



RT FACTFINDERS
Cultural Resources

REPORT

**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION
FOR 20 ACRES NORTHWEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF
65TH STREET WEST AND WEST AVENUE K
LANCASTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared For:

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Job. No. 647

July 2021

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 3203-018-110

**Performed under: Private contract
USGS Quadrangle: Lancaster West, Calif. 7.5'
Area covered: 20 acres
Location: Township 7 North, Range 13 West, Section 22
Keywords: Antelope Valley, Lancaster, Negative**

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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 undertaken for a 20-acre property located northwest of the intersection of 65th Street West and West Avenue K. The property is recorded by the Los Angeles County Tax Assessor as APN 3203-018-110.

The purpose of the investigation was to identify cultural resources within the subject property and recommend mitigation measures, as 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, and preparation of a phase I report.

As a result of the investigation, no Native American prehistoric period sites or artifacts were identified on the property. No historic period sites or artifacts were identified. Since there are no cultural resources on the property, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated due to property development. No further work 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 undertaken for a 20-acre property located northwest of the intersection of 65th Street West and West Avenue K. The property is located within the southeast 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of Section 22, Township 7 North, Range 13 West. The property is recorded by the Los Angeles Tax Assessor as APN 3203-018-110 (Figures 1, 2).

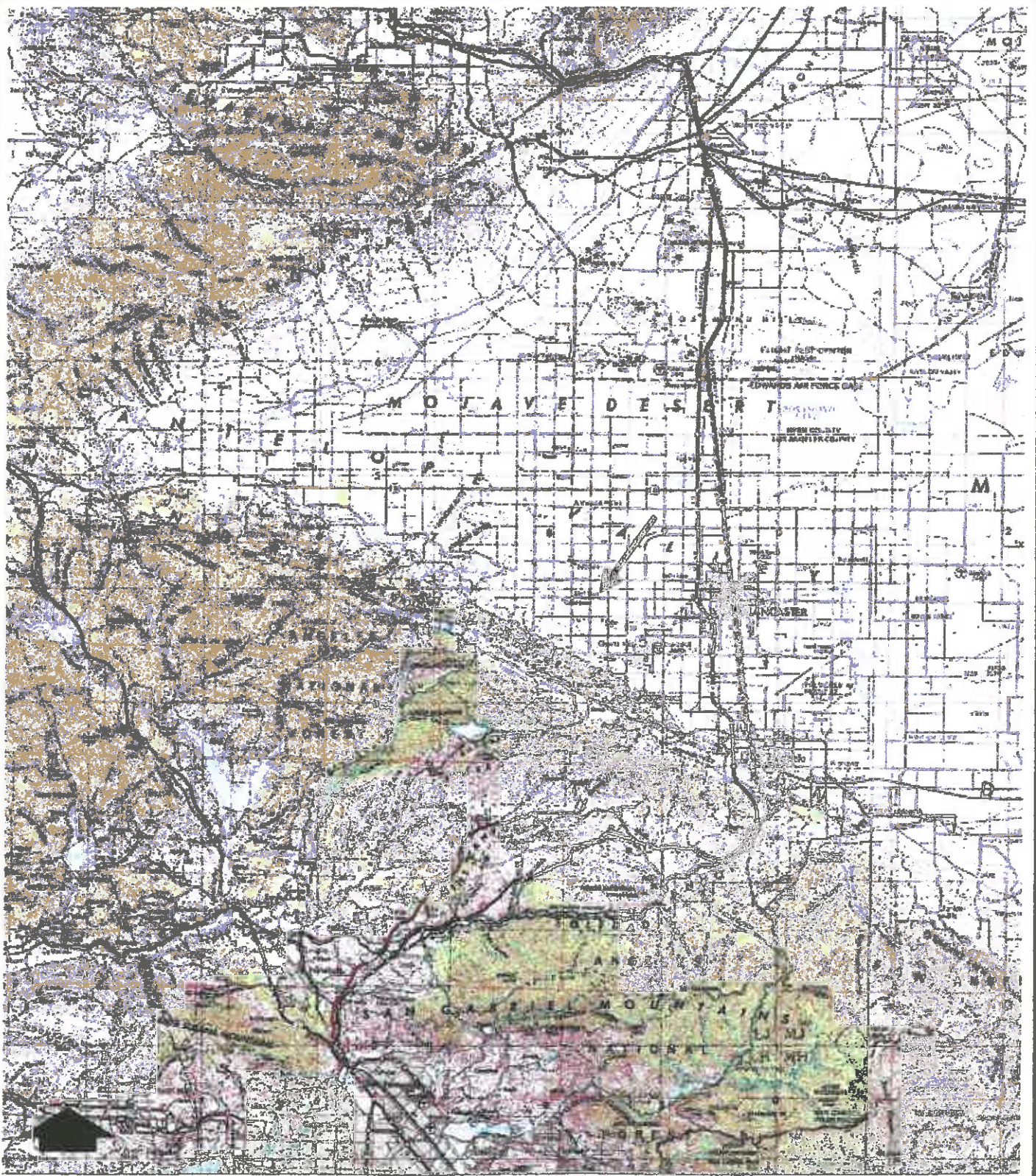
The City of Lancaster required this study, under CEQA, because use or construction on the property has the potential to cause a "substantial adverse change" to any cultural resources that might be present. CEQA defines cultural resources as including archaeological sites, historic buildings, structures or objects, and properties of unique ethnic or cultural value or religious/sacred uses.

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

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The property is situated on the Antelope Valley floor. The Antelope Valley is a broad, flat V-shaped basin in the Western Mojave Desert. The valley is bounded on the north by the Tehachapi Mountains and on 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 feet above mean sea level. The subject property lies southwest of Rosamond Dry Lake and its elevation is approximately 2375 feet above mean sea level. Soil on the property is quaternary in age and is a compact sandy clay. There are no notable physiographic features, rock outcrops, springs, or other permanent sources of water on or near the property.

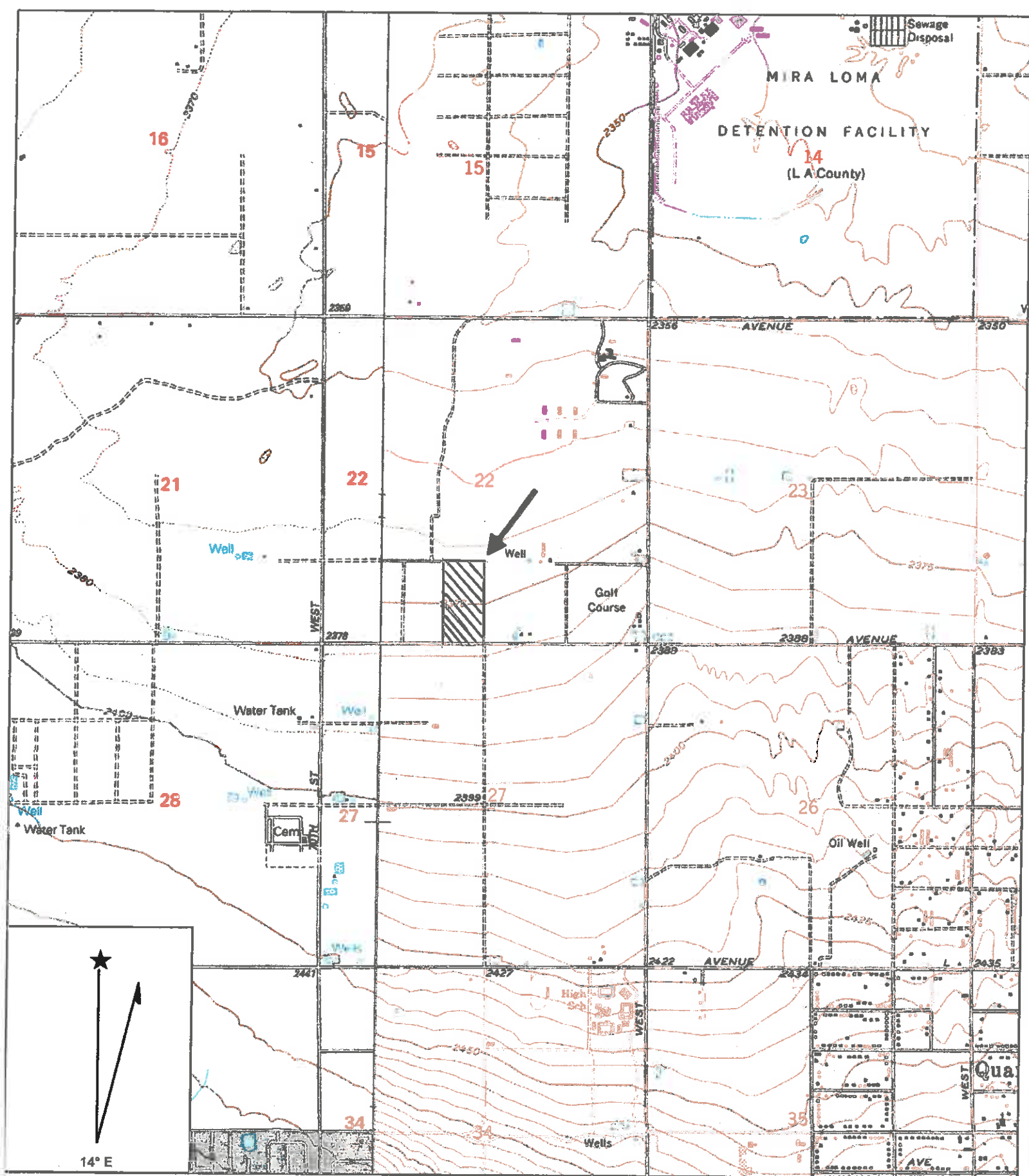
The property lacks native vegetation and natural contours. The property has been leveled and farmed in the past. Vegetation is primarily previous year's growth of dried mustard with an understory of dried filaree over the entire property. There is a drainage ditch and dirt road along the eastern property boundary. There is also a dirt road paralleling the northern property boundary. There has been some dumping of contemporary refuse and construction debris on the northeast portion of the property. Most of the surrounding area has been farmed and has older small residences. There is a newer residential development to the east and immediate northeast of the property.



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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: 5/20/2021
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 11 0386078 E 3837916 N
 Caption: Figure 2: Project location depicted on the Lancaster West 7.5' USGS map.

III. CULTURAL SETTING

The Antelope Valley has a cultural history extending back over 10,000 years and this history is represented by thousands of Native American archaeological and historic period sites. Most of the Native American 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 Antelope Valley is 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. 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 favored with land having a high-water table and productive 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 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 drivers. 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 at Plant 42.

IV. RECORD, MAP AND SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH RESULTS

Record Search: There have been four studies within a half mile of the property (Norwood 1993a, b, 2001, 2004). As part of a study for a drainage channel, a small portion of the eastern subject property boundary was surveyed in 2001 (Norwood 2001). No finds were made within that area. To the northeast, a phase I and II study was completed in 1993 (Norwood 1993a, b). This resulted in the recording of an historic period home and a small prehistoric period temporary camp. Both were determined to be not significant. Other finds within a half mile include isolated artifacts and historic period refuse deposits. None of these are on or near the subject property.

Map Search: Local historic period maps were reviewed to identify any potential historic sites or features on or near the property.

1911: The earliest regional map of Lancaster is Johnson's (1911) Water Supply map showing well locations throughout Lancaster and the surrounding area. Data for this map is based on a 1909 field survey. His map reflects no historic period activity in or near the subject property. Two wells (Wells #251, 253) are shown in the northern portion of the section.

1915: The 1915 Lake Elizabeth 15' USGS quad map shows only one structure in the northeast portion of the section. Nothing is shown on or near the subject property.

1922: By 1920-1925 Lancaster had matured into a small-town characteristic of the period. Carpenter and Cosby's Soil Survey map (1926), based on a 1922 field survey, shows two structures in the northeast portion of Section 22. One structure is shown in the southeast corner of Section 22.

1938: Walsh's real property map shows ownership, but no structures. No ownership is shown

for that portion of Section 22 encompassing the subject property.

GLO Records: The Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records were checked for historic period transactions. The southwest 1/4 of Section 22, which encompasses the subject property, was homesteaded by a Samuel Peterson. He was granted a patent on 12/5/1890.

The map search indicates some early historic period development in the section, but not on or immediately adjacent to the subject property.

Native American sacred lands file search: Information regarding Native American Cultural Resources and/or Sacred sites was requested from the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Their records indicate that no Native American resources have been previously identified on or near the property. They provided a list of contacts that the jurisdiction may contact for any further information or concerns (Attachment 1). No Native American archaeological sites or artifacts have been identified on or immediately near the property.

V. SURVEY METHODS AND CONDITIONS

Field survey for the property was completed on May 23, 2021 by Melinda Walton representing RTFactfinders. Fieldwork required 4 person-hours. The property was examined by walking a series of linear transects across the property. Spacing between transects did not exceed 10-meter intervals. Soil surface visibility was good to excellent in most areas due to dry conditions. Light conditions were excellent, with bright sun and clear skies. Photos were taken to document property conditions (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 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.

VI. SURVEY FINDINGS

As a result of the survey no Native American prehistoric or historic period sites or artifacts were discovered. Miscellaneous recent period refuse was noted. This material is postdated 1980 and is not considered to be cultural resources.

VII. MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has provisions to ensure that any cultural resources identified during the environmental review process need to be 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 due to property development. No further measures are recommended.

While unlikely, potentially significant buried material could exist on the property. 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.

VIII. REFERENCES CITED

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ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

June 8, 2021

Richard Norwood
RTFactfinders

Via Email to: artefct@gmail.com

Re: 647 65th West & K 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



CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Merri Lopez-Keller
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Atebery
Karuk

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
Apache

COMMISSIONER
Julie Tumamali-
Stenslie
Chumash

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER
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COMMISSIONER
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Christina Snider
Pomo

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**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
6/8/2021**

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

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Fax: (818) 837-0796
jairo.avila@tataviam-nsn.us

Tataviam

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Donna Yocum, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA, 91322
Phone: (503) 539 - 0933
Fax: (503) 574-3308
ddyocum@comcast.net

Kitanemuk
Vanyume
Tataviam

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

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

Cahuilla
Serrano

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

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Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 864 - 8933
jmauck@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Serrano

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

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Phone: (951) 755 - 5259
Fax: (951) 572-6004
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Cahuilla
Serrano

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (909) 528 - 9032
serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (760) 572 - 2423
historicpreservation@quechantribe.com

Quechan

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
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Serrano

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

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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 647 65th West & K Project, Los Angeles County.

ATTACHMENT 2



PHOTO 1: View southwest from the northeast property corner.



PHOTO 2: View northeast from the southwest property corner.