

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY AND STUDY LETTER REPORT FOR THE CHINO VALLEY FIRE STATION NO. 68 PROJECT

Chino Valley Fire District

CHAMBERS GROUP

March 30, 2023
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Chino Valley Fire District
14011 City Center Drive
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Subject: Cultural Resources Survey and Study Letter Report for the Chino Valley Fire Station No. 68 Project, San Bernardino County, California.

Dear Mr. Smith,

Chambers Group provides this Cultural Resources Letter Report to the Chino Valley Fire District (District) in support of the proposed Chino Valley Fire Station No. 68 Project (Project) in San Bernardino County, California. This assessment includes a cultural resources records search, literature review, and survey results for the Project site and surrounding half-mile radius study area (Figure 1). The purpose of the study was to gather and analyze information needed to assess the potential for impacts to cultural resources within the Project site.

Project Description

The Project plan includes the development and construction of an approximately 11,813-square-foot Fire Station No. 68 and the 6,332-square-foot Essential Resource Facility (ERF), which will be a new facility built by the City of Chino Hills (City) in coordination with the District. Proposed site improvements include approximately 56,115 square feet of hardscape including visitor and secured parking areas, 88,600 square feet of landscaping, security fencing, concrete masonry site walls, a hose tower, an emergency generator, an aboveground fuel-dispensing tank, and carports with photovoltaic arrays. The Project's landscaping will be designed in conformance with the City's Municipal Code and other applicable policies.

Location and Setting

The proposed Project site is located on 3.74 acres within the eastern portion of the City, San Bernardino County, California. The Project site is situated south of the intersection of Pipeline Avenue and Soquel Canyon Parkway. Soquel Canyon Parkway borders the Project site to the north, and single-family homes border the Project site to the east and west. Chino Hills State Park is located to the south. A flood control easement bisects the eastern parcel. The underground flood control channel sits just south of the Project site. The Project site is within Sections 33 and 34, Township 2 South, Range 8 West, on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Prado Dam Quadrangle, and Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 1017-241-28 and 1030-341-68.

The Project site is zoned within Planned Development PD-41-163. The Project site is designated under the City of Chino Hills General Plan Land Use Map as Institutional/Public Facility, and Public Open Space. The Project proposes to change the portion designated as Public Open Space to Institutional/Public Facility. The surrounding area to the east is also zoned within PD-41-163 with the single-family residential areas designated as Low Density Residential and Public Open Space. The Mark Wickham Elementary School to the northeast is under Planned District PD-43-161 and is designated as Institutional/Public Facility. Other portions of the surrounding areas are zoned as Private Open Space (OS-1) with Low Density Residential (R-S) to the west and Public Open Space (OS-2) with Low Density Residential (R-S) to the north.



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Figure 1: Project Location



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Regulatory Context

As the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency for the Project, the District must determine whether a project may have a significant effect on historical resources (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21084.1). In addition to State of California (State) and county regulations, projects in the City are also subject to several local regulations relating to cultural resources. Chapter 4 of the City of Chino Hills General Plan pertains specifically to the identification and protection of cultural and paleontological resources within the City. The regulatory framework as it pertains to cultural resources under CEQA is detailed below.

Under the provisions of CEQA, including the CEQA Statutes (PRC §§ 21083.2 and 21084.1), the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] § 15064.5), and PRC § 5024.1 (Title 14 CCR § 4850 et seq.), properties expected to be directly or indirectly affected by a proposed project must be evaluated for eligibility for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).

California Register of Historical Resources

The purpose of the CRHR is to maintain listings of the State's historical resources and to indicate which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from material impairment and substantial adverse change. The term *historical resources* includes a resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR; a resource included in a local register of historical resources; and any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant (CCR § 15064.5[a]). The criteria for listing properties in the CRHR were expressly developed in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP; 1995:2) regards "any physical evidence of human activities over 45 years old" as meriting recordation and evaluation.

A cultural resource is considered "historically significant" under CEQA if the resource meets one or more of the criteria for listing in the CRHR. The CRHR was designed to be used by State and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify existing cultural resources within the State and to indicate which of those resources should be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change. The following criteria have been established for the CRHR. A resource is considered significant if it:

1. is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
2. is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
3. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, historical resources eligible for listing in the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be able to convey the reasons for their significance. Such integrity is evaluated in regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Under CEQA, if an archeological site is not a historical resource but meets the definition of a "unique archeological resource" as defined in PRC § 21083.2, then it should be treated in accordance with the provisions of that section. A *unique archaeological resource* is defined as follows:

An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information;



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- Has a special and particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; and
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Resources that neither meet any of these criteria for listing in the CRHR nor qualify as a “unique archaeological resource” under CEQA PRC § 21083.2 are viewed as not significant. Under CEQA, “A non-unique archaeological resource need be given no further consideration, other than the simple recording of its existence by the lead agency if it so elects” (PRC § 21083.2[h]).

Impacts that adversely alter the significance of a resource listed in or eligible for listing in the CRHR are considered a significant effect on the environment. Impacts to historical resources from a proposed project are thus considered significant if the project:

1. physically destroys or damages all or part of a resource;
2. changes the character of the use of the resource or physical feature within the setting of the resource, which contributes to its significance; or
3. introduces visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of significant features of the resource.

Assembly Bill 52

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 was enacted in 2015 and expands CEQA by defining a new resource category: tribal cultural resources (TCR). AB 52 establishes that “a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment” (PRC Section 21084.2). AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California tribes regarding those resources. The consultation process must be completed before a CEQA document can be certified. AB 52 requires that lead agencies “begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project.” Native American tribes to be included in the process are those that have requested notice of projects proposed in the jurisdiction of the lead agency. It further states that the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts that would alter the significant characteristics of a TCR, when feasible (PRC Section 21084.3). PRC Section 21074 (a)(1)(A) and (B) define TCRs as “sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe” which meet either of the following criteria:

- Listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k)
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1 (in applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe)

Senate Bill 18

Senate Bill (SB) 18 was enacted in 2005 and requires local governments to consult with tribes prior to making certain planning decisions and to provide notice to tribes at certain key points in the planning process. These consultation and notice requirements apply to adoption and amendment of both general plans (defined in Government Code §65300 et seq.) and specific plans (defined in Government Code §65450 et seq.). Although SB 18 does not specifically mention consultation or notice requirements for adoption or amendment of specific plans, existing state planning law requires local governments to use the same processes for adoption and amendment of specific plans as for general plans (see Government Code §65453). Therefore, where SB 18 requires consultation and/or notice for a general plan adoption or amendment, the requirement extends also to a specific plan adoption or amendment. SB 18 refers to Public Resources Code §5097.9 and 5097.995 to define cultural places:



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- Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine (Public Resources Code §5097.9).
- Native American historic, cultural, or sacred site, that is listed or may be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources pursuant to Section 5024.1, including any historic or prehistoric ruins, any burial ground, any archaeological or historic site (Public Resources Code §5097.995).

Local

County of San Bernardino

In addition to the State regulations, the County of San Bernardino (County) has adopted several regulations relating to historic, tribal, and paleontological resources. The Countywide Plan (County of San Bernardino 2020), as it pertains specifically to historic, tribal, and paleontological resource preservation within the County, is included in the Policy Plan). Cited in the Cultural Resource Element Section of the Policy Plan, the purpose and principles are as follows:

Purpose: The Cultural Resources Element: Establishes direction on notification, coordination, and partnerships to preserve and conserve cultural resources. Provides guidance on how new development can avoid or minimize impacts on cultural resources. Provides direction on increasing public awareness and education efforts about cultural resources.

Principles: Today's generations are stewards of the County's cultural history and are responsible for conserving it for future generations. Preserving and celebrating cultural resources enhances our understanding of the world in which we live. Cultural resources are valuable assets that attract visitors and support local businesses.

Goal CR-1 Tribal Cultural Resources:

Tribal cultural resources that are preserved and celebrated out of respect for Native American beliefs and traditions.

- Policy CR-1.1 Tribal notification and coordination
 - We notify and coordinate with tribal representatives in accordance with state and federal laws to strengthen our working relationship with area tribes, avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American archaeological sites and burials, assist with the treatment and disposition of inadvertent discoveries, and explore options of avoidance of cultural resources early in the planning process.
- Policy CR-1.2 Tribal planning
 - We will collaborate with local tribes on countywide planning efforts and, as permitted or required, planning efforts initiated by local tribes.
- Policy CR-1.3 Mitigation and avoidance
 - We consult with local tribes to establish appropriate project-specific mitigation measures and resource-specific treatment of potential cultural resources. We require project applicants to design projects to avoid known tribal cultural resources, whenever possible. If avoidance is not possible, we require appropriate mitigation to minimize project impacts on tribal cultural resources.
- Policy CR-1.4 Resource monitoring
 - We encourage active participation by local tribes as monitors in surveys, testing, excavation, and grading phases of development projects with potential impacts on tribal resources.



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Goal CR-2 Historic and Paleontological Resources:

Historic resources (buildings, structures, or archaeological resources) and paleontological resources that are protected and preserved for their cultural importance to local communities as well as their research and educational potential.

- Policy CR-2.1 National and State Historic Resources
 - We encourage the preservation of archaeological sites and structures of state or national significance in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards.
- Policy CR-2.2 Local historic resources
 - We encourage property owners to maintain the historic integrity of resources on their property by (listed in order of preference): preservation, adaptive reuse, or memorialization.
- Policy CR-2.3 Paleontological and archaeological resources
 - We strive to protect paleontological and archaeological resources from loss or destruction by requiring that new development include appropriate mitigation to preserve the quality and integrity of these resources. We require new development to avoid paleontological and archeological resources whenever possible. If avoidance is not possible, we require the salvage and preservation of paleontological and archeological resources.
- Policy CR-2.4 Partnerships
 - We encourage partnerships to champion and financially support the preservation and restoration of historic sites, structures, and districts.
- Policy CR-2.5 Public awareness and education
 - We increase public awareness and conduct education efforts about the unique historic, natural, tribal, and cultural resources in San Bernardino County through the County Museum and in collaboration with other entities.

City of Chino Hills

In addition to State and County regulations, projects built in the City are also subject to several local regulations relating to historical resources. Chapter 4, Conservation Element, of the City of Chino Hills General Plan pertains specifically to the identification and protection of cultural resources within the City (City of Chino Hills, 2015). Per Chapter 4 of the City of Chino Hills General Plan, the following sections outline its purpose as follows:

- A. Purpose of This Element: This Conservation Element addresses the identification and protection of cultural resources within the City.
- B. Connection to Community Vision: The Conservation Element supports the City's vision to preserve natural resources, promote energy conservation, and protect cultural resources.
- C. Relationship to Other General Plan Elements: The Conservation Element identifies natural and cultural resources and methods to protect these resources.
- D. Relationship to Other Local Regulatory Documents: Several City regulatory mechanisms are used to implement the General Plan Conservation Element.
- E. Conservation Element Issues: There are numerous natural and cultural resources within the City, the conservation of which could affect the community's environmental quality, aesthetics, and quality of life.
- F. Conservation Plan: This section of the Conservation Element discusses the programs and policies the City will have or continue to have in place to promote conservation of its natural resources, energy conservation, and protection of its cultural resources.



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Sub-Section 5. Cultural Resources

- Based on the number of prehistoric and historic artifacts found within Chino Hills, the entire City is considered sensitive for archaeological resources. Appropriate archaeological surveys will be required whenever a development project requires excavation or archaeological resources are otherwise expected to be present.
 - Similarly, based on the numerous fossil findings in Chino Hills, the entire City is considered sensitive for paleontological resources. Appropriate paleontological surveys will be required whenever a development project requires excavation or paleontological resources are otherwise expected to be present.
 - Historical resources have potential to occur in the City's older communities. To ensure that potential historical resources in these areas are identified and recorded and/or preserved as appropriate, historical resource surveys will be conducted for any development activities expected to disturb the potential historical resources listed below.
- G. Conservation Element Goals, Policies, and Actions: Outlines the following goals, policies, and actions that support the City of Chino Hills Conservation Plan and its vision to preserve natural resources, promote energy conservation, and protect cultural resources.

Goal CN-2: Protect Chino Hills' Cultural Resources

- Policy CN-2.1: Protect Chino Hills' archaeological resources.
 - Action CN-2.1.1: Require appropriate archaeological surveys as part of the environmental review process where archaeological resources may be present.
 - Action CN-2.1.2: Require on-site inspections by a qualified archaeologist during grading activities where archaeological resources may be present.
 - Action CN-2.1.3: Where archaeological resources are found during development activities, require identified archaeological materials to be preserved, restored, cataloged, and/or transmitted to the appropriate repository or as otherwise directed by a qualified professional archaeologist.
 - Action CN-2.1.4: Consult with local Native American tribes as required to avoid impacts on archaeological resources.
- Policy CN-2.2: Protect Chino Hills' paleontological resources.
 - Action CN-2.2.1: Require appropriate paleontological surveys as part of the environmental review process where paleontological resources may be present.
 - Action CN-2.2.2: Where paleontological resources are found during development activities, require on-site inspections by a qualified paleontologist during grading activities where paleontological resources may be present.
 - Action CN-2.2.3: Require identified paleontological materials to be preserved, restored, cataloged, and/or transmitted to the appropriate repository or as otherwise directed by a qualified professional paleontologist.
- Policy CN-2.3: Protect Chino Hills' potential historical resources.
 - Action CN-2.3.1: Prior to a change of land use or other action on the Boys Republic property that could disturb a potential historic resource, require a historic resource survey of the property by a qualified historic resource consultant, and consider incorporating any recommendations as requirements into subsequent development approval.



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- Action CN-2.3.2: Prior to a change of land use or other action on the Tres Hermanos property that could disturb a potential historic resource, require a historic resource survey of the property by a qualified historic resource consultant, and consider incorporating any recommendations as requirements into subsequent development approval.
- Action CN-2.3.3: Prior to grading on-site of the original clubhouse of the 1925 Los Serranos Country Club, require an appropriate archaeological survey to determine the presence of artifacts associated with the former Bridger/Gird Adobe site and consider incorporating any recommendations as requirements into subsequent development approval.
- Action CN-2.3.4: Consider placement of markers to acknowledge the local importance to Chino Hills' history of the Carbon Canyon and English Road equestrian communities.
- Action CN-2.3.5: For structures over 45 years old, review available City building records and make a determination regarding the structure's potential historical significance prior to permitting its demolition or substantial alteration.

Environmental Setting

The City of Chino Hills is located in the eastern Puente Hills in the northern portion of the Peninsular Ranges along the western margin of Chino Valley, which is a sub-portion of the larger San Bernardino Valley. The Peninsular Ranges are the southernmost segment of a chain of North American Mesozoic batholiths, a series of northwest-to-southeast-trending mountain ranges (Morton and Miller 2006). The Project site is in the hilly portions of the City, which is underlain primarily by bedrock of the Puente Formation. The Davis SoilWeb database describes the soil classification as the San Bernardino County Southwestern Part (CA677) and as approximately 10 percent Fontana clay loam (FoF) and 90 percent Nacimiento clay loam (NaF). Slopes range from 30 to 50 percent (University of California, Davis 2023). The general elevation of the Project site is approximately 760 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The entire Project site has been disturbed by some previous use, and current vegetation is predominately characterized by various grasses, weeds, thistles, and mustard plants.

Cultural Setting

Prehistoric Overview

During the twentieth century, many archaeologists developed chronological sequences to explain prehistoric cultural changes within all or portions of Southern California (Moratto 1984; Jones and Klar 2007). A prehistoric chronology was devised for the Southern California coastal region based on early studies and focused on data synthesis that included four horizons: Early Man, Milling Stone, Intermediate, and Late Prehistoric (Wallace 1955, 1978). Although initially lacking the chronological precision of absolute dates (Moratto 1984:159), Wallace's 1955 synthesis has been modified and improved using thousands of radiocarbon dates obtained by Southern California researchers over recent decades (Byrd and Raab 2007:217; Koerper and Drover 1983; Koerper et al. 2002). The prehistoric chronological sequence for Southern California presented below is a composite based on Wallace (1955) and Warren (1968) as well as later studies, including Koerper and Drover (1983).

It is generally believed that human occupation of Southern California began at least 10,000 years before present (BP). The archaeological record indicates that between approximately 10,000- and 6,000-years BP, a predominantly hunting and gathering economy existed, characterized by archaeological sites containing numerous projectile points and butchered large animal bones. The most heavily exploited species were likely those species still alive today. Bones of extinct species have been found but cannot definitively be associated with human artifacts in California, unlike other regions of the continent. Although small animal bones and plant grinding tools are rarely found within archaeological sites of this period, small game and vegetal foods were likely exploited. A lack of deep cultural deposits from this period has been interpreted by some researchers as indicative that the region was occupied by small groups that practiced high residential mobility during this period (Wallace 1978).



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The three major periods of prehistory for the greater Los Angeles Basin region have been refined by recent research using radiocarbon dates from archaeological sites in coastal Southern California (Koerper and Drover 1983; Mason and Peterson 1994):

- Millingstone Period (6,000 –1,000 BP, or about 8,000–3,000 years ago)
- Intermediate Period (1,000 BC – AD 650, or 3,000–1,350 years ago)
- Late Prehistoric Period (AD 650 – about AD 1800, or 1,350–200 years ago)

Around 6,000 years BP, a shift in focus from hunting toward a greater reliance on vegetal resources occurred. Archaeological evidence of this trend consists of a much greater number of milling tools (e.g., metates and manos) for processing seeds and other vegetable matter (Wallace 1978). This period, termed by archaeologists as the Millingstone Period, was a long cultural phase characterized by small, mobile groups that likely relied on a seasonal round of settlements that included both inland and coastal residential bases. Seeds from sage and grasses, rather than acorns, provided calories and carbohydrates. Faunal remains from sites dating to this period indicate that similar animals to those in the prior period were hunted. Inland Millingstone sites are characterized by numerous manos, metates, and hammerstones. Shell middens are common at coastal Millingstone sites. Coarse-grained lithic materials, such as quartzite and rhyolite, are more common than fine-grained materials in flaked stone tools from this time. Projectile points are found in archaeological sites from this period, but they are far fewer in number than from sites dating to before 6,000 years BP. An increase in the size of groups and the stability of settlements is indicated by deep, extensive middens at some sites from this period (Wallace 1978).

In sites post-dating roughly 3,000 years BP, archaeological evidence indicates the reliance on both plant gathering and hunting continued but was more specialized and locally adapted to particular environments. Mortars and pestles were added to metates and manos for grinding seeds and other vegetable material. Chipped-stone tools became more refined and specialized, and bone tools appear to be more common. During this period, peoples from the Great Basin began entering Southern California. These immigrants, who spoke a language of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock, seem to have displaced or absorbed the earlier population of Hokan-speaking peoples. The exact time of their entry into the region is not known; however, they were present in Southern California during the final phase of prehistory. During this period, population densities were higher than before; and settlement became concentrated in villages and communities along the coast and interior valleys (Erlandson 1994; McCawley 1996). During the Intermediate Period, mortars and pestles appeared, indicating the beginning of acorn exploitation. Use of the acorn – a high-calorie, storable food source – probably facilitated greater sedentism and increased social organization. Large projectile points from archaeological sites of this period indicate that the bow and arrow, a hallmark of the Late Prehistoric Period, had not yet been introduced, and hunting was likely accomplished using the atlatl (spear thrower) instead. Settlement patterns during this time are not well understood. The semi-sedentary settlement pattern characteristic of the Late Prehistoric Period may have begun during the Intermediate Period, although territoriality may not yet have developed because of lower population densities. Regional subcultures also started to develop, each with its own geographical territory and language or dialect (Kroeber 1925; McCawley 1996; Moratto 1984). These were most likely the basis for the groups encountered by the first Europeans during the eighteenth century (Wallace 1978). Despite the regional differences, many material culture traits were shared among groups, indicating a great deal of interaction (Erlandson 1994). The Late Prehistoric Period is better understood than earlier periods largely through ethnographic analogy made possible by ethnographic and anthropological research of the descendants of these groups in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Ethnographic Overview

The Project site lies within an area known to be transitionally occupied by the Gabrielino, whose villages stretched from the Pacific coast to the San Bernardino Mountains to the east. The Cahuilla's traditional use area ranged over the entire San Bernardino basin, the San Jacinto Mountains, the Coachella Valley, and portions of the southern Mojave. The



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Serrano territory included the entire San Bernardino range of mountains, west into the San Gabriel Mountains, south across the San Bernardino Valley, and eastward to near Twentynine Palms.

Gabrielino

The Gabrielino (sometimes spelled Gabrieliño, Gabrieleno or Gabrieleño) are Cupan speakers. The Cupan languages are part of the Takic family, which is part of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock. Their tribal territory included the watersheds of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana rivers, all of the Los Angeles Basin, the coast from Aliso Creek in the south to Topanga Creek in the north, and the islands of San Clemente, San Nicholas, and Santa Catalina. Villages or triblets were politically autonomous and made up of different lineages. Each lineage had its own leader and would seasonally leave the village to collect resource items. Tribal boundaries were not fixed and overlapped with neighboring people, including Chumash (Barbareño, Ventureño, Purisimeño, Obispeño, Ineseño, Cruzeño, Emigdiano, and the Cuyama Chumash), Fernandeno Tataviam, Serrano, Cahuilla, Acjachemen (Juaneño), and Luiseño cultural groups. These overlaps historically have been a source of confusion, contest, conflict, and opportunity, which has persisted to this day (Bean and Smith 1978a).

Gabrielino material culture incorporates a variety of tools, including saws made from deer scapulae, bone or shell needles, fishhooks and awls, scrapers, flakers (of bone or shell), wedges, hafted or unhafted lithic or cane knives, and lithic drills. Food preparation items included bedrock and portable mortars, metates, mullers, shell spoons, and mealing brushes. Wooden items include stirrers, paddles, bark platters, wooden bowls (often inlaid with *Haliotis* shell). Pottery vessels were made by coiling technique and paddle and anvil (Blackburn 1962–1963). The Gabrielino were noted for their objects made of steatite, usually obtained from Santa Catalina Islands, where a veritable steatite industry flourished, either in raw or finished form. The steatite was used in making animal carvings, pipes, "ritual" objects, ornaments, and cooking utensils. Utilitarian items were frequently decorated with shell inlaid in asphaltum, rare minerals, carvings, and painting, and comparable in quality and excellence to that of the Chumash (Bean and Smith 1978a).

Houses were domed, circular structures thatched with tule, fern, or carrizo, and in some cases, "so spacious that each will hold fifty people" (Johnston 1962), capable of supporting three or four families living in each one (Costansó 1911). For groups located near the sea, the doorways opened seaward, to avoid the north wind (Harrington 1942). Other structures commonly found in villages included sweathouses (small, semicircular, earth-covered buildings used for pleasure and as a clubhouse or meeting place for adult males), menstrual huts, and a ceremonial enclosure, the *yuva-r*. *Ayuva'r* was built near the chief's house and was essentially an open-air enclosure, oval in plan, made with willows inserted wicker fashion among willow stakes, decorated with eagle and raven feathers, skins, and flowers, and containing inside the enclosure painted and decorated poles. Consecrated anew before every ceremony, these ceremonial enclosures were the centers for activities relating to the Chingichngish cult. The religious beliefs and rituals of the cult originated in the Gabrielino territory and found its way to, and significantly influenced, non-Gabrielino groups (Bean and Smith 1978a).

Typically, men hunted, fished, assisted in some gathering activities, and conducted most trading ventures. Large land mammals were hunted with bow and arrow, while smaller game was taken with deadfalls, snares, and traps, or in communal hunts with nets, bow and arrows, and throwing clubs (Blackburn 1962–1963). Along the coast harpoons, spear throwers, and clubs were used. Fishing, typically, took place along the shore or along rivers, streams, and creeks with the use of hook and line, nets, basketry traps, spears, bow and arrow, and vegetal poisons. Deep-sea fishing and trading expeditions also occurred between island and mainland groups and were undertaken from boats made of wooden planks lashed and asphalted together. Women were involved mainly in collecting and preparing most floral and some animal food resources, as well as the production of baskets, pots, and clothing (Bean and Smith 1978a).

During the Spanish missionization period people from greater area would have been incorporated into the San Gabriel Mission. Whether they were Serrano, Cahuilla, Fernandeno Tataviam, Chumash or local Gabrielino, all would have been identified as Gabrielino, or as belonging to Mission San Gabriel. Indeed, even Fernandeno people have been collectively



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grouped within Gabrielino ethnographic treatments. Today, Fernandeano Tataviam, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation, and the Gabrielino-Tongva Indian Tribe identify as individual groups.

Cahuilla

The Cahuilla, along with the Luiseño and the Gabrielino, are one of the most southwesterly of the Shoshonean or Uto-Aztecan speakers. They are members of the Takic branch of this large language family. Traditional Cahuilla territory originally included western and part of central Riverside County and extended into northeastern San Diego and northwestern Imperial counties. The western boundary generally followed the Santa Ana, Elsinore, and Palomar mountains. The northern boundary extended north of Riverside to the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains. Cahuilla territory extended east to include the Coachella Valley and down the valley as far south as the approximate middle of the Salton Sea. The approximate southern territorial limits included Borrego Springs and the south end of the Santa Rosa Mountains. The Cahuilla territory consisted of the Mountain, the Pass or Western, and the Desert divisions (Bean 1978; Hooper 1920:316; Strong 1929).

According to Kroeber (1925), Cahuilla society consisted of two ceremonial divisions or moieties: wildcat and coyote. People were further divided into somewhat localized, patrilineal clans. Each clan had a chief: net in Cahuilla (Kroeber 1925). Some villages contained people of only one clan, but other villages had more than one clan. Also, people of one clan might live in more than one village. Chiefs were usually chosen by heredity. The chief typically was a religious leader of the larger social group, from which the chief drew certain wealth. A chief ordered ceremonies, but it was his assistant, the paha', who executed them. Choice hunting and gathering areas were owned by the clan. The clan chief also settled intraclan disputes and met with other nets to solve interclan problems and organize ceremonies among clans (Kroeber 1925).

The Cahuilla sustained themselves through hunting, gathering, and fishing. Major villages were fully occupied during the winter, but during other seasons, task groups made periodic forays to collect various plant foods, with larger groupings from several villages organizing for the annual acorn harvest. Bean and Saubel (1972) have recorded the use of several hundred species of plants used for food, building/artifact materials, and medicines. The major plant foods included acorns, pinyon nuts, and various seed-producing legumes. Agave, wild fruits and berries, tubers, cactus bulbs, roots and greens, and seeds complemented these (Bean and Saubel 1972).

Hunting focused on both small and medium-sized mammals, such as rodents and rabbits, and large mammals, such as pronghorn sheep, mountain sheep, and mule deer. Hunting was done using the throwing stick or the bow and arrow, although nets and traps were also used for small animals (Bean 1972).

Cahuilla material culture included dome-shaped to rectangular type houses; aboveground granaries; baskets, pottery, and grinding implements; and throwing sticks, clubs, nets, traps, dead falls with seed triggers, spring-poled snares, arrows, and self-backed and sinew-backed bows. They sometimes fired bush clumps to drive game out in the open and flares to attract birds at night. Baskets of various kinds were used for winnowing, leaching, grinding, transporting, parching, storing, and cooking. Pottery vessels were used for carrying water, for storage, cooking, and serving food and drink. Cahuilla tools included mortars and pestles; manos and metates; fire drills; awls; arrow-straighteners; flint knives; wood, horn, and bone spoons and stirrers; scrapers; and hammerstones. Woven rabbit-skin blankets served to keep people warm in cold weather. Feathered costumes were worn for ceremonial events; and at these events the Cahuilla made music using rattles derived from insect cocoon, turtle and tortoise shell, and deer-hoofs, along with wood rasps, bone whistles, bull-roarers, and flutes. They wove bags, storage pouches, cords, and nets from the fibers of yucca, agave, and other plants (Drucker 1937; Bean 1972, 1978).

Serrano

It is nearly impossible to assign boundaries of the Serrano territory due to their sociopolitical organization and lack of reliable data. The Serrano were organized into local lineages occupying favored territories but rarely claiming any territory far from the lineage's home base (Bean and Smith 1978b). The estimated population of the Serrano before



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European contact was 1,500–2,500. It is difficult to estimate the number of Serranos living in each village; however, it is likely that the villages held only as many Serranos as could be accommodated by water sources (Stickel and Weinman-Roberts 1980).

The Serrano lived in dwellings which were circular, domed structures built over an excavated area. These structures were built with fire pits and primarily served as sleeping areas. Ceremonial houses were the only other buildings in the villages and were normally occupied by the village priest (Stickel and Weinman-Roberts 1980).

In the Serrano artifact assemblage, it is noted to be similar to that of the neighboring Cahuilla and includes musical instruments such as rattles and flutes; utensils and ornaments such as fire drills, mortars, metates, pipes, beads, awls, and projectile points from wood, shell, bone, and stone. The Serrano were talented pottery and basket makers. Their pots were made of coiled clay smoothed out with a paddle and set in the sun to dry before being fired in a pit. The brownware was sometimes decorated with designs of circles and lines of either red or black (Stickel and Weinman-Roberts 1980).

The Serrano were also known for their petroglyphs. Abstract and geometric designs are often seen with representational figures of sheep, lizards, and human beings. Some state that their petroglyphs were records of important events, rough maps, and artistic representations of native life (Stickel and Weinman-Roberts 1980).

Historic Overview

Post-European contact history for the state of California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), the Mexican Period (1822–1848), and the American Period (1848 – present). Briefly, and in very general terms, the Spanish Period encompassed the earliest historic-period explorations of the West, colonization, missionization and proselytization across the western frontier, the establishment of major centers such as Los Angeles and Monterey and a line of missions and presidios with attendant satellite communities, minor prospecting, and a foundational economic structure based on the rancho system. The Mexican Period initiated with a continuation of the same structures; however, commensurate with the political changes that led to the establishment of the Mexican state, the missions and presidios were secularized, the lands parceled, and Indian laborers released. Increased global trade introduced both foreign and American actors into the Mexican economic and political sphere, both coincidentally, and purposefully, smoothing the transition to the American Period. The American Period was ushered in with a momentous influx of people seeking fortune in the Sierra foothills where gold was “discovered” in 1848. By the early 1850s people from all over the globe had made their way to California. Expansive industries were required to supply the early mining operations, such as forestry products and food networks. Grains, poultry, cattle, and water systems, which were initiated in the early Mexican Period, were intensified into a broad system of ranches and supply networks. Additionally, this period witnessed the development and expansion of port cities to supply hard goods and clothes, animals, and people transported along improved trail and road networks throughout the interior regions of the state. California cycled through boom and bust for several decades until World War I, when the Department of the Navy began porting war ships along the west coast. Subsequently, California has grown and contracted, predominantly around military policy along the west coast and the Pacific Ocean. Following the industrial expansion related to World War II and the Cold War, technology and systems associated have come to fore as economic drivers.

City of Chino Hills

Rancho Santa Ana del Chino, whose southern border lies north of the Project site, was granted to Antonio Maria Lugo in 1841 by Governor Alvarado (Ogden 1862). In 1843, Lugo deeded half of the rancho to his son-in-law Colonel Isaac Williams (Rensch 1966). Williams soon built an adobe mansion and planted vineyards and orchards in the surrounding land. In 1851, Lugo deeded the remaining portion of the rancho land to Williams (Rensch 1966).

In 1846, during the Mexican–American war, the Battle of Chino occurred on September 26–27. Benjamin Wilson and a group of 24 Americans assembled at the Williams’s adobe rancho (Bancroft 1884; Rensch 1966). A group of 50 to 70 Californios surrounded the adobe. During the skirmish that followed, one Californio was killed, and several Americans were wounded. The Californios set fire to the roof of the adobe, and the Americans surrendered (Rensch 1966).



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The area containing the Rancho Santa Ana del Chino was purchased in 1881 by Richard Gird, a miner from Tombstone, Arizona (Lewis Publishing Company 1890). Initially using the land to raise livestock, Gird later subdivided a portion of the land into small ranches and the nearby townsite of Chino. As time went on, other land uses were introduced, such as mining for gravel, clay, and petroleum, as well as other agricultural activities (City of Chino Hills 2015).

In 1909, Boys Republic, an organization that provides vocational education for the youth with “life challenges,” purchased and occupied 240 acres of Chino Hills, including the former location of Isaac Williams’s adobe. The years between 1909 and 1959 are regarded in the City of Chino Hills General Plan (2015) as a period of historical significance and locally important event. During this time, the Boys Republic used the land for agricultural training as the primary method of helping troubled teens. This is also when the construction of buildings occurred on the property (City of Chino Hills 2015).

During the period between 1910 and 1930, the Tres Hermanos Ranch/Adobe was built and developed in association with Harry Chandler of the Los Angeles Times, “wildcat” oil-driller-turned attorney Tom Scott, and William Rowland, a former Los Angeles County Sheriff and descendant of wealthy La Puente rancher John Rowland. The adobe, built in 1914 or 1915, is still present. In 1978, the City of Industry purchased the ranch, and it has continued being used as a working cattle ranch (City of Chino Hills 2015).

In 1922, the Sleepy Hollow Resort, comprising 80 acres subdivided for weekend getaway cabins, was debuted. By 1925, the Los Serranos Country Club and golf course were completed. In 1954, south of Soquel Canyon, an 800-acre site was selected and began development for an Aerojet facility, which assembled and tested ordnance for the U.S. Department of Defense; use continued until 1995.

In 1979, to plan for the development of Chino Hills area, which had already started increasing, the County initiated preparation of the Chino Hills Specific Plan (Specific Plan), a document that planned for the eventual development of 18,000 acres of Chino Hills land. While most of the County was converted into residential tracts, the hilly topography of Chino Hills had prevented subdivisions from being built inexpensively, which slowed expansion. However, by the 1980s, Chino Hills development was rapidly growing. The Specific Plan was the first in the State of California to be designed for an unincorporated area. A Citizen’s Advisory Committee and County officials worked in cooperation with 150 property owners to develop the Specific Plan, and by 1991, Chino Hills had become an incorporated city and adopted its first General Plan in 1994 (City of Chino Hills 2015).

At its date of incorporation, the population of Chino Hills was 42,000. As of 2022, the population has grown to approximately 78,000 (City of Chino Hills 2022).

Methods of Review

Chambers Group requested a records search from the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) South-Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton, on November 18, 2022. A study area with a half-mile radius of the Project site was requested to provide additional context to the Project site and surrounding area and more information on which to base this review. The SCCIC returned the records search results on January 6, 2023, providing information on all documented cultural resources and previous archaeological investigations within a half-mile radius of the Project site. Resources consulted during the records search conducted by the SCCIC included the NRHP, California Historical Landmarks (CHL), California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Historic Highway Bridge Inventory, the California State Historic Resources Inventory, local registries of historic properties, and a review of available Sanborn Fire Insurance maps as well as historical photographs, maps, and aerial imagery. The task also included a search for potential prehistoric and/or historic burials (human remains) evident in previous site records and/or historical maps. In addition, Chambers Group submitted a request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a review of the Sacred Land Files (SLF) for the Project site and surrounding vicinity. Results of the NACH SLF records search and additional outreach are detailed below and included in Attachment A. The results of the SCCIC records search are also detailed below and included in confidential Attachment B.



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Additionally, on November 18, 2022, Chambers Group requested a paleontological records search from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLA). This information was requested with the intent to provide further context related to the paleontological sensitivity of the area based on known fossil locations identified within the Project site and the requested half-mile search radius. The paleontological records provide insight into what associated geological formations are most likely to contain fossils as well as the associated depths and placement of the known fossil locals relative to the geological formations in the area. On November 27, 2022, Chambers Group received the results of the paleontological records search. These results are detailed below.

Project Personnel

Chambers Group Cultural Resources Department Lead Lucas Tutschulte managed the Project. Chambers Group archaeologists and cross-trained paleontologists Kellie Kandybowicz and Eric Kowalski completed the pedestrian survey. Additionally, Kellie Kandybowicz conducted the background research and authored the report. Richard Shultz, MA, RPA, served as Principal Investigator for cultural resources and performed quality control for the report.

Previous Cultural Resources Reports

Based on the records search conducted by the SCCIC, two cultural resource studies have previously been completed within the half-mile records search radius. Table 1 provides further details of these two studies. Of these two reports, one bisects the Project site. This project is bolded in the table. A map (Figure 2) of the record search results is included in confidential Attachment B.

Table 1: Previous Cultural Resources Studies within a Half-Mile Radius of the Project Site

Report Number	Year	Author	Title	Within Project Site?
SB-06220	2008	Eddy, John J. and Bai "Tom" Tang	Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties: Recycled Water Reservoirs R-41, R-42 & R-43, City of Chino Hills, San Bernardino County, California.	No
SB-07083	2011	Gust, Sherri and Molly Valasik	Paleontological and Cultural Resources of Chino Hills for the General Plan Update, City of Chino Hills, California.	Yes



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Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

Based upon the records search conducted by the SCCIC, one previously recorded cultural resource is recorded within the half-mile records search radius (Table 2). None are located within the Project site. A map (Figure 2) of the record search results is included in confidential Attachment B.

Table 2: Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within a Half-Mile Radius of the Project Site

Primary Number	Trinomial	Site Description	Within Project Site?
P-36-060031	N/A	AP 16. Isolate	No

Background Research Results

In addition to the records search review, Chambers Group archaeologists completed extensive background research to determine if any additional historic properties, landmarks, bridges, or other potentially significant or listed properties are located within the Project site or within the half-mile records search radius. This background research included, but was not limited to, the NRHP, California State Historic Property Data Files, California State Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, historic aerial imagery accessed via NETR Online, Historic U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, Built Environment Resource Directory (BERD), and Caltrans, and State and local bridge surveys. Additionally, Chambers Group archaeologists reviewed the San Bernardino County Historical Landmarks inventory designated by the County of San Bernardino Cultural Heritage Board as well as the San Bernardino Historical Society and local historical newspaper clippings via Newspapers.com, ProQuest Historical Newspapers.com, and the California Digital Newspaper Collection.

As a result of the records search review and archival research, no previously recorded resources or any other listed or potentially significant properties are located within the Project site or within its half-mile boundary. However, as partially discussed under Historic Overview of the City of Chino Hills, historically important areas of Chino Hills are located in the City, including Boys Republic, the Tres Hermanos Ranch, the Sleepy Hollow Resort area of Carbon Canyon, the Los Serranos Country Club (which was the historic American period of the Gird Adobe), and the Laband Equestrian Overlay Zone in the English Road area due to its local importance of horse properties during the development of the City (City of Chino Hills 2015).

Additionally, based on the review of available historic maps and imagery, Chambers Group archaeologists observed that a portion of the Project site had begun being partially utilized as early as 1947, as depicted on the topographical map as a road leading directly to the northeastern portion of the Project site. In the 1950 topographical map, an intermittent stream can be observed in the northeastern portion of the Project site. Additionally, on the 1968 topographical map, the symbol for intermittent lake/pond was recorded in the same location (and continues to be recorded as such through the 2018 maps). In aerial photographs from 1963, there is an access route visible from the east/northeast leading to water source. By 1987, the northern portion of the Project site shows that the land was cleared due to early housing development occurring in the adjacent area immediately to the north along with the establishment of Soquel Canyon Parkway. Between 1994 and 1998, the eastern portion of the Project site remained fully cleared and was likely used as an access and staging area for the housing development construction directly to the east. In the aerial images from 1999, in the northwestern portion of the Project site, there appears to be construction materials staged for the development of the housing development immediately to the west and continued to be used as such for the better part of a decade. A flood control easement currently bisects the eastern side of the Project site with an underground flood control channel constructed just south of the Project site (NETROnline 2023).



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NAHC SLF Search Results

On November 18, 2022, Chambers Group requested that the NAHC conduct a search of its SLF to determine if TCRs important to Native Americans have been recorded in the Project site and surrounding half-mile radius. Additional consultation with the tribes indicated in the NAHC SLF letter (Attachment A) would be required to determine the nature of any existing resources located during ground-disturbing activities. PRC Section 21074 defines a resource as a TCR if it meets either of the following criteria:

1. Listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k)
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1 (in applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe)

On December 15, 2022, Chambers Group received a response from the NAHC stating that the search of its SLF was *negative* for the presence of Native American cultural resources within Project site and the half-mile radius record search study area.

The NAHC provided a list of 33 Native American tribal contacts that may have knowledge of cultural resources near the Project site (Attachment A). The associated Native American contact list provided contacts from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe, Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation – 84A, Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation – Belardes, Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation, Ramona Band of Cahuilla, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, Serrano Nation of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, Torres–Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, and Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (formerly the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians).

AB 52 Notification and Tribal Consultation

On March 6, 2023, Chambers Group, on behalf of the District, sent AB 52 notification letters via certified mail and email to all tribal groups who have requested notification for all projects in the District.

On March 6, 2023, the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation sent via email a formal request to initiate AB 52 consultation with the District. The Tribe stated that the Project site is within the Tribe’s Ancestral Tribal Territory. The response from the Tribe included the language, "Please note: AB 52 consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in SB 18 (Govt. Code Section 65352.4)." **At this time, the AB 52 consultation is still in process.**

SB 18 Notification and Tribal Consultation

On March 6, 2023, Chambers Group, on behalf of the District, sent SB 18 notification letters via certified mail and email to all tribal groups listed on the NAHC contact list provided with the SLF results.

On March 6, 2023, the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation sent via email a formal request to initiate SB 18 consultation with the District. The Tribe stated that the Project site is within the Tribe’s Ancestral Tribal Territory. The response from the Tribe included the language, "Please note: AB 52 consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in SB 18 (Govt. Code Section 65352.4)." **At this time, the SB 18 consultation is still in process.**

On March 6, 2023, notice was received from three tribes that they would not seek to initiate consultation. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians stated that a records check of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office’s cultural registry revealed that the Project is not within the Tribe’s Traditional Use Area and will defer to the other tribes in the



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area. The Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation responded that they do not wish to comment and defer to the more local Tribes and support their determination on this matter. The Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council stated that they have no comment.

The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation responded on March 10, 2023, stating that the Project is located outside of Serrano ancestral territory and will not be requesting consulting party status with the lead agency or to participate in the scoping, development, or review of documents.

On March 10, 2023, the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians responded that they are unaware of specific cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed Project. However, in the event of any new discovery of cultural resources during the development of this Project, they requested that their office be immediately contacted for further evaluation.

The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians responded on March 22, 2023, stating that the Project site location is not within their Area of Historic Interest (AHI). They have no additional information to provide and recommend directly contacting a Tribe that is closer to the Project site and may have pertinent information.

Paleontological Resources

On November 27, 2022, Chambers Group received the results of the paleontological records search from the NHMLA. The results show that no fossil localities lie directly within the Project site, but there are recorded fossil localities from the same sedimentary deposit that underlays the Project site.

Potentially fossil-bearing units are present in the Project site, either at the surface or in the subsurface, as stated in the record search results. Based on the records search results, which covered only the records of the NHMLA, the paleontological sensitivity of the Project site could be considered moderate due to the previously recorded and known fossil localities in the same sedimentary deposits as mapped in the Project site and within the study area, which included a half-mile search radius of the Project site (Bell 2022).

The Chino Hills, also known as the eastern Puente Hills, are made up of middle to late Miocene Epoch (15 million to 9 million years old) marine sedimentary rock units overlain by Pleistocene Epoch (1.8 million to 10 thousand years old) terrestrial sediments. Beginning roughly 23 million years ago, the ocean extended past the current shoreline and covered Chino Hills, and subsequently the Miocene sediments were deposited as submarine fans. Miocene fossils from the time period when Chino Hills was ocean floor are represented by numerous bony and cartilaginous fishes, marine invertebrates, and marine vegetation; Pleistocene fossils are represented by terrestrial mammals (City of Chino Hills 2015). Based on the record search results from the NHMLA, known fossils in the area include horses, camels, ground sloths, elephants, Sturgeonfish, Mako sharks, Mola, bony fish, and various invertebrates (Bell 2022).

The geologic mapping of the region by Dibblee and Minch (2004) indicates the entire Project site is located atop marine and nonmarine (continental) sedimentary rocks of Pleistocene–Holocene age. These sediments comprise unconsolidated and semi-consolidated alluvium, lake, playa, and terrace deposits. The Davis SoilWeb database describes the soil classification as approximately 10 percent Fontana clay loam, described as fine-loamy, mixed, thermic family of Calcic Haploxerolls derived from weathered sedimentary rock, and 90 percent Nacimiento clay loam, which consists of moderately deep, well drained soils that formed in material weathered from calcareous shale and sandstone (University of California, Davis 2023). Based on the records search results and review of publicly available geologic mapping, the Project site's underlying sedimentary deposits have potential to yield previously undocumented fossil localities during construction.

Field Survey Methods

The pedestrian survey consisted of a systematic surface inspection of the entire Project site. The Project site was transected at 10-meter intervals to ensure that any evidence of surface-exposed cultural materials and/or evidence of paleontological resources could be identified.



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Chambers Group examined the ground surface for the presence of prehistoric artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools) or features (e.g., milling features, hearths, stone circles), historical artifacts (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics) or features (agricultural installations, irrigation systems), sediment discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, roads and trails, and depressions and other features that might indicate the former presence of prehistoric or historic structures or buildings (e.g., post holes, foundations).

As the Project site was surveyed, transect data was recorded using a hand-held global positioning system (GPS) unit, with sub-meter accuracy available for recordation of cultural or paleontological finds should any resources be identified. The Project site was photographed using a digital camera to capture overview photographs of the areas and conditions surveyed as present and to capture other potentially relevant contextual visual information.

All field notes, photographs, and records related to the current study are on file at the Chambers Group San Diego office.

Field Survey Results

Chambers Group archaeologists and cross-trained paleontologists Kellie Kandybowicz and Eric Kowalski conducted a pedestrian survey of the entire Project site on March 2, 2023. The entire Project site was surveyed, including proposed construction equipment access and staging areas. Much of the Project site shows evidence of disturbance related to previous development activity, dating back to as early as between 1985 and 1987, when surrounding housing development began along with the construction of Soquel Canyon Parkway (NETROnline 2023).

The visual inspection of the surface revealed no evidence of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological resources within the Project site. Ground surface visibility was generally low at 5 to 10 percent within the western side of the Project site and around the northern and eastern perimeters (Photograph 1). The ground surface visibility in the remainder of the northern and eastern area of the Project site was roughly 97 to 100 percent and showed evidence of prior clearing and/or staging use activity, which is also observed in the historic aerial imagery. A flood control easement currently bisects the eastern side of the Project site with an underground flood control channel constructed just south of the Project site. Just south of the currently gated rock aggregate-lined entranceway, there is a depression that appears to be associated with the flood control easement (Photograph 2). The eastern and northeastern areas of the Project site display evidence of previous disturbance related to previous vegetation clearing and off-highway-vehicle traffic.

Current vegetation on the western portion of the Project site is predominately characterized by various grasses, weeds, thistles, and mustard plants. There is also a single, fully grown eucalyptus tree in the area just south of the flood control depression feature.

No evidence of cultural or paleontological resources was observed during the field survey.



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Photograph 1: Overview of current conditions at Chino Valley Fire Station No. 68 Proposed Project location showing vacant overgrown lot on right (western portion) and previously placed rock aggregate disbursement at entranceway at left (east portion). View to the south.



Photograph 2: Depressed area from flood control easement activities in foreground and bare ground area with evidence of clearing and vehicle use in background. View to the east.



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Discussion

As detailed above, Chambers Group conducted a Project site-specific study that included cultural resources records searches, literature review, and a pedestrian survey for the proposed Project in accordance CEQA, as well as the City's goals and policies regarding the protection of archaeological, tribal, historical, and paleontological resources outlined in their General Plan (City of Chino Hills 2015). City of Chino Hills Conservation Element Goal CN-2, specifically policies CN-2.1, CN-2.2, and CN-2.3, which protect the archaeological, paleontological, and historical resources within the City, will be applicable if resources are encountered during the Project.

An archival records search through the CHRIS database at the SCCIC, background research of the Project site, and a field survey were conducted as part of this study. A paleontological records search was also conducted by the NHMLA. In addition, Chambers Group requested a SLF search from the NAHC to determine the presence or absence of data regarding any known TCRs previously reported within the Project site or its half-mile radius.

The SCCIC records search identified one previous cultural resources study that included the Project site; no cultural resources have been recorded within the Project site. The paleontological record search resulted in no documented fossil localities within the Project site. However, the results also indicated fossils localities have been recorded within the half-mile radius search area in the same sedimentary deposits as those mapped underlying the Project site. The NAHC SLF search was negative for documented resources important to the local Tribal groups in the Project site and/or surrounding area. As of the date of this report, one tribe, the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, has requested SB 18 consultation, and that process is currently ongoing. Further SB 18 and AB 52 tribal consultation efforts are ongoing by the City, and the responses to date have not included any concerns by tribal groups regarding the Project.

Additionally, based on the review of available historic maps and imagery, Chambers Group archaeologists observed that the Project site was accessible by dirt road by 1963 and was the location of an intermittent stream/lake/pond and water source. The Project site was also partially cleared by 1987 for use during the development of the surrounding housing tracts and Soquel Canyon Parkway (NETROnline 2023).

During the field survey, no evidence of cultural or paleontological resources was observed. While there are no previously recorded cultural or paleontological resources in the Project site, there remains potential to uncover archaeological deposits during construction. Due to the mapped geologic formations underlying the Project site known to bear paleontological resources and the known fossil localities provided in the surrounding study area, there remains potential that new fossils could be exposed during the Project.

In summary, Chambers Group found no physical or archival evidence of cultural or paleontological resources within the Project site. While no surficial evidence of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources was observed, the ground surface visibility was limited due to dense vegetation in much of the Project site. While no evidence of paleontological resources was observed during the survey, background research and NHMLA records indicate a low to moderate sensitivity for fossil localities within the Project site and its half-mile radius. Additionally, NHMLA noted the existence of similar fossil-bearing geologic units mapped underlying the Project site. Finally, although the Project site has evidence of past disturbance and while the potential for encountering intact resources within the upper sediments is low, the possibility of buried resources being identified below surface disturbances is not diminished. Research indicates geologic units known to be fossil bearing underlay the Project site and could be encountered during Project-related ground-disturbing construction activities. Additionally, due to the surface nature of the previous disturbance and limited surface visibility during survey, there is potential that intact native soil formations, which have been known to bear cultural resources, underly the Project site. Thus, there remains potential that buried cultural resources could be encountered during the Project.



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Recommendations

Per CEQA Guidelines the Project should be designed to avoid impacts to cultural resources within the Project site whenever feasible. While Chambers Group did not identify any cultural resources through background research or though survey of the Project site, Chambers Group recommends the following mitigation measures be implemented as part of Project approval to ensure that potential impacts to cultural and paleontological resources are less than significant.

- MM CUL-1** The District shall retain the services of a Qualified Archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior Standards, or County requirements, whichever is the greater. The Qualified Archaeologist shall remain on-call throughout the Project. Upon approval or request by the District, a cultural resources mitigation plan (CRMP) outlining procedures for cultural resources monitoring, mitigation, treatment, and data recovery of any unanticipated discovery shall be prepared for the Project and submitted to the District for review and approval. The development and implementation of the CRMP shall include consultations with the District as well as a requirement that the curation of any significant cultural resources recovered under any scenario shall be through an appropriate repository agreed upon by the District. If the District accepts ownership, the curation location may be revised.
- MM CUL-2** In the event of the discovery of previously unidentified and/or potential cultural resources, the District, and/or its Contractor, shall immediately cease all work activities within an area of not less than 50 feet of the discovery. The District or its Contractor shall immediately contact the District and the District-retained on-call Qualified Archaeologist. Except in the case of cultural items that fall within the scope of the California Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA Section 15064.5, or California PRC Section 5097.98, the discovery of any cultural resource within the Project site shall not be grounds for a project-wide “stop work” notice or otherwise interfere with the Project’s continuation except as set forth in this mitigation measure. Additionally, all consulting Native American Tribal groups that requested notification of any unanticipated discovery of cultural resources on the Project shall be notified appropriately. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during construction, the District-retained Qualified Archaeologist shall be contacted to evaluate the significance of the materials prior to resuming any construction-related activities in the vicinity of the find. If a CRMP is prepared for the Project, the protocols for mitigation or treatment of cultural resources will be implemented. If the Qualified Archaeologist determines that the discovery constitutes a significant resource under CEQA and it cannot be avoided, the District shall implement an archaeological data recovery program.
- MM-CUL-3** If cultural resources are encountered during the Project, the Qualified Archaeologist shall prepare a report summarizing any and all prehistoric or historic archaeological finds as well as providing follow-up reports of any finds to the SCCIC, as required.
- MM PAL-1** Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the District shall be required to obtain the services of a Qualified Project Paleontologist to remain on call for the duration of the proposed ground-disturbing construction activity. The paleontologist selected must be approved by the District. Upon approval or request by the District, a paleontological mitigation plan (PMP) outlining procedures for paleontological data recovery shall be prepared for the Project and submitted to the District for review and approval. The development and implementation of the PMP shall include consultations with the District’s Engineering Geologist as well as a requirement that the curation of all specimens recovered under any scenario shall be through an appropriate repository agreed upon by the District. If the District accepts ownership, the curation location may be revised. The PMP shall include developing a multilevel ranking system, or Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC), as a tool to demonstrate the potential yield of fossils within a given stratigraphic unit. The PMP shall outline the monitoring and salvage protocols to address paleontological resources encountered during Project-related ground-



**CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY AND STUDY LETTER
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68 PROJECT**



Chino Valley Fire District

disturbing activities, as well as the appropriate recording, collection, and processing protocols to appropriately address any resources discovered.

MM-PAL-2 At the completion of all ground-disturbing activities, the Project Paleontologist shall prepare a final paleontological mitigation report summarizing all monitoring efforts and observations, as performed in line with the PMP, and all paleontological resources encountered, if any, as well as providing follow-up reports of any specific discovery, if necessary.

HUMAN REMAINS – LEGAL REQUIREMENTS In the event that human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, then the proposed Project would be subject to California Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA Section 15064.5, and California PRC Section 5097.98. If human remains are found during ground-disturbing activities, State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner shall be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the County Coroner shall notify the NAHC, which shall notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials (National Park Service 1983).

Chambers Group is available to assist with any further support or document preparation related to Cultural Resources, including tribal consultation. Please contact the cultural resources staff at the contact information below if you have any questions or comments regarding this report.

Sincerely,

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kellie Kandybowicz".

Kellie Kandybowicz

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucas Tutschulte".

Lucas Tutschulte

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**CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY AND STUDY LETTER
REPORT FOR THE CHINO VALLEY FIRE STATION NO.
68 PROJECT**

Chino Valley Fire District



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**CHAMBERS
GROUP**



Attachments

Attachment A: NAHC SLF Records Search Results Letter
Attachment B (Confidential): Record Search Results



CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY AND STUDY LETTER REPORT FOR THE CHINO VALLEY FIRE STATION NO. 68 PROJECT

Chino Valley Fire District

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ATTACHMENT A – NAHC SLF RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS LETTER



Attachment A: NAHC SLF Records Search Results Letter



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Gavin Newsom, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

December 15, 2022

Kellie Kandybowicz
The Chambers Group, Inc.

Via Email to: kkandybowicz@chambersgroupinc.com

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NAHC.ca.gov

Re: Chino Valley Fire Station 68 Project (21396), San Bernardino County

Dear Ms. Kandybowicz:

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: Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
12/15/2022**

**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla
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Cahuilla

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Gabrieleno

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Juaneno

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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Chino Valley Fire Station 68 Project (21396), San Bernardino County.

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
12/15/2022**

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**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
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12/15/2022**

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