



RT FACTFINDERS
Cultural Resources

REPORT

**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION
FOR 4.4 ACRES
ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF WEST AVENUE H, WEST OF INTERSTATE 14
LANCASTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared For:

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Prepared By:

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Archaeologists**

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Job. No. 652

March 2022

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 3114-012-020

**Performed under: Private contract
USGS Quadrangle: Lancaster West, Calif. 7.5'
Area covered: 4.4 acres
Location: Township 7 North, Range 12 West, Section 8
Keywords: Antelope Valley, Lancaster**

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SUMMARY

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the requirements of the City of Lancaster, a phase I cultural resource investigation was completed for a 4.4-acre property in Lancaster, California. The property is south of the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds on the south side of West Avenue H and lies west of Interstate 14. The property is recorded with the Los Angeles Tax Assessor's office as APN 3114-012-020.

The purpose of the study was to identify and record cultural resources within the subject property and recommend mitigation measures, if warranted. As a result of the investigation no Native American or historic period cultural resources were discovered. Since no cultural resources are present, development of the property will not adversely impact cultural resources. No further cultural resource work is recommended.

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the requirements of the City of Lancaster, a phase I cultural resource investigation was completed for a 4.4-acre property in Lancaster, California. The property is south of the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds on the south side of West Avenue H and west of Interstate 14. The property is recorded with the Los Angeles Tax Assessor's office as APN 3114-012-020. The property occupies a portion of the northeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 8, Township 7 North, Range 12 West (Figures 1 and 2).

The purpose of the study was to identify and record cultural resources within the subject property and recommend mitigation measures, if warranted. The scope of the investigation included an on-foot inspection of the property, a review of the literature and records, preparation and filing of record forms as specified by the Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines, review of the Native American Heritage Commission's sacred lands file and preparation of a phase I report.

CEQA defines cultural resources as including archaeological sites, historic buildings, structures or objects, and properties of unique ethnic cultural value or religious/sacred uses. The property is being considered for future development. The City of Lancaster required this study because development would create a "substantial adverse change" to any significant cultural resources that might be present.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The property is currently undeveloped. There is no evidence of it having been farmed or developed previously. There has been considerable previous disturbance of the property including grading/clearing for apparent vehicle parking on the northern portion of the property. When observed, several semi-trailer trucks were parked there. There is also some recent period trash including tires and a broken automotive floor jack. A small homeless camp and associated trash was also noted. Vegetation on the southern portion of the property is primarily Atriplex with a few scattered rabbit bushes and Ephedra. Invasive seasonal grasses were also noted.

The property is in the Antelope Valley basin. The Antelope Valley is a broad, flat V-shaped basin in the Western Mojave Desert. The Valley is bounded in the north by the Tehachapi Mountains and in the south by the San Gabriel Mountains and extends eastward to the Mojave River Valley. Low points in the Antelope Valley are Rogers and Rosamond Dry Lakes with elevations of approximately 2275' above mean sea level. The property lies southwest of Rosamond Dry Lake and has an elevation of approximately 2315 feet above mean sea level.

Soil on the property is quaternary, compact silty sand overlying lakebed clays. There are no notable physiographic features, rock outcrops, or readily apparent sources of permanent surface water on the subject property. The property is a quarter mile east of the Amargosa Creek drainage which may have had a greater amount of surface or near-

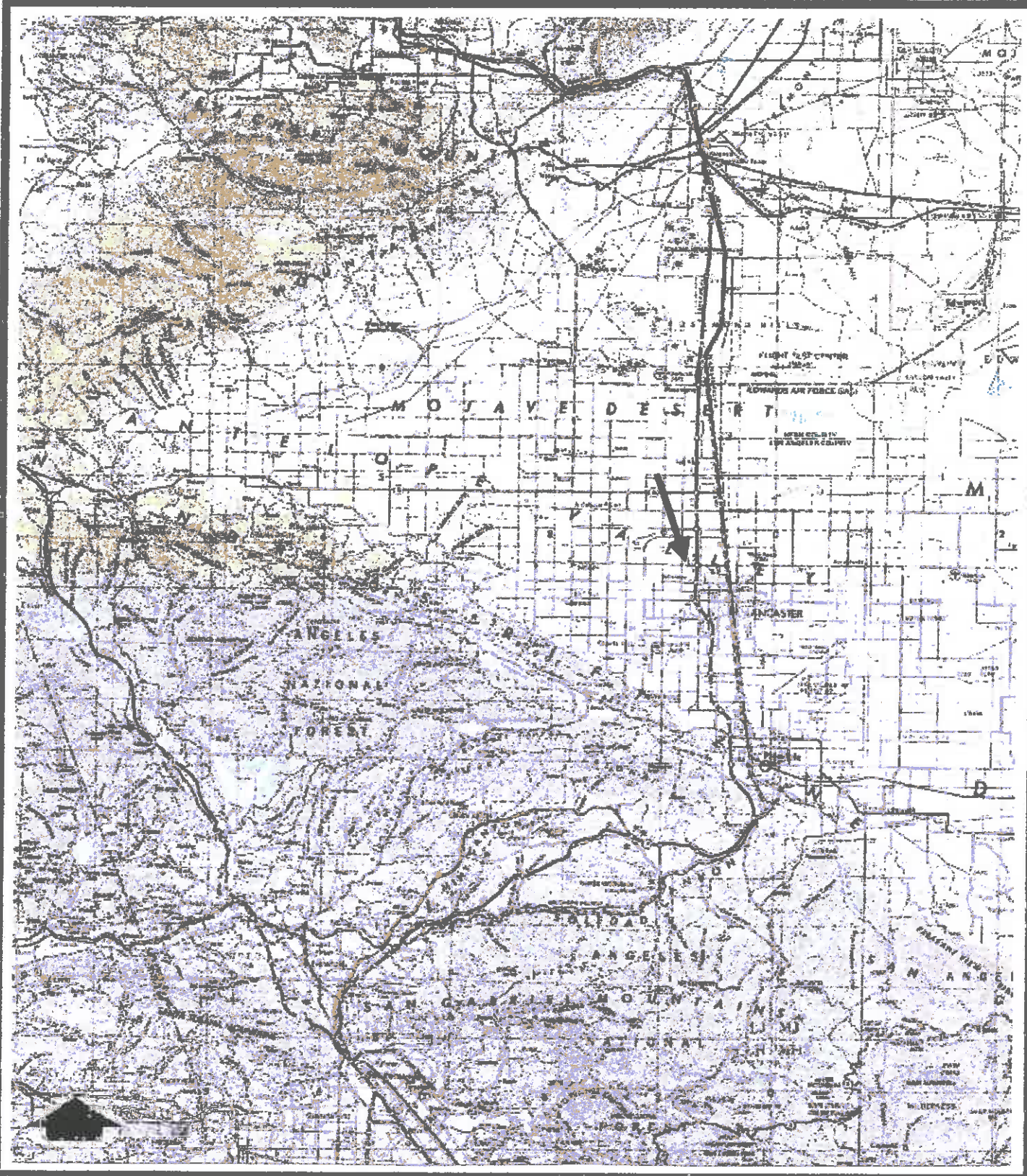
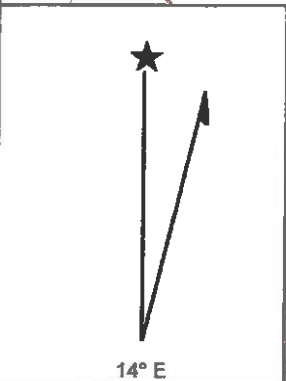
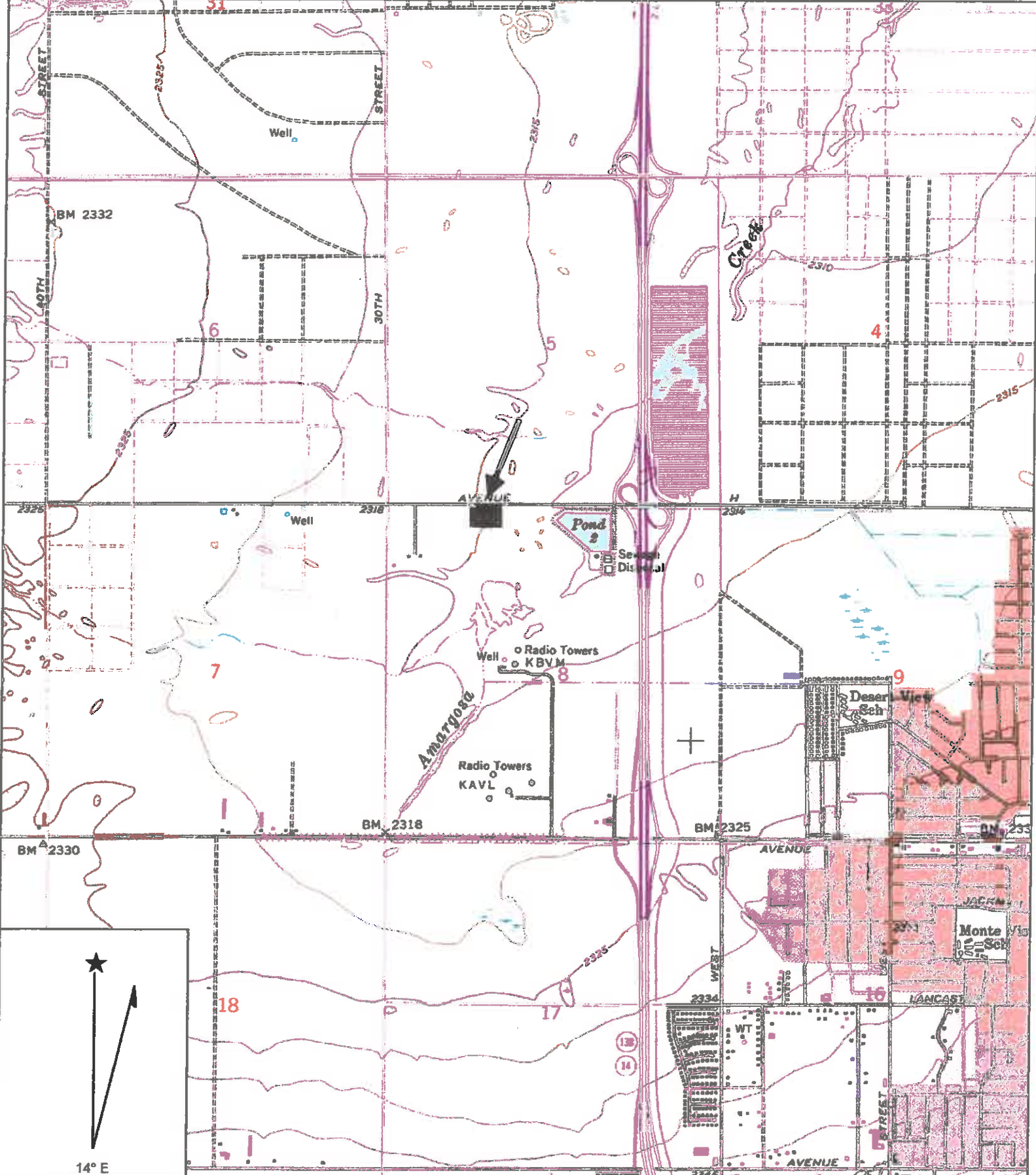


Figure 1: Project location depicted on Palmdale, California USGS map of 01 July 1975 via Microsoft Terra Server

1" = about 7.5 miles



Name: LANCASTER WEST
 Date: 12/19/2021
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 11 0392246 E 3842059 N
 Caption: Figure 2: Project location depicted on the Lancaster West 7.5 USGS map.

surface water in the past.

III. CULTURAL SETTING

The Antelope Valley has a cultural history extending back over 10,000 years and this history is represented by thousands of archaeological and historic period sites. Most of the prehistoric periods are known only in general outline. As would be expected the later periods are the best known. General temporal and cultural sequences have been developed by a number of researchers for other areas of the Mojave Desert including Wallace (1962), Bettinger and Taylor (1974), Stickle and Weinman-Roberts (1980), Warren and Crabtree (1986), and Earle, et. al., (1997).

Local prehistoric cultural history can be classified into four periods: Early, Middle, Late and Post-Contact (Norwood 1987). These periods were created to recognize change in environmental variables, technological and stylistic change, and/or settlement pattern changes. The ethnography of the Antelope Valley floor is poorly known. Various Indian groups, including the Kitanemuk, Kawaiisu and Serrano/Vanyume, may have been present in the area. These people were hunters and gatherers with an intimate knowledge of local floral and faunal resources and were able to obtain and prepare them for food and other products. The ethnography of the Valley is discussed by Kroeber (1925), Bean and Smith (1978), Blackburn and Bean (1978), Sutton (1980), Zigmond (1986), and Earle (1996).

The historical context of the region is discussed in several publications including those by Starr (1988), Morris (1977), Earle, et. al. (1998), and Earle (1998). A series of publications by the Kern-Antelope Historical Society and the West Antelope Valley Historical Society contain historical essays and interviews that are valuable for understanding the development of local historical context.

Prior to the last part of the 19th century, the history of the Valley was characterized primarily by people's efforts to pass through the Valley. Activity within the Valley was largely limited to cattle grazing, minor prospecting and hunting expeditions. Historic development of the Valley really began after the 1876 establishment of the Southern Pacific Railroad linking Los Angeles with the San Joaquin Valley. The mid-1880s brought the first actual land boom and population increase. This period saw the establishment of a number of settlements in the Valley and many settlers began successful orchards and small farms. There was a great deal of speculation and a variety of questionable schemes were used to entice people into the Valley.

Following this period, the fortunes of the Valley were greatly altered by natural causes. In 1894, a 10-year drought began that devastated many settlers who had little practical knowledge or appreciation of the desert environment. These people lost crop after crop and eventually their homes and land. At the turn-of-the-century, much of the Valley was considered worthless and the ownership of many parcels reverted to the state. A reduced population of die-hards remained, some of whom were blessed with land having a high water table and favorable agricultural soil. The history of the earlier periods of

occupation are, as would be expected, less clear than later periods, because there was an exodus of people and associated records. There is still much to learn about the dynamics of local development prior to 1920-1925.

Worldwide, during the same period, many technological innovations were being introduced. In 1904, a gasoline engine was first used in the Valley to pump well water. By 1908-1914 there was an influx of people into the Valley due to the construction of the Los Angeles aqueduct. By 1904 improved conditions after the drought, improved irrigation techniques and increasing subsistence diversity enhanced the potential for economic success. The World War I period brought another influx of people as homesteading reached a peak of popularity and agricultural prices were relatively high.

By 1914, electricity was introduced to the Valley and by 1917 the introduction of electric water pumps and improved dry farming techniques resulted in the substantial growth and success of agriculture. Increased prices for agricultural produce during World War I stimulated additional growth and agricultural expansion. Other economic endeavors, such as poultry ranching and, after 1919, moonshining, became important economic endeavors. By the mid-1920s Palmdale and Lancaster had assumed the characteristics and social institutions of small American rural towns of the period. World War II brought growth and radical change with the establishment of Edwards Air Force Base and the aerospace industry.

IV. RECORD, MAP AND SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH RESULTS

Record Search: Research was performed by reviewing previous studies within a half mile of the property, historic period maps, and early land records. The record review indicates that there is one overview study encompassing all of Lancaster (Tang, Hogan and Smallwood 2006). It does not include the results of on-foot survey, but provides general background information. The subject property has not been surveyed previously. One previous survey was completed to the south for a sewer line (Chandler, Cotterman, Mason, and Van Hemelryck, 2001). No cultural resources were recorded near the subject property as a result of that survey.

There have been several previous surveys in nearby areas. Phase I survey of locations within a half mile of the subject property has resulted in the recording of several cultural resources. Alexander (1989) and Love and DeWitt (1990) investigated a 448-acre property west of the subject property. One historic period site, a historic period road (P-19-001819H), was recorded. Love also recorded historic period glass (P-19-100319) west of the subject property. Norwood (1992, 2000, 2004a, 2004b, 2005a, 2005b, 2006, 2014 and 2017a, 2017b) recorded both negative findings and several historic period resources within approximately a mile of, but not close to, the subject property.

Map Search: Historic period maps were examined to determine the presence of any structures or other cultural features that might have been on or near the property.

1911: The earliest regional map of Lancaster is Johnson's (1911) Water Supply map showing structure and well locations throughout the Antelope Valley. Data for this map is based on a 1909 field survey. Johnson's map shows one well (Well #186) in the northwest 1/4 of Section 8. No wells or structures are shown on, or immediately near, the subject property.

1915: The 1915 Lake Elizabeth 15' USGS quad map shows a similar degree of development in the region as on Johnson's 1911 map. This map shows no structures or roads anywhere within Section 8.

1922: Carpenter and Cosby's Soil Survey map (1926), based on a 1922 field survey, shows no structures or roads anywhere within Section 8.

1933: The Oban 7.5' map shows two structures in Section 8. These structures were roughly situated where Interstate 14 is located today, so the locations were likely destroyed in the late 1960s or early 1970s during its construction.

1938: Walsh's 1938 real property map does not show the location or number of structures present, but it does show ownership of various parcels. No ownership is shown for any parcels within Section 8 on Walsh's map.

GLO Records: The Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records (GLO) were reviewed for all of Section 8. Four land patents were granted in the section between 1897 and 1908. There is no evidence that anyone occupied or used that portion of the section encompassing the subject property.

Sensitivity: Historic period sites are known within a mile of the property but not immediately nearby. There was limited early settlement and activity within Section 8. No Native American sites are recorded on the property or nearby.

Sacred Lands Search: A record search of the Native American Sacred Land file was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC, Attachment 1). No sacred sites were identified within or near the subject property. A list of contacts who may provide additional information was provided by the NAHC.

V. SURVEY METHODS AND CONDITIONS

Field survey for the property was completed on January 3, 2022 by Melinda Walton representing RTFactfinders. Fieldwork required 2 person-hours. The property was examined by walking a series of linear transects, oriented north to south beginning at the northeast property corner. Spacing between transects did not exceed 5-7 meter intervals. Soil surface visibility in most areas was excellent due to minimal vegetation cover. Light conditions were excellent with bright sun and clear skies. Photographs were taken to document current conditions on the property (Attachment 2).

In accordance with State Historic Preservation Office Guidelines, any sites or artifacts

greater than 50 years of age, if present, were to be noted, recorded and considered as potential cultural resources. There were no inhibiting factors that would have prevented the discovery and identification of surface evidence of prehistoric or historic period artifacts or features.

VII. SURVEY FINDINGS

As a result of the investigation no Native American sites or artifacts were discovered. No historic period sites or artifacts were found. There is a light scatter of trash and debris on the property dating to recent times and not considered to be cultural resources.

VIII. MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has provisions to ensure that any cultural resources that are identified during the environmental review process are evaluated for significance, because unique or important resources require mitigation. Since no cultural resources were identified on the property no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated as a result of any future use or development of the property. No further cultural resource work is recommended.

General recommendations: While unlikely, significant buried deposits could exist beneath the property surface. Under CEQA "inadvertent finds" (unexpected buried sites found after completion of a phase I or II study as a result of construction exposure) are subject to evaluation and, if significant, appropriate impact mitigation. In the event unanticipated cultural materials (arrowheads, grinding stones, etc.) or features (old foundations, cellars, privy pits, etc.) are encountered, work must stop at the discovery site. A professional cultural resource consultant will need to evaluate the find.

In the event any bones of possible human origin are uncovered during construction, the Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified and permitted to investigate the find prior to any further disturbance at the location of discovery.

IX. REFERENCES CITED

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Norwood, Richard H.

2000 Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for A 60 Acre Property, 20th Street West and West Avenue G, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #164. Report on file, Archaeological Information Center, CSU, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

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Norwood, Richard H.

2004b Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Approximately 3 Acres Southeast of the Intersection of 20th Street West and West Avenue I, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #320. Report on file, Archaeological Information Center, CSU, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

2005a Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Approximately 3 Acres West of the Intersection of 20th Street West and West Avenue I, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #411. Report on file, Archaeological Information Center, CSU, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

2005b Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for 2 Acres North of the Intersection of 23rd Street West and West Avenue I, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #393. Report on file, Archaeological Information Center, CSU, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

2006 Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for 5.5 Acres Northwest of the Intersection of 23rd Street West and West Avenue H-8, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #500. Report on file, Archaeological Information Center, CSU, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

2014 Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for 2.2 Acres Southeast of the Intersection of 23rd Street West and West Avenue H-4, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #578. Report on file, Archaeological Information Center, CSU, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

2017a Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Approximately 15.15 Acres Southeast of the Intersection of Interstate 14 and West Avenue H, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #595. Report on file, Archaeological Information Center, CSU, Fullerton, California.

Norwood, Richard H.

2017b Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for 3 Acres North on 23rd Street West North of its Intersection with West Avenue I, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. Job #602. Report on file, Archaeological Information Center, CSU, Fullerton, California.

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ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

March 1, 2022

Richard Norwood
RTFactfindersVia Email to: artefct@gmail.comCHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
LuiseñoVICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
ChumashPARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Atebery
KarukSECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
MiwokCOMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
ApacheCOMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-CostanoanCOMMISSIONER
Buffy McQuillen
Yokaya Pomo, Yuki,
NomlakiCOMMISSIONER
Wayne Nelson
LuiseñoCOMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
KumeyaayEXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Christina Snider
Pomo**Re: #652 East Ave H Near I-14 Project, Los Angeles County**

Dear Mr. Norwood:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
3/1/2022**

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Jairo Avila, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer
1019 Second Street, Suite 1
San Fernando, CA, 91340
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Tataviam

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Donna Yocum, Chairperson
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Phone: (503) 539 - 0933
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ddyocum@comcast.net

Kitanemuk
Vanyume
Tataviam

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951) 755 - 5110
Fax: (951) 755-5177
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Cahuilla
Serrano

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Jessica Mauck, Director of Cultural Resources
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA, 92346
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Serrano

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Cahuilla
Serrano

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
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serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ, 85366
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historicpreservation@quechantribe.com

Quechan

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
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Serrano

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman
Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (928) 750 - 2516
scottmanfred@yahoo.com

Quechan

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed #652 East Ave H Near I-14 Project, Los Angeles County.

ATTACHMENT 2



PHOTO 1: View southeast from the northwest property corner.



PHOTO 2: View northwest from the southeast property corner.