logistics Center Project, City of Beaumont, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the 10575 Foothill Boulevard Project, Rancho Cucamonga, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 Cultural Resources Study for the County Road and East End Avenue Project, City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 Phase II Cultural Resource Study for the McElwain Project, City of Murrieta, California. Contributing author. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2019 A Section 106 (NHPA) Historic Resources Study for the McElwain Project, City of Murrieta, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2018 Cultural Resource Monitoring Report for the Sewer Group 818 Project, City of San Diego. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2018 Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for the Stone Residence Project, 1525 Buckingham Drive, La Jolla, California 92037. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2018 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Seaton Commerce Center Project, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2017 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Marbella Villa Project, City of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2017 Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for TTM 37109, City of Jurupa Valley, County of Riverside. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2017 A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Winchester Dollar General Store Project, Riverside County, California. Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc.

2016 John Wayne Airport Jet Fuel Pipeline and Tank Farm Archaeological Monitoring Plan. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. On file at the County of Orange, California.

2016 Historic Resource Assessment for 220 South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 Assessor's Parcel Number 041-064-4. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. Submitted to the City of Orange as part of Mills Act application.

2015 Historic Resource Report: 807-813 Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. On file at the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.

2015 Exploring a Traditional Rock Cairn: Test Excavation at CA-SDI-13/RBLI-26: The Rincon Indian Reservation, San Diego County, California. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.

2014 Archaeological Monitoring Results: The New Los Angeles Federal Courthouse. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. On file at the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.

2012 Bolsa Chica Archaeological Project Volume 7, Technological Analysis of Stone Tools, Lithic Technology at Bolsa Chica: Reduction Maintenance and Experimentation. Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.

Presentations

2017 "Repair and Replace: Lithic Production Behavior as Indicated by the Debitage Assemblage from CA-MRP-283 the Hackney Site." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Fish Camp, California.

2016 "Bones, Stones, and Shell at Bolsa Chica: A Ceremonial Relationship?" Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Ontario, California.

2016 "Markers of Time: Exploring Transitions in the Bolsa Chica Assemblage." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Ontario, California.

2016 "Dating Duress: Understanding Prehistoric Climate Change at Bolsa Chica." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Ontario, California.

2014 "New Discoveries from an Old Collection: Comparing Recently Identified OGR Beads to Those Previously Analyzed from the Encino Village Site." Presented at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Visalia, California.

2012 Bolsa Chica Archaeology: Part Seven: Culture and Chronology. Lithic demonstration of experimental manufacturing techniques at the April meeting of The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society, Irvine, California.

APPENDIX B

Archaeological Records Search Results

(Deleted for Public Review; Bound Separately)

APPENDIX C

NAHC Sacred Lands File Results

(Deleted for Public Review; Bound Separately)