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ARCHAEOLOGY • ANTHROPOLOGY • HISTORY • HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Cultural Resource Report

September 13, 2005

Greg Millikan
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Nothing Found

RE: Phase I Archaeological Survey of 68.9 Acres (T.M 062403), Assessor's Parcel Number 3204-003-046, -047, -048, 049, Lancaster, California

Dear Mr. Millikan:

This letter presents the results of Statistical Research, Inc.'s (SRI) archaeological survey of approximately 68.9 acres of land (APN 3204-003-046, -047, -048, 049) located near the southeast corner of Avenue L and 80th Street West in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California (Attachment 1). The results of the survey did not identify any potentially significant cultural resources in the project area. SRI recommends no additional archaeological work be conducted on the property.

Project Description

West Palm Development Corp. is seeking approval of Tentative Tract Map 062403 from the City of Lancaster. The City of Lancaster requires an archaeological survey of the parcel as a condition of approval. The purpose of the archaeological survey is to identify potentially significant cultural resources visible on the ground surface and to assess the potential for the presence of buried cultural resources. The study was completed following the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regarding cultural resources. Public Resource Codes §21083.2 and §21084.1, and California Code of Regulations §15064.5 were used as the basic guidelines for this study.

The property is located in the northern portion of Los Angeles County. Specifically the project area is in the west 1/2 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 33, Township 3 North, Range 21 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian as shown on the USGS 7.5-minute Del Sur quadrangle, 1995 edition (Attachment 2). The Los Angeles County Assessor describes the four parcels comprising the property as APN 3204-003-046, -047, -048, and 049.

Cultural Background

The prehistory of the project region has been reviewed by Stickel and Weinman-Roberts (1980) and by Warren (1984), among others. The general pattern of cultural development in the region is one of early hunting cultures beginning more than 8,000

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years ago, followed by Archaic Stage populations that emphasized plant food resources for subsistence, and ultimately the development of a generalized hunting and gathering way of life. The latter pattern persisted into historic times and characterized the lifeway of the ethnographic inhabitants of the region, the Serrano Indians.

The Serrano were hunters and gatherers who utilized both large and small game, as well as numerous plant resources, for food. Large game such as deer, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep were hunted with bow and arrows, while smaller animals such as rabbits and various rodents were taken with throwing sticks, nets, and snares. Acorns from several species of oak, piñon nuts, and mesquite beans formed the staples of the diet, supplemented by seeds such as chia, and roots, tubers, and greens. The settlement pattern of the Serrano consisted of permanent villages located in proximity to reliable sources of water, and within range of a variety of floral and faunal food resources, which were exploited from temporary camp locations surrounding the main village. More detailed information on the lifeways of the Serrano may be found in studies by Benedict (1924), Kroeber (1925:611-619) and Bean and Smith (1978), among other sources.

Setting

The study area is unfenced and currently unused. At the time of the survey the ground was covered by small grasses and occasional sage brush. There is evidence of occasional vehicle traffic across the area. Small modern trash piles can be found along 80th Street West and Avenue L-8. Surface sediments are comprised of light brown silty sand with a fair amount of gravel inclusions.

Previous Research

Virginia Austerman-Burke conducted a record search at the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton (SCCIC) for information on previous archaeological projects, sites, and isolates within a one-mile radius of the project area. The purpose of the record search is to determine if the current project area had been previously surveyed and if any known cultural resources are reported in or near the project site. The record search also serves as a guide to assess the general cultural resources sensitivity of the project vicinity.

The records search area included APN 3204-003-046, -047, -048, and -049 and surrounding one-mile radius and included a review of CHRIS files for all previously recorded historical and prehistoric resources. Other resources consulted at the SCCIC include the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, California State Landmarks, and historical maps.

According to the SCCIC records, the subject property has not been previously surveyed and no resources have been previously recorded within its boundaries. Seventeen archaeological surveys have been conducted within the one-mile radius between the years 1968 and 2003. No archaeological sites were reported in any of these surveys.

Field Methods

SRI archaeologist Steve Norris conducted the field survey for the first phase of the project on December 9, 2004 (Phase I area identified in Attachment 2). SRI archaeologist Virginia Austerman-Burke conducted the field survey for the second phase of the project on March 25, 2005 (Phase II area identified in Attachment 2). The survey area was systematically inspected by walking parallel N-S transects at 20 meter intervals. Special attention was directed to areas of rodent disturbance to observe

any exposed cultural materials. The four survey corners of the project area were recorded using a Trimble Geographic Position System (GPS). Additional GPS points were taken to mark the boundary of the survey area along the fence lines. Digital photographs of were taken from each corner of the parcel to show survey location, surface disturbance, and nearby properties.

Survey Results

No prehistoric or historical-period artifacts or sites were found during the survey. Overall surface visibility was good. Modern trash consisting mainly of wind-blown plastic and paper items was observed throughout the survey area. Other modern items observed include landscaping and household debris.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The records search and archeological survey of APN 3204-003-046, -047, -048, and -049 failed to identify cultural resources in the study area. SRI recommends no additional archaeological work be conducted on the property. The lack of cultural resources on the surface and the lack of cultural resources reported by previous researchers in the area suggest little chance for accidental discoveries.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (909) 335-1896 or you can contact me by email at cdoolittle@sricrm.com.

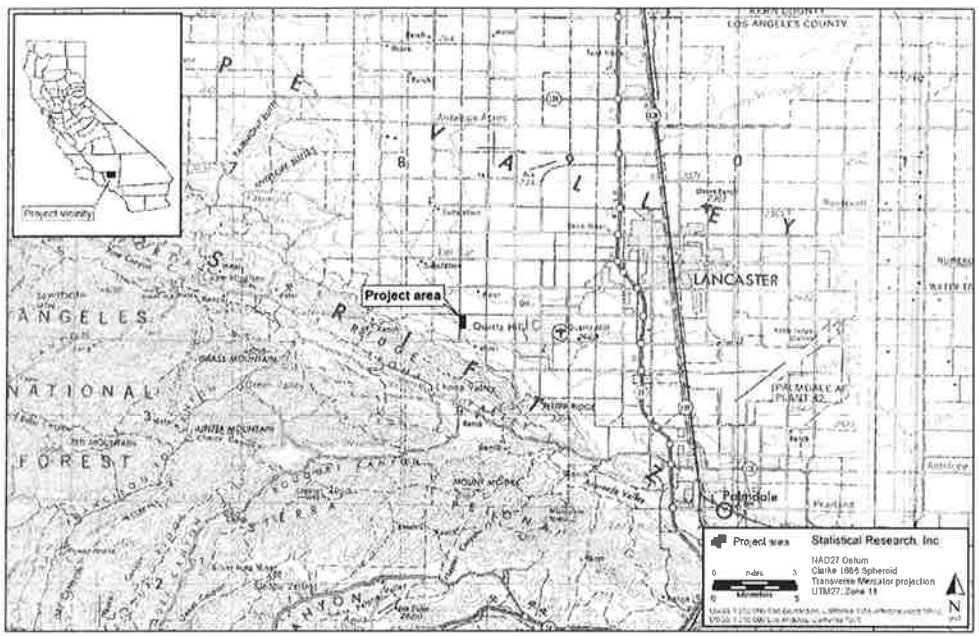
Sincerely,



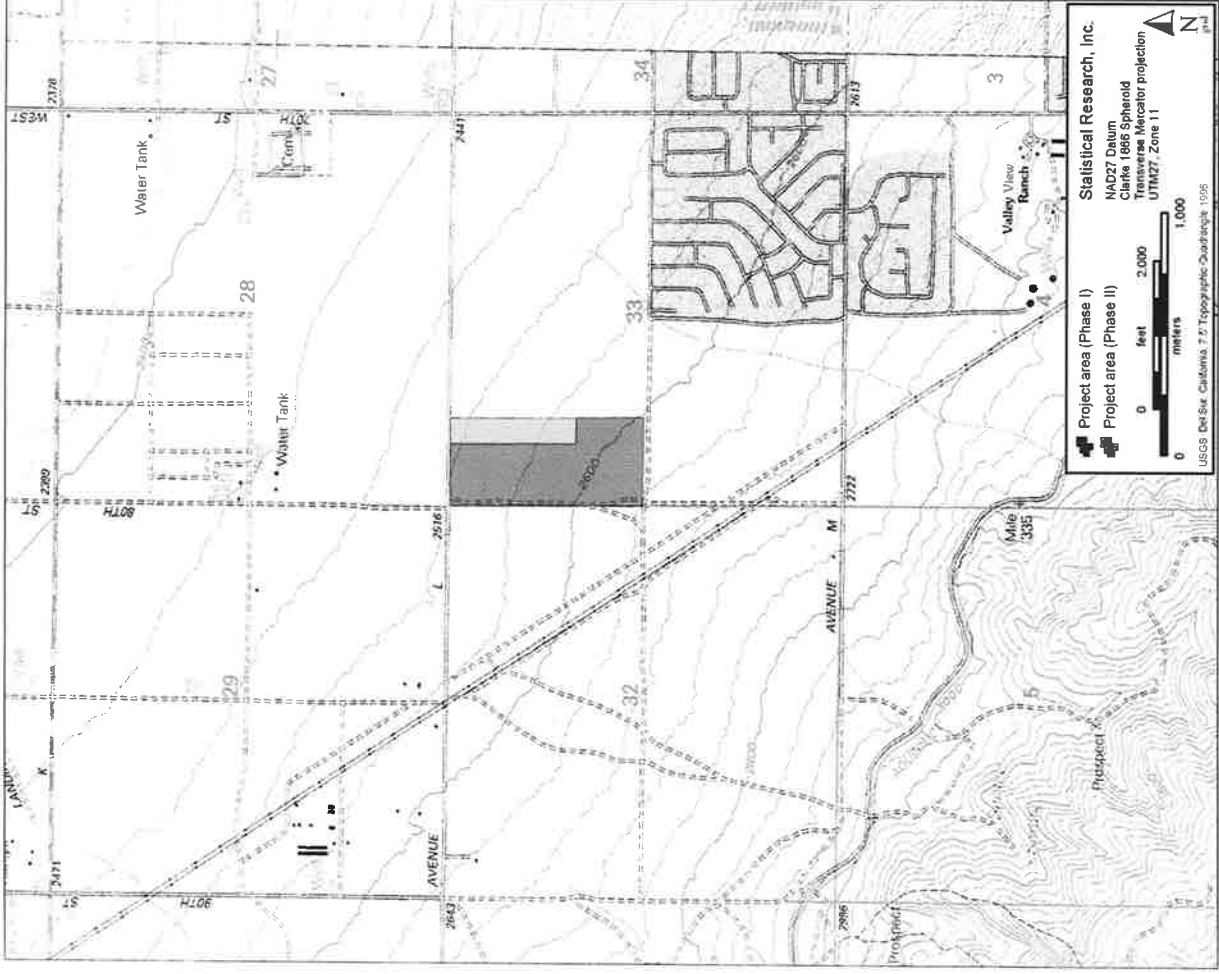
Christopher J. Doolittle, M.A., RPA
Director, California Office

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Attachment I. Project vicinity map.



Attachment 2. Project location map.