A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

OF

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 210121
GENERAL PLAN AMENDNMENT NO. 210006
CHANGE OF ZONE NO. 2100014

±37.96 ACRES OF LAND IN MOUNTAIN CENTER
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
USGS IDYLLWILD, CALIFORNIA QUADRANGLE, 7.5' SERIES

By

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of Conditional Use Permit No. 210121 (CUP210121) and associated Planning cases General Plan Amendment No. 210006 (GPA210006) and Change of Zone No. 2100014, were requested by the project sponsor, Ms. Caroline Legrand. Conditional Use Permit No, 210121, known as The Ridge Wellness Center, proposes the operation of an eco-conscious private guest ranch on approximately ±36.11 acres of land located at 56475 Apple Canyon Road in Mountain Center, eastern Riverside County. The Project design includes construction of guest cabins and guest tents, wellness cabins, a wellness base camp, an activity hub with lap pool, a dining area and health-focused commercial kitchen, an existing large agricultural site and working greenhouse, an apiary, and fruit trees. Associated General Plan Amendment No. 210006 proposes to amend the land use designation from Open Space: Rural (OS:RUR), to Open Space: Recreation (OS:R), while Change of Zone No. 2100014 proposes changing zoning classifications from A-1-20 and N-A-160 to N-A (Natural Assets). Although GPA210006 and CZ2100014 encompass ±37.96 acres (APN 568-070-006, 007, and 021), CUP210121 includes only ±36.11 acres of the total acreage (APN 568-070-006); no development is currently planned for the remaining ±1.42 acres. Since CUP210121 is the primary Project, it will be the designated reference throughout this report.

The purpose of the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment was two-fold: 1) information was to be obtained pertaining to previous land uses of the subject property through research and a comprehensive field survey, and 2) a determination was to be made if, and to what extent, existing cultural resources would be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

A records search completed by staff at the Eastern Information Center, University of California, Riverside (EIC) indicated that five previous cultural resources studies had involved the subject property, none of which included its entirety. All five studies were conducted for the California Department of Transportation District 8 and focused on State Route 74 (SR 74), which transects the southwestern corner of the subject property, and State Route 243 (SR 243). The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for each study was generally limited to 15 meters on either side of the paved roadway. Interestingly, during the course of an archaeological survey conducted in 2008/2009 for the Hurkey Creek Bridge Replacement Project (RI-10453), which according to the Eastern Information Center *did not* include the subject property, a multi-component site containing both prehistoric and historic resources was recorded and assigned trinomial CA-RIV-9236H (P-33-33-017847). A portion of the site is located at the southwestern corner of the subject property, both north and south of SR 74. The prehistoric component of the site was recorded as being comprised of a total of five bedrock milling features, two to the north and three to the south of SR 74, containing eight mortars. Dark ashy colored soil that potentially

represented the presence of a subsurface cultural deposit; a tightly clustered quartzite lithic scatter with a quartzite core and two rogue pieces of milky quartz debitage were also recorded. No formal prehistoric artifacts were observed. The historical component contained a small cluster of metal can fragments, amethyst-colored and cobalt-colored glass, and pieces of white glazeware ceramics near the southern portion of the site. A single ceramic piece was also identified north of SR 74 near the milky quartz debitage.

In 2010, an Extended Phase I study for P-33-017847/CA-RIV-9236H was conducted (RI-10284) to investigate the horizontal and vertical extent of the site and this study did involve the subject property. A remote sensing program consisting of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and magnetometer survey was utilized, and seventeen Shovel Probes (SHP) and two auger probes were placed along SR 74 both within and southeast of the recorded site boundaries. No evidence of buried cultural deposits or strata was identified during the excavations. One flake was recovered in a disturbed context on the southwest side of the highway within the site boundaries, but no additional artifacts were observed. No further studies were recommended.

The subject property is located in a well-studied area with 24 previous cultural resource studies having been conducted within a one-mile radius. During the course of these studies, 24 cultural resources properties have been recorded, one of which involved the project area, as previously discussed. Eleven sites are of prehistoric (Native American) origin, eleven are of historical origin, and two are comprised of both Native American and historical components. The predominant cultural resources recorded at the Native American sites are bedrock milling features, reflecting a focus on seasonal resource procurement and processing. Historical-era cultural resources are primarily associated with State Route 74 and associated roadway features, as well as two large campground facilities that are located immediately north of CUP210121.

The Native American Heritage Commission determined that the Sacred Lands File search results were negative. Responses to project scoping letters were received from the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation and from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. The Quechan Historic Preservation Office stated that they have no comments on the project and defers to more local Tribes, supporting their decisions. According to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI), the project area is not located within the boundaries of their reservation, but it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. For this reason, they request the following: a cultural resources inventory of the project area be conducted by a qualified archaeologist prior to any development activities in the area; a copy of the records search with associated survey reports and site records from the information center; and copies of cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with this project. In addition, the ACBCI requests the presence of an approved Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor

may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Office. No information has been obtained through Native American consultation that the subject property is culturally or spiritually significant and no Traditional Cultural Properties that currently serve religious or other community practices are known to exist within the project boundaries. During the current cultural resources evaluation, no artifacts or remains were identified or recovered that could be reasonably associated with such practices.

Five cultural resource loci of prehistoric (Native American) origin were discovered during the current field survey, each of which was comprised exclusively of bedrock milling features. Two previously recorded loci (CA-RIV-9236H Features 4 & 5) are in the 1.32-acre APN 568-070-006, which is at the southwestern corner of GPA210006 / CZ2100014 and is not part of The Ridge Wellness Center. Feature 4 is comprised of one conical mortar and one saucer mortar, while Feature 5 is comprised of one saucer mortar. Features 1 and 2 of CA-RIV-9236H were originally recorded in 2009 as being located near the southwestern corner of CUP210121 in an open space area that will not be developed. However, the site record is problematic in that feature descriptions and locations are inconsistent. The current field survey located what is actually Feature 2 (but was recorded as Feature 1) but could not relocate what was originally recorded as Feature 2. The actual Feature 2 is comprised of one conical and one saucer mortar and the recorded Feature 2 was comprised of three conical mortars. In addition, although the site record states that the site was comprised of five bedrock milling features, UTM locational data for only four were provided, with a fifth locus being a small prehistoric lithic scatter. Further, although a historical component comprised of metal, glass, and ceramic fragments was described, locational information was not provided. The sparse lithic scatter and historical artifacts recorded as part of CA-RIV-9236H could not be relocated during the current field survey.

Two previously unrecorded bedrock milling features were also located within the boundaries of CUP21021 during the current Phase I field survey. These features are not considered to be part of CA-RIV-9236H, and as such, have been assigned Primary numbers P-33-029123 and P-33-029124 by the Eastern Information Center. Site P-33-029123 is comprised of one conical mortar and one saucer mortar on a ground-level granitic outcrop, while P-33-029124 is comprised of two milling slicks on a ground-level granitic outcrop. These sites are located in an open space area west of Herkey Creek that will not be developed as part of The Ridge Wellness Center.

Based on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) criteria, archaeological sites CA-RIV-9236H, P-33-029123, and P-33-029124 would be considered "non-unique archaeological resources." Bedrock milling sites are the most common sites in the vicinity of CUP 210121 and are ubiquitous throughout Riverside County, with tens of thousands recorded. Typically, unless

bedrock milling features have an associated cultural deposit that permits dating of the features and potentially provides information about other site activities, they are considered to have limited data potential and are not considered eligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP. As such, according to CEQA guidelines, a “non-unique archaeological resource” need be given no further consideration, other than the simple recording of its existence by the Lead Agency. However, unless Phase II Testing has been conducted for a bedrock milling site, it is not possible to determine whether an associated subsurface cultural deposit exists. Until testing has been conducted, there is an assumption that a “non-unique archaeological resource” may possibly be determined significant and potentially be eligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP.

In consideration of the above summary, it is clear that CUP210121 (and associated cases GPA210006 and CZ2100014) are located in an area that is highly sensitive archaeologically and historically. Since the three sites located within the boundaries of CUP 210121 are considered “non-unique archaeological resources” according to CEQA criteria, and all are within open space areas that are not part of the proposed development, no further research or mitigation is recommended for the sites at this time. However, should future development of the subject property pose adverse impacts to these features, it is recommended that Phase II Testing be conducted in order to determine whether a subsurface cultural deposit exists, with the results determining appropriate mitigation measures. In addition, considering the fact that archaeological sites are located on the subject property and that two large multi-component sites representing both the prehistoric and historic periods are located immediately north of the property, it is recommended that a Riverside County qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor actively monitor all on-site and off-site ground disturbing activities associated with development of The Ridge Wellness Center, including, but not limited to, grubbing, tree removal, vegetation clearance, trenching, excavation, bedrock removal, and grading. Should any cultural resources be discovered during the course of earthmoving activities anywhere on the subject property, said activities should be halted or diverted until the qualified archaeologist and tribal monitor can evaluate the resources, make a determination of their significance with concurrence of the Riverside County Archaeologist, and recommend appropriate treatment measures to mitigate impacts to the resources from the project, if found to be significant. If human remains are encountered unexpectedly during implementation of the project, compliance with State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 is required, with no further disturbances to the land until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98.

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with California Environmental Quality Act and County of Riverside Planning Department requirements, the project sponsor contracted with Jean A. Keller, Ph.D., Cultural Resources Consultant, to conduct a Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of the subject property on February 19, 2021. The purpose of the assessment was to identify, evaluate, and recommend mitigation measures for existing cultural resources that may be adversely impacted by the proposed development.

The Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment commenced with a request submitted on February 22, 2021, to staff at the Eastern Information Center, University of California, Riverside to conduct a records search of available maps, site records, and reports. The results of the records search were received on March 16, 2021. A request for a Sacred Lands File search was submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission on February 22, 2021, with results received on March 9, 2021. Subsequently, on March 12, 2021, project scoping letters were sent to 16 tribal representatives listed by the NAHC as being interested in project development in the Mountain Center/Idyllwild area. A literature search of available publications and archival documents pertaining to the subject property followed the records and Sacred Lands File searches. An initial pedestrian field survey of the subject property was conducted on February 19, 2021, with a subsequent comprehensive field survey conducted for the purpose of locating, documenting, and evaluating all existing cultural resources within its boundaries on April 14, 2021.

The proposed project, currently entitled Conditional Use Permit No. 210121 and commonly known as The Ridge Wellness Center, proposes the operation of an eco-conscious private guest ranch on approximately ±36.11 acres of land located at 56475 Apple Canyon Road in Mountain Center, eastern Riverside County (Figure 1). The project design includes construction of guest cabins and guest tents, wellness cabins, a wellness base camp, an activity hub with lap pool, a dining area and health-focused commercial kitchen, an existing large agricultural site and working greenhouse, an apiary, and fruit trees. There are two additional Planning cases associated with CUP 210121: General Plan Amendment No. 210006 (GPA210006) and Change of Zone No. 2100014 (Fig. 2). General Plan Amendment No. 210006 proposes to amend the land use designation from Open Space: Rural (OS:RUR), to Open Space: Recreation (OS:R), while Change of Zone No. 2100014 proposes changing zoning classifications from A-1-20 and N-A-160 to N-A (Natural Assets). Although GPA210006 and CZ2100014 encompass ±37.96 acres (APN 568-070-006, 007, and 021), CUP210121 includes only ±36.11 acres of the total acreage (APN 568-070-006); no development is currently planned for the remaining ±1.42 acres. Since CUP210121 is the primary Project, it will be the designated reference throughout this report.

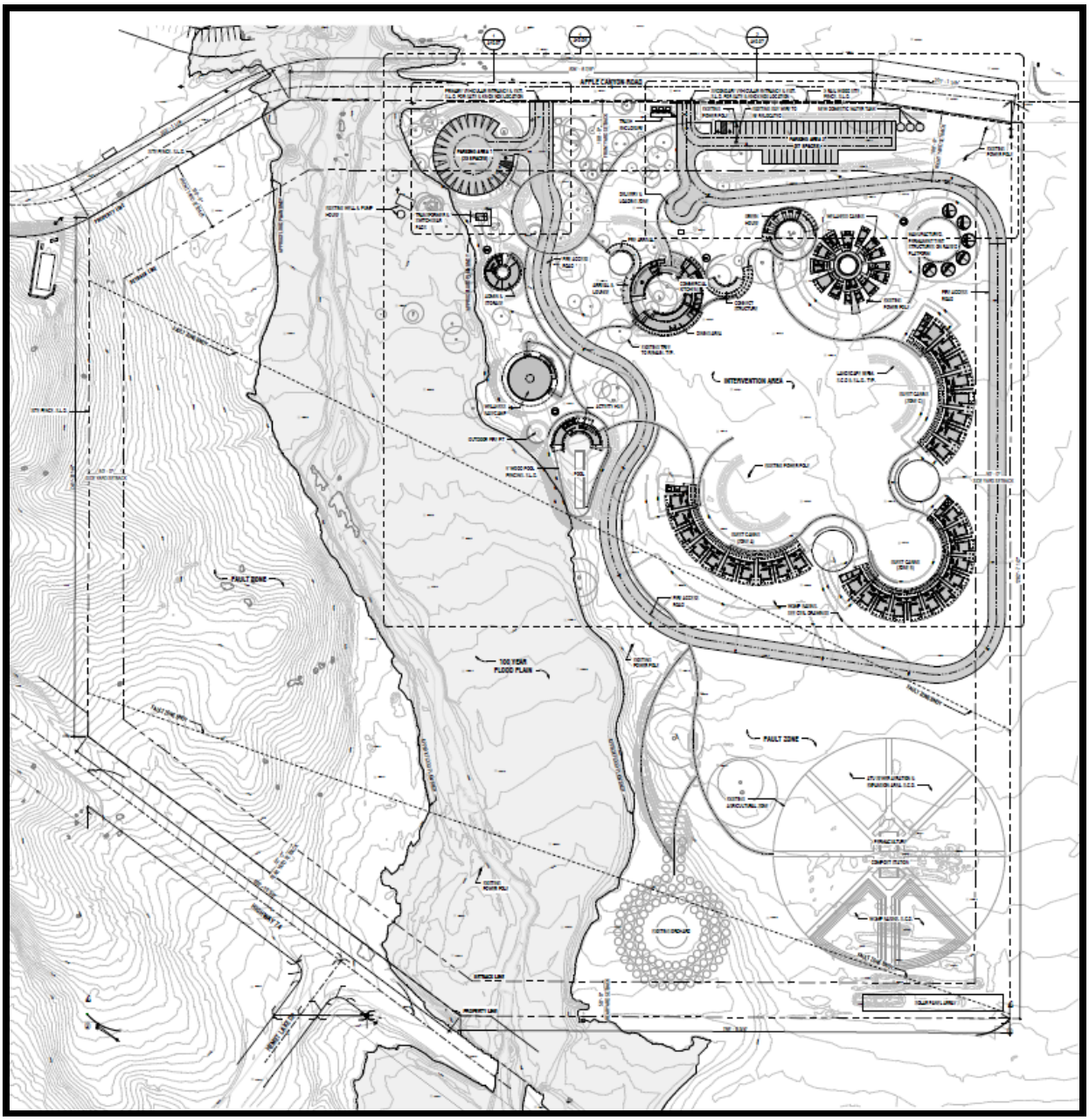


Figure 1: Conditional Use Permit No. 210121, The Ridge Wellness Center (Master Plan).

As shown on the USGS Idyllwild, California Topographic Map, 7.5' series, the subject property, which encompasses ±37.96 acres of vacant land, is located in Section 4, Township 6 south, Range 3 east, SBM (Fig. 3). Adjacent land uses are the Lake Hemet Campground to the south, residential to the west, Herkey Creek Campground and Camp Ronald McDonald to the north, and vacant to the east. Disturbances to much of the subject property are substantial, representing cumulative impacts resulting from past activities such as residential occupation, equestrian activities, at least one commercial campground endeavor, material storage, and a parking lot, as well as the construction of SR 74.

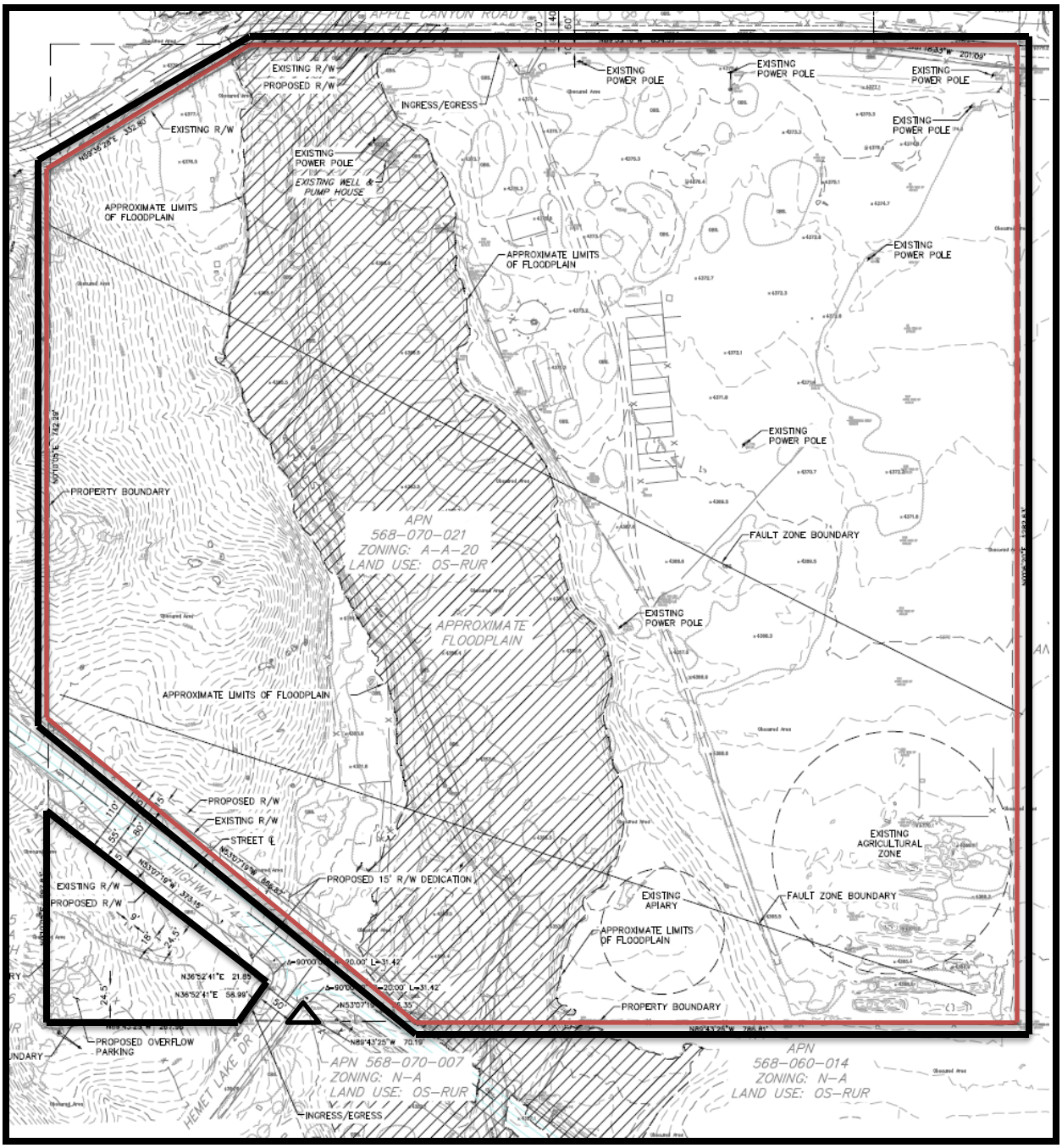


Figure 2: Conditional Use Permit No. 210121 (red) and General Plan Amendment No. 210006 and Change of Zone No. 2100014 (black).

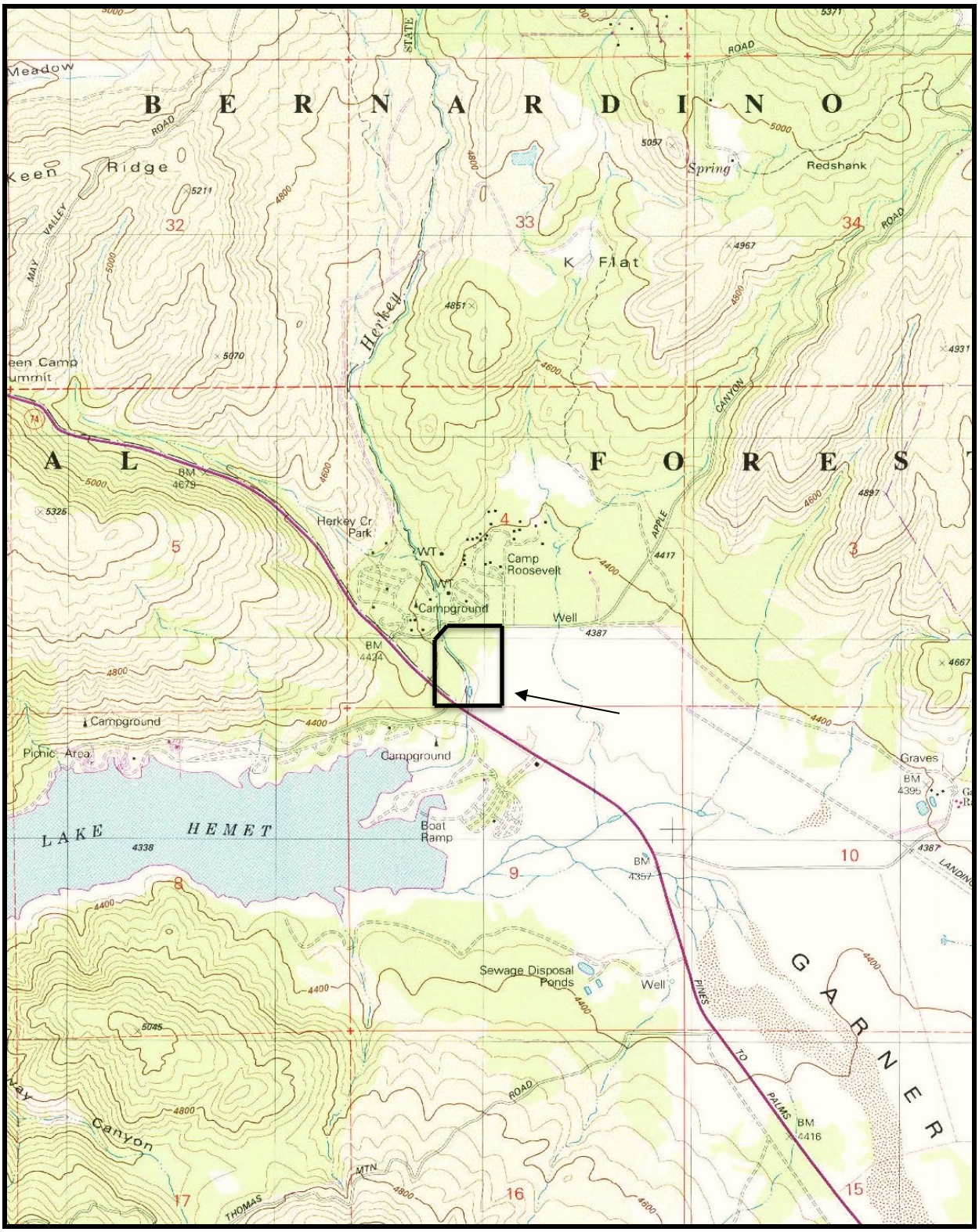


Figure 3: Location of Conditional Use Permit No. 210121, General Plan Amendment No. 210006, and Change of Zone No, 2100014 in Mountain Center, eastern Riverside County. Adapted from USGS Idyllwild, California Topographic Map, 7.5' series (1988).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Topography and Geology

The subject property is located in the community of Mountain Center, approximately four miles southeast of Idyllwild, in eastern Riverside County. It is situated within a topographically diverse region that is defined by Garner Valley to the southeast, Lake Hemet to the southwest, Baldy Mountain to the northwest, and Apple Canyon to the northeast (Fig. 4). The property is located in the San Jacinto Mountains, a portion of the Northern Peninsular Ranges of Southern California. Drainage in the vicinity of the subject property generally flows in a southerly direction toward Lake Hemet. For the most part, drainage is intermittent, occurring only as the result of seasonal precipitation.

The terrain of the subject property includes few significant topographic features. Located at the northwestern end of Garner Valley, the eastern half of the property, as well as the two small parcels not included in CUP21021, are primarily comprised of the relatively flat valley floor, while the western half of the property is dominated by low slopes and terraces (Fig. 5 and 6). The two small parcels of GPA210006/CZ2100014 that are not included in CUP21021 are separated from the primary project area by SR-74. Elevations range from a low of 4354.4 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) in Herkey Creek near the center of the southern property boundary, to a high of 4424 feet AMSL on the western boundary near the northwestern corner. Herkey Creek, which is a USGS-designated blueline stream and represents a permanent source of water, essentially bisects the property, entering near the northwestern corner and exiting at center of the southern boundary. The original topography of the property has been somewhat modified to facilitate a variety of previous land uses, as well as construction of Apple Canyon Road and the Pines to Palms Highway (SR 74).

Geologic formations within the Peninsular Range province are generally comprised of Southern California's basement igneous rocks, primarily granitic tonalite and diorite of Jurassic age. Within the boundaries of the proposed project, this is evidenced by small, weathering granitic outcrops scattered throughout the area west of Herkey Creek. While some of these outcrops would be suitable for use in food processing by indigenous peoples of the region, most are highly exfoliating, fractured, and lichen-covered, in a number of cases literally disintegrating. No bedrock outcrops were observed that would have been suitable for shelter. Loose lithic material, primarily granitics, is abundant in and around Herkey Creek and most would have been at least minimally suitable for tool production by Native Americans who occupied this area.

Figure 4: Location of the study area relative to eastern Riverside County. Adapted from USGS Santa Ana, California Topographic Map (1959, photorevised 1979). Scale 1:250,000.

Figure 5: Aerial view of the subject property

Biology

Native vegetation within the property boundaries appears to represent a transition area, perhaps due to varying elevation and topographic features. There exists what may be best described as a combination of four different native vegetation zones: Chaparral, Dry-Side Forest, Annual Grassland, and Lower Riparian (Robinson and Risher 12). The four native plan zones are not clearly defined, but instead merge seamlessly, with some plants that predominantly represent

View from the southeastern property corner looking northwest.

View from the northeastern property corner looking southwest.

View from near the northwestern property corner looking southeast.

Figure 6: Views of the subject property.

one zone also being present in other zones. Found on the slopes in the western half of the property, on the two parcels not included in CUP210121, and in some areas east of Herkey Creek, are the diverse plant species representing the native Chapparal vegetation zone. Included are pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungen*), flat-topped buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), chamise (*Adenostoma sparsifolium*), Great Basin Sage (*Artemisia tridentata*),valley cholla (*Cylindropuntia bernardina*) desert prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia phaeacantha*), California coffeeberry (*Frangula California*), big-leaved redberry (Rhamnus ilicifolia), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenli*), and bastard sage (*Eriogonum wrightii*). The predominant plant representing the Dry-Side Forest zone is Jeffrey pine (Pinus jeffreyi), which is primarily found through the center of the property, both east and west of Herkey Creek. Plants representing the Annual Grassland zone include slender popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys tenellus*), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), sand verbena (*Abronia villosa*), California evening primrose (*Oenothera californica*), cheat grass (Bromus tectorum), and sand aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*). The Lower Riparian zone, located in and around Herkey Creek, has diverse native plant species, second only to the Chapparal zone. Representative plant species include but are not limited to, streambank bird's-foot trefoil (*Hosackia oblongifolia*), rigid hedge-nettle (*Stachys rigida*), seep monkey flower (*Erythranthe guttata*), false monkeyflower (*Mimetanthe pilosa*), Davidson's buckwheat (*Eriogonum davidsonii*), California rose (*Rosa californica*), duckweed (*Lempal spp.), pale spike-rush (Eleocharis macrostachya), Parish's spike-rush (Eleocharis parishii), toad rush (jJuncus bufonius), wrinkled rush (Juncus rugulosus), and narrow-leaf cattail (Typha angustifloia).*

Faunal inhabitants of the subject property were rarely observed, but were evidenced instead by tracks, burrows, nests, etc. During both the prehistoric and historical periods an abundance of faunal species inhabited the study area. However, due to regional urbanization, the current faunal community is generally restricted to those species that can exist in proximity to humans, such as valley pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), Audobon's cottontail (*Sylvilagus audobonii*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), western fence lizard (*Scelopous occidentalis*), and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*).

Climate

The climate of the study area is that typical of cismontane Southern California, which on the whole is warm, and rather dry. This type of climate, in which there are dry summers and wet winters, is classified as Mediterranean or "summer-dry subtropical." Local environments may vary due to differences in terrain, elevation, direction of slope face, exposure, availability of water, and soil type.

Discussion

Much of the subject property has been altered by grading, construction, agricultural endeavors, residential occupation, and periodic vegetation clearance. As a result, it is difficult to determine the degree to which resources would have been available to support indigenous populations of the region. Based on the type and quantity of cultural resources recorded on adjacent properties, it is obvious that locally available floral and faunal resources offered abundant opportunities to Native Americans for procuring food, as well as components for medicines, tools, and construction materials. Bedrock outcrops exist within the project boundaries, although most would not have been suitable for use in food processing or rock art due to their deteriorating condition, and none present opportunities for shelter. Loose lithic material is abundant throughout the property, particularly in and around Herkey Creek. Most of what was observed would have been at least minimally suitable for the indigenous production of ground stone tools, although little was observed that would have been suitable for the production of flaked stone tools. Herkey Creek, which represents a permanent source of water, generally bisects the property, entering near the northwestern property corner and exiting near the center of the southern property boundary. Cartographic evidence indicates that this watercourse has existed at least since 1876, although over time the location and course within the property has shifted. Finally, the types of defensive locations preferred by Native peoples of the region for long-term habitation are limited to areas along the ridge west of Herkey Creek. Based on these factors, it is probable that the subject property was utilized for seasonal resource exploitation by indigenous peoples of the region and not for long-term occupation.

Criteria for occupation during the historical era were generally somewhat different than for aboriginal occupation since later populations did not depend solely on natural resources for survival. During the historical era, the subject property was considered very desirable due to the flat topography, tillable soil, permanent water, and its proximity to urban centers and to transportation corridors.

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistory

On the basis of currently available archaeological research, occupation of Southern California by human populations is believed to have begun at least 10,000 years ago. A number of theories propose much earlier occupation, specifically during the Pleistocene Age, but at this time archaeological evidence has not fully substantiated these theories. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, only human occupation within the past 10,000 years will be addressed. A time frame of occupation may be determined on the basis of characteristic cultural resources. These comprise what are known as cultural traditions or complexes. It is through the presence or absence of time-sensitive artifacts at a particular site that the apparent time of occupation may be suggested.

In general, the earliest established cultural tradition in Southern California is accepted to be the San Dieguito Tradition, first described by Malcolm Rogers in the 1920's. The San Dieguito people were nomadic large-game hunters whose tool assemblage included large domed scrapers, leaf-shaped knives and projectile points, stemmed projectile points, chipped stone crescentics, and hammerstones (Rogers 1939; Rogers 1966). The San Dieguito Tradition was further divided into three phases: San Dieguito I is found only in the desert regions, while San Dieguito II and III occur on both sides of the Peninsular Ranges. Rogers felt that these phases formed a sequence in which increasing specialization and refinement of tool types were the key elements. Although absolute dates for the various phase changes have not been hypothesized or fully substantiated by a stratigraphic sequence, the San Dieguito Tradition as a whole is believed to have existed from approximately 7000 to 10,000 years ago.

The San Dieguito I phase, found only in the desert region, is represented by a basic tool assemblage that includes flakes, choppers, scraper-planes, cores, ovate bifaces, and hammerstones. In addition, Rogers suggested that cleared circles in the desert pavement, two-to-three meters in diameter, are also characteristic of the San Dieguito I phase. It has been theorized that these circles represent the bases for temporary bush shelters which were used only for a few nights and as a result of this limited occupancy, often have no artifacts found in association. Also, Rogers believed that the geometric-type intaglios found in the desert are of San Dieguito I origin. Although as previously noted, an absolute date for the San Dieguito I phase has not been established, based on site distribution, Rogers suggested that the sites of this phase be assigned to a period when water in the desert regions was more readily available than it is now.

Rogers was unable to locate any sites away from the Colorado River which represented the period of 5000 BCE - 500 CE in southeastern California. Although it was originally theorized that this entire area was unoccupied during the period following San Dieguito, subsequent research has indicated that, although the population density probably was very light, there was some occupation. However, much of the information regarding subsequent periods of occupation is based on research conducted in areas other than southeastern California.

The period generally considered to have followed the San Dieguito is referred to as the Pinto Period (5000 to 2000 BCE) in southeastern California. It was originally identified by Campbell and Campbell (1935) and Amsden (1935) from surface collections in the Pinto Basin, then later re-evaluated by Harrington (1957) on the basis of excavation work in Inyo County. The people of the Pinto Period have been characterized as highly mobile desert hunters and gatherers, whose emphasis was on hunting and some use of processed seeds. The tool assemblage representing this complex includes a variety of Pinto projectile points, leaf-shaped and ovate knives, drills, choppers, hammerstones and limited milling tools, with projectile points considered the single most diagnostic elements of the assemblage. Sites identified as being representative of the Pinto Period by the presence of Pinto projectile points are typically located along the edges of (now) dry watercourses and shallow lakes.

The Armagosa (Gypsum) Period (2000 BCE - 500 CE) followed the Pinto Period, although in the southern deserts it has been less well documented than in other areas, such as the Great Basin. On the basis of information obtained in the Great Basin, the people of the Armagosa Period appear to have possessed a highly developed hunting and collecting subsistence technology. Large-stemmed and notched projectile points with triangular blades (referred to as Elko points in the Great Basin) have come to characterize sites in the desert after 2000 BCE. Rogers (1939) described several examples of southeastern California variants of these points, which are often called Armagosa.

The late prehistoric horizon in the desert regions appears to have begun approximately 500 - 600 CE. This corresponds somewhat with the appearance of arrow points in the western Great Basin around 500 CE and the establishment of ceramic technology along the Lower Colorado River 600 -700 CE. Rogers (1945) referred to the late prehistoric period of the Yuman, which he then further divided into three phases : Yuman I, Yuman II, and Yuman III.

According to Rogers (1945), the beginning of the Yuman I phase was 800-900 to 1050 CE. The earliest use of ceramics and the development of agriculture occurred at this time but were limited to the area below Blythe. Local ceramics included Red and Red-on-Buff pottery types, shouldered jars, polishing, rim-notching, incised decorations, use of a red slip or wash, and the paddle and anvil technique of manufacture.

The Yuman II phase (1050 – 1450 CE) is characterized by the spread of ceramics into the Salton Sink, which at the time was occupied by the freshwater Lake Cahuilla. Sites representing this period are typically shoreline sites and archaeological excavations indicate a largely lacustrine adaptation by their occupants. During Yuman II times, ceramics evidenced the disappearance of the shouldered jar, rim-notching, and incised decoration. Stucco finish, recurved jar rims, and tab handles on scoops were introduced to ceramic manufacturing. It was also during this time that cremation of the dead, circular, domed, brush-walled houses, and the Pacific Coast shell beads and ornaments appeared for the first time (Moratto 1984). During the late portion of the Yuman II phase (1300 CE), the Cottonwood Triangular/Desert Side-notched projectile point series first appears in artifact assemblages of the region. These particular points are considered temporally sensitive and thus serve as a significant time marker for sites at which they area found. The Yuman II phase ended with the desiccation of Lake Cahuilla.

The Yuman III phase (1450 CE - 19th Century) is the post-Lake Cahuilla period of occupation. It is during this period that there may have been a tremendous population migration from the Salton Basin to both the Peninsular Ranges and the Colorado River Basin. By the end of this phase, the historic pattern of resource procurement had been established.

The general pattern of cultural development in the desert region was one of early hunting cultures, followed by populations that emphasized the gathering of plant food resources, and the ultimate development of a stable subsistence system. As maize, beans, and squash entered the Southwest, a more sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture emerged. This subsistence pattern persisted into historic times and characterized the ethnography of the region.

Ethnography

According to ethnographic sources (Kroeber 1908, 1925; Strong 1929; Bean 1978), the study area was included in the territory of the Cahuilla Indians during both the late prehistoric and early protohistoric periods. The origin of the name “Cahuilla” is uncertain, but it is believed that it may be from their own word *Kawiya*, which means master or boss (Bean 575). The language of the Cahuilla belongs to the Cupan subgroup of the Takic family of Uto-Aztecan stock. The Takic family of languages include those spoken by the majority of Native peoples living in Southern California, this indicating that all of these peoples were closely related.

The territory of the Cahuilla was topographically diverse and covered a major portion of Southern California. Territorial boundaries were shared with the Serrano to the north, the Gabrieliño and Juaneño to the west, the Luiseño, Ipai, and Tipai to the southwest, and the Mohave to the east (Fig. 7). A common tradition was shared by the Cahuilla, Gabrieliño, Serrano, and Luiseño, although the Gabrieliño and Serrano were most closely involved with the Cahuilla.

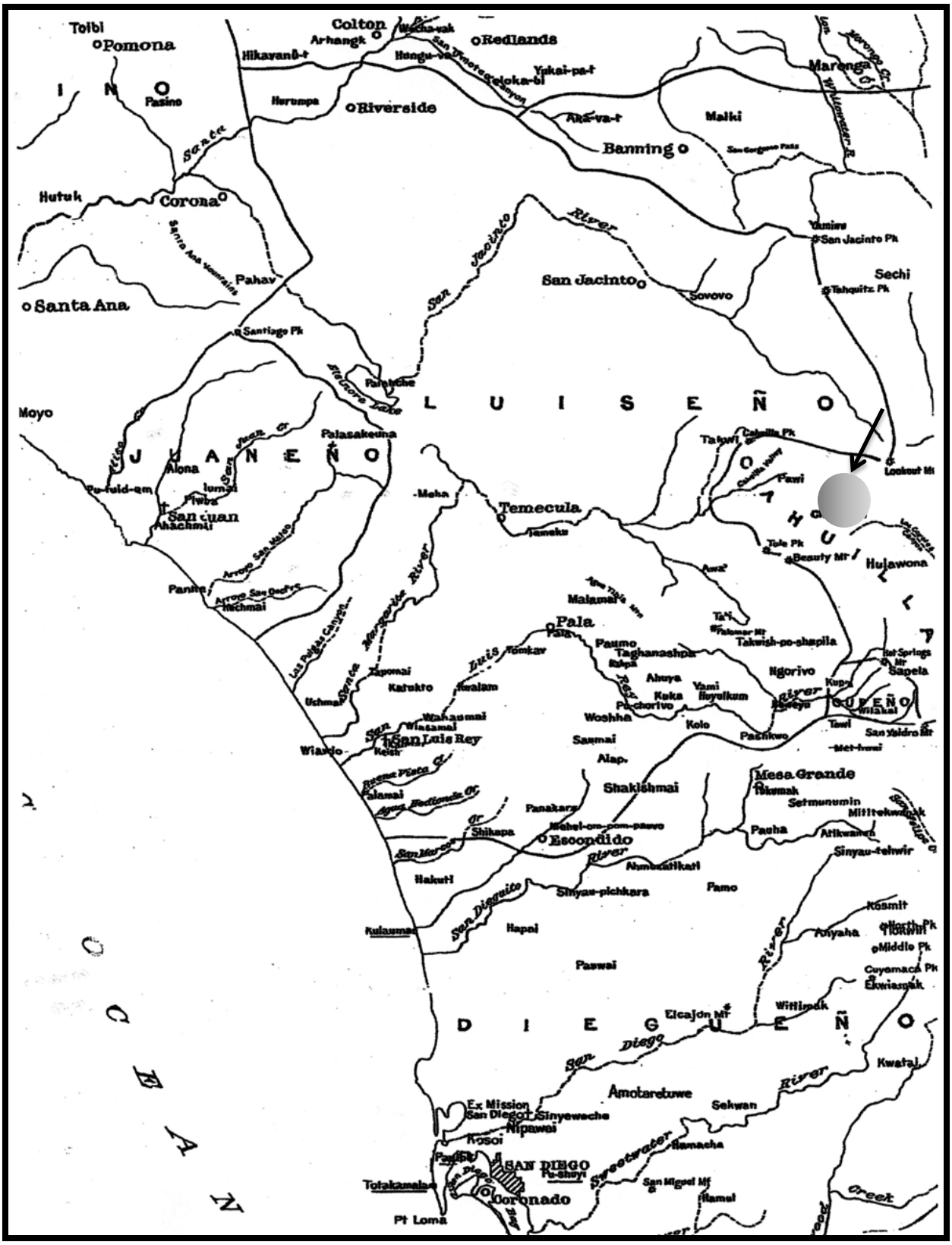


Figure 7: Ethnographic location of the study area. Adapted from Kroeber (1925).

Beginning with William Duncan Strong (1929), a number of anthropologists and ethnographers have somewhat arbitrarily divided the Cahuilla into three territorial groupings: the Desert Cahuilla, the Mountain Cahuilla, and the Pass Cahuilla. The Desert Cahuilla were said to occupy the Lower Coachella Valley and the eastern canyons of the Santa Rosa Mountains. The Mountain Cahuilla primarily occupied the Anza Valley, the Santa Rosa Mountains, and Coyote Canyon as far south as the edge of the Borrego Valley. The Pass Cahuilla inhabited the San Gorgonio Pass, the Upper Coachella Valley, and the palm canyons on the eastern slope of the San Jacinto Mountains. Seasonally, both the Mountain and Pass Cahuilla occupied the higher elevations of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains to escape the heat, as well as to hunt and collect food resources not available elsewhere.

Exactly when the Cahuilla first came to dwell in this area is not known. According to ancient legends, the original homeland of the Cahuilla was the desert. However, there was a forced migration to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, the result of a great flood that purportedly covered the entire Cahuilla Basin. Many of the earliest remembered place names for family homes originate in these mountains (Strong 37) . As the flood waters receded. Many of the Native peoples followed, eventually returning to the desert environment. Cahuilla legend does not say exactly how long ago this flood occurred, but scientific evidence indicates that a large freshwater lake existed in this area around 900 CE. The lake was formed by inflows from the Colorado River and remained until around 1200 CE, when the lower course of the river changed, causing the water to flow not into the Cahuilla Basin, but directly into the Gulf of California. The lake apparently reformed a short time later and remained at the 42-foot contour until approximately 1500 CE. This freshwater lake is referred to as the Blake Sea, or alternatively, Lake Cahuilla. It is presumed that the Cahuilla, returning from their mountain refuge, came to settle around this lake.

With its abundant natural resources, Lake Cahuilla provided adequate sustenance for the large populations that settled in the region. However, when the final desiccation of the lake occurred around 1500 CE, the remaining resources could no longer support the entire population. This situation initiated a migration of many indigenous residents to the Colorado River, as well as to the inland valleys of western and central Riverside County. It is known that there were people occupying these areas prior to the migration, although how long they had been there has not been conclusively determined.

The general settlement pattern of the Cahuilla was based on the establishment and occupation of sedentary autonomous village groups. Villages were usually situated near adequate sources of food and water, in defensive locations primarily found on alluvial fans or canyons. Buildings were situated in such a manner as to optimally utilize the water sources, as well as to insure privacy. Village structures typically included brush shelters, domed or rectangular houses 15-20 feet long,

ceremonial houses, a communal men's sweathouse, and several granaries. The area immediately surrounding each village was held in common ownership of the lineage, while lands outside this area were divided into tracts and owned by individuals, clans, and families. Networks of trails interconnected the villages. Each village had specific resource procurement territories, most of which were within one day's travel of the village. However, during the autumn of each year, members of Cahuilla villages would migrate to mountain oak groves and camp for several weeks to harvest the acorns, hunt, and collect resources not usually available near the village.

Cahuilla subsistence was based on seasonal floral and faunal resource procurement through hunting and gathering. Game animals were shot with bow and arrow, trapped in snares, driven into nets, or chased until exhausted then clubbed to death. The principal animals hunted included deer, rabbit, antelope, mountain sheep, quail, doves, ducks, and roadrunners. In the inland region, fish were caught in mountain streams. Hunting was done by adult able-bodied men either individually or as a group; decoys were often utilized to facilitate and effective hunt. In preparing the food, men did the butchering and skinning, while women did the cooking. Typically, all portions of the animal were utilized for food – meat, bones, guts, and blood.

Small game was prepared by broiling it on coals. Venison and rabbit were either broiled on coals or cooked in an earthen oven. Whatever meat was not immediately consumed was crushed on a mortar, then dried and stored for future use. Of all the food sources utilized by the Cahuilla, acorns were by far the most important. Six species were collected in great quantities during the autumn of every year, although some were favored more than others. In order of preference, they were black oak (*Quercus kelloggii),* coast live oak *(Q. agrifolia), c*anyon live oak *(Q. chrysolepsis),* Engelmann Oak *(Q. engelmannii),* interior live oak *(Q. wislizenii),* and scrub oak *(Q. berberidifoilia).* The latter three were used only when others were not available. Acorns were prepared for consumption by crushing them in a stone mortar and leaching off the tannic acid, then made into either a mush or dried to a flour-like material for future use. Also important were mesquite and screw beans, piñon nuts, and the fleshy bulbs of various cacti.

Herb and grass seeds were used almost as extensively as acorns. Many plants produce edible seeds which were collected between April and November. Important seeds included, but were not limited to, the following: California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), wild tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*), white tidy tips (*Layia glandulosa*), sunflower (*Helianthus annus*), calabazilla (*Cucurbita foetidissima*), sage (*Salvia carduacea* and *S. colombariae*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), peppergrass (*Lepidium nitidum*), and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). Seeds were parched, ground, cooked as mush, or used as flavoring in other foods.

Fruit, berries, corms, tubers, and fresh herbage were collected and often immediately consumed during the spring and summer months. Among those plants commonly used were basketweed

(*Rhus trilobata*), Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos Adans.*), miner's lettuce (*Montia Claytonia*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinuss*). When an occasional large yield occurred, some berries, particularly juniper and manzanita, were dried and later made into a mush.

Tools for food acquisition, preparation, and storage were made from widely available materials. The material technology of the Cahuilla included four principal forms of coiled and twined baskets (flat, shallow, deep, and globular) that were used in food gathering, preparation, serving, and storage. Five principal forms of pottery (small-mouthed jars, cooking pots, open bowls, dishes, and pipes) were produced and often decorated by painting or incising. Hunting was done with a bow and fire-hardened or stone-tipped arrows. Bows were made of mesquite or willow, while the construction material for arrows varied according to what they were to be used for. Seeds were ground with handstones on shallow granitic metates, while stone mortars and pestles were used to pound acorns, nuts, and berries. Food was cooked in clay vessels over fireplaces or earthen ovens. Implements produced for use in ceremonies included charm stones, bullroarers, feathered headdresses, clappers, rattles, wands, and eagle-feathered shirts. Clothing typically included sandals made of mescal fibers soaked in mud, as well as skirts made of mescal bark, skins, and tule for women, and loincloths made of hide for men (Kroeber 1908b). The Cahuilla employed a wide variety of other utensils produced from locally available geological, floral, and faunal resources in all phases of food acquisition and preparation.

The Cahuilla subsistence system described above constitutes seasonal resource exploitation within their prescribed village-centered procurement territory. In essence, this cycle of seasonal exploitation was at the core of all Cahuilla lifeways. During the spring collection of roots, tubers, and greens was emphasized, while seed collecting and processing during the summer months shifted this emphasis. The collection areas and personnel (primarily small groups of women) involved in these activities remained virtually unchanged. However, as the autumn acorn harvest approached, the settlement pattern of the Cahuilla altered completely. Small groups joined to form the larger groups necessary for the harvest and village members left the villages for the mountain oak groves for several weeks. Upon completion of the annual harvest, village activities centered on the preparation of collected foods for use during the winter. Since few plant food resources were available for collection during the winter, this time was generally spent repairing and manufacturing tools and necessary implements in preparation for the coming resource procurement seasons.

The social structure of the Cahuilla was based on the existence of two main groups (moieties): the Wildcats and the Coyotes. Membership was determined by which moiety an individual's father had been a member of. Members of the Wildcat moiety were said to have descended from one of the creator beings known as *Mukat,* while those of the Coyote moiety were descended

from the other creator being, *Temayawut*. Marriages could only occur between members of the opposite moiety. Each moiety was further divided into a number of clans, membership in which was also determined by which clan an individual's father had belonged. Each clan had its own territory, the boundaries of which were often marked with petroglyphs (designs carved into rock outcroppings). All of the natural resources within a clan's territory belonged to members of the clan, although some areas with especially abundant resources were shared by several clans.

Spiritual beliefs, ceremonies, and rituals played an integral part in Cahuilla Life. Ceremonies were presided over by the *net*, the leader of a clan. Among the most important ceremonies and rituals were those held for marriages, death and burial, and for adolescents' rights of passage. However. The most important of all ceremonies was the *nukil,* which was held every one to two years to honor clan members who had died since the last *nukil.* This ceremony lasted seven days and was attended by members of many clans. There were two primary purposes of the *nukil*. One was to help the souls of the departed arrive safely in the afterlife and the second was to terminate the period of mourning for the deceased. Secondarily, the coming together of many different clans for the *nukil* provided opportunities for trade and for the arrangement of marriages. All marriages were arranged by parents and entailed the giving and receiving of gifts throughout the entire process, from initial negotiations to the marriage ceremony itself. Thus, Cahuilla marriages created important economic, as well as social, alliances between clans (Bean 581).

Based on Cahuilla settlement and subsistence patterns, the type of archaeological sites associated with this culture may be expected to represent the various activities involved in seasonal resource exploitation. Temporary campsites usually evidenced by lithic debris and/or milling features, may be expected to occur relatively frequently. Food processing stations, often only single milling features, are perhaps the most abundant type of site found. Isolated artifacts occur with approximately the same frequency as food processing stations. The most infrequently occurring archaeological site is the village site. Sites of this type are usually large, in defensive locations amidst abundant natural resources, and surrounded by the types of sites previously discussed, which reflect the daily activity of the villagers. Little is known of ceremonial sites, although the ceremonies themselves are discussed frequently in the ethnographic literature. It may be assumed that such sites would be found in association with village sites, but with what frequency is not known.

History

Four principal periods of historical occupation existed in Southern California: the Protohistoric Period (1540-1768 CE), the Spanish Mission Period (1769-1830 CE), the Mexican Rancho Period (1830-1848 CE), and the American Developmental Period (1848 CE -present).

In the general study area, the Spanish Mission Period (1769-1830 CE) first represents historical occupation. It was during this period that the Cahuilla are believed to have had their first actual contact with Europeans, specifically, the Captain Pedro Fages expedition in early 1772. Captain Fages, of the Catalonian Volunteers, was the military commander of Spanish California. Leading a small force of soldiers eastward from San Diego in search of deserters, his party reached the desert, turned northward into the Borrego Valley, ascended Coyote Canyon, and finally skirted the San Jacinto Mountains. Two years later, the first of two expeditions led by Juan Bautista de Anza crossed the San Jacinto Mountains. The purpose of Anza's first expedition in 1774 was to find an overland route to Alta California from the Presidio of Tubac, near what is now Tucson, Arizona. His second expedition (1775-1776), following the newly established overland route, was to bring a colonization party of 240 to the San Francisco Bay, where Spain's most northern outpost was to be established. Although it was hoped that the opening of Anza's overland trail would facilitate colonization, the Spanish were forced by the Yuma Massacre of 1781 by the Quechan Indians along the Colorado River, to alter their mode of travel from land to sea. As a result, Anza's overland trail was permanently closed and the Cahuilla within the study area had few opportunities for direct contact with Europeans.

In 1819 the first *asistencias* were established near Cahuilla territory. Subsequently, many Cahuilla were to interact frequently with the Spaniards and as a matter of course, came to adopt certain aspects of Spanish culture such as cattle, clothing, agriculture, and language. The Spanish *asistencia* closest to the study area was the Rancho San Jacinto, which was founded at some time between 1816 and 1821. This large mission ranch provided abundant cattle and horses for the thriving Spanish Mission San Luis Rey de Francia in what is now Oceanside. Founded in 1798, within a 20-year period the mission prospered to a degree that it was often referred to as the "King of the Missions." At its peak, the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, controlled six ranches and annually produced 27,000 cattle, 26,000 sheep, 1300 goats, 500 pigs, 1900 horses, and 67,000 bushels of grain. During this period, the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia claimed the entire region that is now western Riverside County and northern San Diego County as a cattle ranch, although records of the Mission San Juan Capistrano show this region as part of their holdings. However, once California became part of Mexico on April 11, 1822, the Spanish missions and mission ranches began a slow decline, no longer holding power over the claimed regions and indigenous people.

Toward the end of this period, a federal law was passed that would have a substantial future impact on the study area in that it encouraged both increased settlement and land speculation. The Land Act of 1820, enacted April 24, 1820, ended the ability to purchase the United States' public domain lands on a credit or installment system over four years, as previously established. The new law became effective July 1, 1820 and required full payment at the time of purchase and registration. But to encourage more sales and make land more affordable, Congress also

reduced both the minimum price from $2.00 to $1.25 per acre and the minimum size of a standard tract from 160 to 80 acres. The minimum full payment now amounted to $100, rather than $320. By lowering the price of land and the amount of land required for purchase, the law made it possible for settlers to move to the West, thus increasing the population. Although the Land Act of 1820 was good for the average American, it was also good for the wealthy land speculators who had sufficient money to buy the lower cost land, hoping to sell it later at a higher price. Although the Land Act helped create a new age of Western growth and influence, it also increased the confiscation of land from Native Americans.

During the Mexican Rancho Period (1830-1848 CE) the first of the Mexican ranchos were established following the enactment of the Secularization Act of 1833 by the Mexican government. Mexican governors were empowered to grant vacant land to "contractors (*empresarios*), families, or private citizens, whether Mexicans or foreigners, who may ask for them for the purpose of cultivating or inhabiting them" (Robinson 66). Mexican governors granted approximately 500 ranchos during this period. Although legally a land grant could not exceed 11 square leagues (about 50,000 acres or 76 square miles) and absentee ownership was officially forbidden, neither edict was rigorously enforced (*ibid*). The subject property was not located within any of the ranchos, with the closest being the San Jacinto Viejo Rancho, which was approximately ten miles to the northwest of what is now CUP210121. Consequently, it is unlikely that activities occurring on the rancho had an impact on the area in which the subject property was located.

Throughout this period, the Cahuilla essentially maintained their political and economic autonomy. In 1846, Juan Antonio, who was one of their most important leaders, moved several Cahuilla clans to the vicinity of Riverside (Jurupa) where the village of *Pulatana* was established. Later, their village moved to San Timoteo near El Casco. It is thought that these clans were moved to the second location by the Mexicans to guard against the Colorado River Indians and other raiding groups. In 1847, a battle took place between the Cahuilla under Juan Antonio and the Luiseño under Manuelito Cota and Pablo Apis at Aguanga. The battle resulted in a major defeat of the Luiseño and is referred to as the "massacre" at Aguanga (Strong 149). At this time, the Cahuilla were acting as Mexican allies, the Luiseño as American allies. Despite this defeat, Mexican California came to an end with the American victory in the 1846-1847 Mexican American War. The subsequent signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848 resulted in Mexico ceding its northern one-third to the United States.

It was also during this period of history that the California Gold Rush occurred. During the years of the gold rush most mining occurred in the northern and central portions of the state. As a result, these areas were far more populated than most of southern California. Nevertheless, there was an increasing demand for land throughout the state and the federal government was

forced to address the issue of how much land in California would be declared public land for sale. The Congressional Act of 1851 created a land commission to receive petitions from private land claimants and to determine the validity of their claims. The United States Land Survey of California conducted by the General Land Office, also began that year. Since the subject property was considered public land, it was included in the GLO surveys beginning in 1876 and continuing until 1894 (Fig.8).

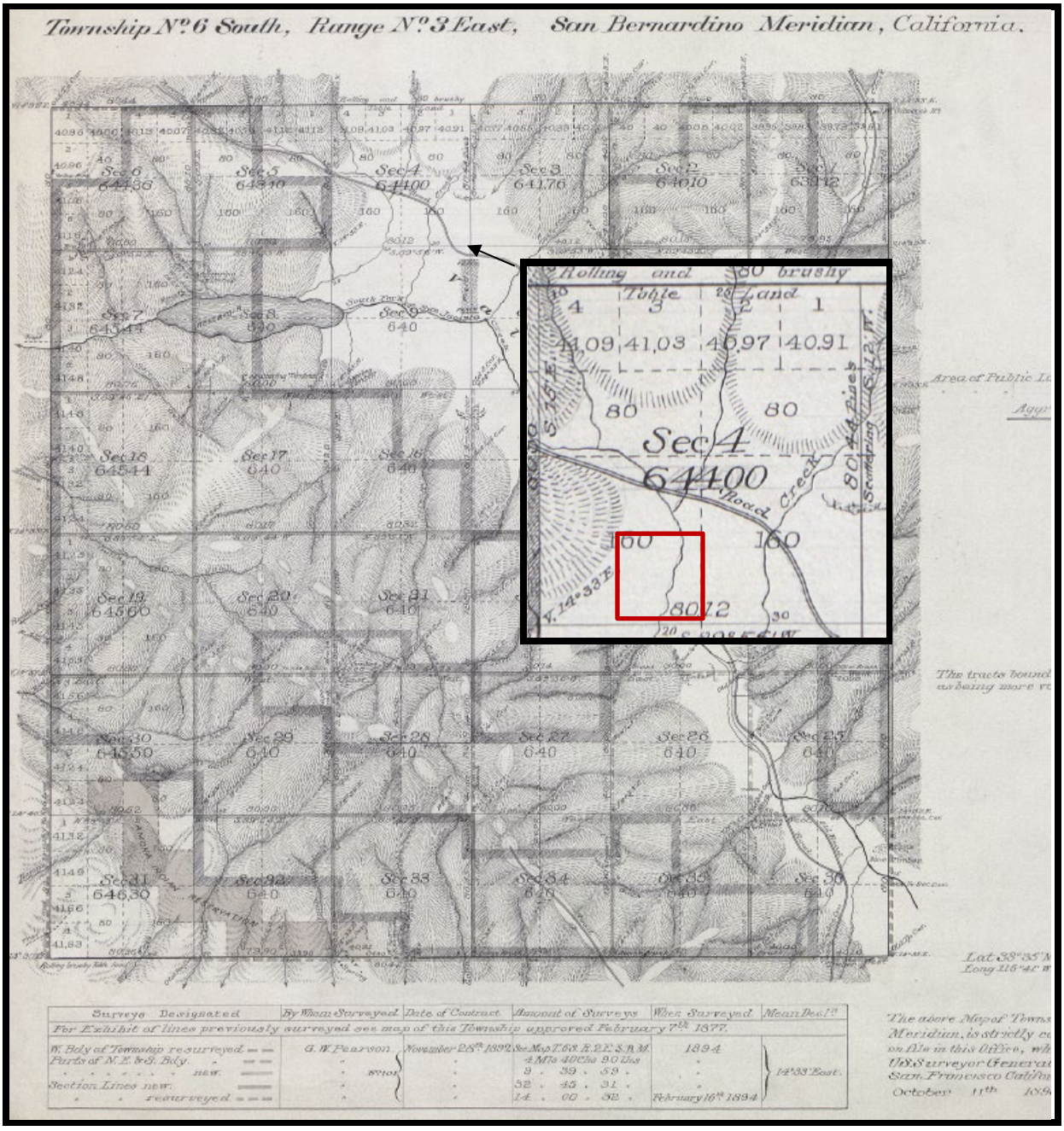


Figure 8: Location of the subject property (red) in Section 4 (black) after the 1876-1894 GLO surveys of Township No. 6 south, Range No. 3 east.

In the final period of historical occupation, the American Developmental Period (1848 CE-present), the first major changes in the study area took place as a result of land issues addressed in the previous decade. Following completion of the General Land Office surveys, large tracts of federal land became available for sale and for preemption purposes, particularly after Congress passed the Homestead Act of 1862. California was eventually granted 500,000 acres of land by the federal government for distribution, as well as two sections of land in each township for school purposes. Much of this land was located in the southern portion of the state. Under the Homestead Act of 1862, 160-acre homesteads were available to citizens of the United States (or those who had filed an intention to become one) who were either the head-of-household or a single person over the age of 21 (including women). Once the homestead claim was filed the applicant had six months to move onto the land and was required to maintain residency for five years as well as to build a dwelling and raise crops. Upon completion of these requirements the homesteader had to publish intent to close on the property in order to allow others to dispute the claim. If no one did so the homesteader was issued a patent to the property, thus conveying ownership. Individuals were attracted to the federal lands by their low prices and as a result, the population began to increase in regions where the lands available for homestead were located.

It was at this time that the region of Southern California which became Riverside County saw an influx of settlers as well as those seeking other opportunities, including gold mining and land speculation, the latter being the result of application of the Land Act of 1820 to California. As Anglo-Americans came to this region in increasing numbers, the continued existence of Native Americans in the area was threatened as their traditional lands were taken from them. In the beginning of this historical period, the Cahuilla in the study area still outnumbered the Euro Americans and were clearly in control of the region. However, the Cahuilla's situation soon changed substantially. A smallpox epidemic in 1863 almost decimated the Cahuilla population, leaving them relatively defenseless against the ever increasing influx of Americans, in large part due to the Homestead Act of 1862. Estimations of the population size for the original Cahuilla population ranged from 3600 to 10,000 individuals, with the higher number being supported by federal census figures in the 1850s. Following the smallpox epidemic, the Cahuilla population was reduced significantly, with only around 1000 individuals remaining by 1865 (Bean 584). From the establishment of the Cahuilla Reservation in 1875 until the final reservations were established in 1891 and federal enforcement became more stringent, most Cahuilla remained on their own lands. After 1891, their lives were more closely supervised by the federal government and were restricted to the various reservation established in the region. The subject property is literally surrounded by reservations established during this time. The Cahuilla Reservation is located to the south, the Agua Caliente Reservation is located to the east, the Santa Rosa Reservation to the southeast, the Ramona Reservation to the southwest, and the Soboba Reservation to the northwest. With the exception of the Cahuilla Reservation, which was established in 1875 and the Soboba Reservation established in 1883, the other reservations were all established in 1891.

It was also during this period of history that the San Jacinto Mountains began to receive far more attention from the Americans than they ever had from either the Spaniards or the Mexicans. At some time between 1861 and approximately 1867, Charles Henry Thomas (1836-1917), a cattle rancher and flour mill operator from Temecula, first entered a mountain basin nestled on the southwestern flank of the San Jacinto Mountains. This basin became known as Hemet Valley, then Thomas Valley, and finally, as it is known today, Garner Valley. It is at the northwestern end of this valley that CUP 210121 is located.

An orphaned native of New York, Charles Thomas came to California in 1849 by way of a sailing ship, arriving in San Francisco when he was barely 14 years old. For the next ten years, he travelled and worked up and down the coast, finally settling in Los Angeles County where he farmed and traded stock. In 1860, Thomas and Augustus Knight filed a mining claim in the Temescal Tin Mining District, although they subsequently sold their claim one year later to Abel Stearns for $600.00 (Gunther 542).

On May 14, 1861, Thomas married Maria Genoveva de Jesus Badillo (1839-1925), a member of a prominent Santa Barbara family who had immigrated from Spain. Shortly thereafter, Thomas moved his wife and 200 head of cattle to Temecula, where he operated a cattle ranch and flour mill. While living in Temecula, Charles and Genoveva started a family that would eventually include thirteen children, nine of whom survived to adulthood. Apparently, because he was friendly with Native peoples living in the area, he was told of and later taken to, a large meadow in the San Jacinto Mountains where the Mountain Cahuilla had a village. Previously, this land had been occupied by the Luiseño who had migrated south to Temecula. It is probable that the Luiseño preferred Thomas to move to land occupied by other indigenous people than to remain in their own territory.

According to the prevailing story, the Indians offered Thomas the right to settle in the valley in exchange for cattle – 200 head according to Victoria Brooke Thomas, a daughter born in 1867 to Charles and Genoveva. Although Thomas acquired the right to settle in the valley from the Cahuilla, this did not constitute legal title under federal law, so he later acquired much of the valley land through various means, including under authority of both the Land Act of 1820 and the Homestead Act of 1862. Interestingly, the Charles Thomas house was located on land he did not acquire by these means.

The original size of the Thomas ranch was 480 acres, although at one time, it had expanded to over 8000 acres. The first ranch house was a crude log cabin built on the northwestern edge of the valley near where the Garner Ranch house stands today. During the early days, Thomas' family remained at the Temecula ranch, with Thomas making periodic trips to the mountain ranch to oversee his cattle herds, as well as to construct more substantial corrals and ranch buildings. In 1872 or 1873, after building a road up from the Anza Valley and constructing a

spacious ranch house and associated buildings, Thomas finally moved his family to the mountain valley from Temecula. The ranch buildings were built on the site of the earlier Indian village and apparently, some of the original residents took their cattle and moved to the Cahuilla and Ramona Indian Reservations, while others chose to stay and work for Thomas (Gunther 543).

The Thomas Ranch soon became an important ranch in Southern California, partly because of its eventual size and partly because of the type of stock raised there. It was reported that Thomas imported from Kentucky the first thoroughbred stock ever brought to Southern California and that his cattle consistently took first place at different state fairs (Gunther 543). By the 1880s, thousands of head of cattle roamed Thomas Valley, as it was then called. During this period, Helen Hunt Jackson stayed for a while at the ranch while studying the plight of California Indians. According to Victoria Brooke Thomas, Ramona Lubo and her husband, Juan Diego, both immortalized in Jackson's *Ramona*, worked on the Thomas Ranch (Gunther 543). Another employee, a wood cutter named Herke, was also immortalized by being one of the few humans ever attacked by a grizzly bear. According to the story, Herke's dog chased two grizzly bear cubs up a tree and their enraged mother charged Herke as he was drinking from a creek. Despite being severely mauled, Herke managed to get back to the Thomas' ranch house, where he died a few days later. Thomas buried Herke along the creek where he had been attacked. Although the date the attack occurred is unknown, the first reference to the creek being called Herke Creek was on September 30, 1890, when the Lake Hemet Water Company filed for use of water from "Herke Creek" (Lech 2020). By 1914, the name had changed to Herkey Creek, although the origin of the changed spelling is unknown.

In the early 1890s, the Lake Hemet Dam was constructed in the San Jacinto Mountains, on land that had once been part of the Thomas Ranch. Since the San Jacinto River did not supply enough water to support farming and settlements throughout the San Jacinto Valley, there was a need to find a new, reliable source of water. A group of investors, which included Edward L. Mayberry and William F. Whittier, decided they had found a way to rectify the situation and in January of 1887, they formed both the Hemet Land Company and the Lake Hemet Water Company (Jarrell Johnson 2020).

The purpose of the Lake Hemet Water Company was the purchase of several hundred acres of land on the west end of Thomas Valley in the San Jacinto Mountains. This purchase came with a water right that allowed the capture of water at its source in the mountains. In turn, the water could be brought to the dry valley below. The plan was to collect the flow of the South Fork of the San Jacinto River, but in order to accomplish this task, a dam would have to be built in the mountains to create a reservoir and make water available year round. The creek ran through a narrow granite gorge, which offered a suitable site for the construction of a dam (Jarrell Johnson 2020).

However, dam construction could not even begin until a road wide enough for supply-laden wagons and six-mule teams could be constructed from Hemet to Thomas Valley. Work began on the road late in the summer of 1888 and astonishingly, it was finished less than a year later. The road into the San Jacinto Mountains was necessarily steep, as much as 18%, with many switchbacks so six-mule teams could rest while maneuvering their ascending loads of supplies, equipment and 400-pound barrels of cement (LHMWD 2021). Following construction of the road, the reservoir site itself had to be cleared of its abundant pine trees, which were sawed into 1 million board feet of lumber. Approximately half of the wood was used for buildings and stagings at the dam, with the remaining lumber hauled down the canyon to be used for building flumes, scaffolding, and forms for dam construction (LHMWD 2021).

In addition to the problems of building a functional road and clearing the reservoir site of timber, a significant problem arose relating to the concrete that had to be used to construct the dam. The cement used in the dam was the Portland type, which hardens under water. Unfortunately, at that time, no Portland cement plants existed in the western United States, so the cement was purchased from sources in Antwerp, Belgium and shipped around South America to the port of San Diego, where it was then placed on railroad cars and transported to San Jacinto. Once it arrived in San Jacinto, the cement was loaded onto wagons drawn by the mule teams to the dam construction site (LHMWD 2021).

The cement was used to hold together thousands of quarried, 5-to-15-ton granite stones from the bluffs surrounding the gorge through which the river ran. After each stone was quarried, it was picked up and moved to the dam on carriers suspended by two sets of 800-foot cables that were strung across the canyon in opposite directions. Steam engines were used to move the cables back and forth. Despite the elaborate system used to deliver materials to the dam site, construction was halted from time to time due to bad weather and floods, particularly in 1892 and 1893.

The first stone of the Lake Hemet Dam was placed on June 6, 1891, and construction was completed four years later in October of 1895. The finished height of the dam was 122.5 feet. The height was later raised another 12.5 feet in 1923. From its completion in 1895 until the construction of the Roosevelt Dam in Arizona in 1911, the Lake Hemet Dam was the largest solid masonry dam in the world. Cartographically, the body of water resulting from the dam was labelled Hemet Reservoir by 1940, changing to Lake Hemet by 1959. Lake Hemet is located approximately one-quarter mile southwest of CUP210121.

On December 20, 1897, after living at Thomas Ranch for over thirty years, and with all of the children gone, Genoveva Thomas sold an option to purchase the Thomas Ranch to a wealthy Englishman named Harold Kenworthy for $34,000. The option included ”all that land known as the Thomases Ranch, comprising 2100 acres. With not less than 350 head of cattle, small and

large, ranch horses and all buildings, tools, and everything pertaining to the ranch except for 20 head of cattle to be selected by Mrs. Thomas, household effects, wagon and team. Also the horses owned by her sons that are on the ranch. Everything else to be compromised," with the money to be paid on March 20, 1898 (Gunther 266). Unfortunately for Mr. Kenworthy, after losing most of his fortune in a mining venture, he was forced to deed the land back to Charles and Genoveva Thomas in 1900. Then on December 28, 1905, the ranch, by that time encompassing only 1700 acres, was sold to a stockman from San Bernardino named Robert F. Garner for $30,000. Robert Garner permitted the Thomas family a period of one year to sell off their stock and vacate the ranch. At the end of the year, the Thomas family moved to Redlands, where Charles operated a livery stable for four years. Charles Thomas died on March 31, 1917, at the home of one of his daughters in Ocean Park, while Genoveva died on May 24, 1925, in Hermosa Beach.

On January 1, 1907, Robert Franklin Garner took possession of what was then the Thomas Ranch. Garner proceeded to build the renamed Garner Ranch into one of the largest and most profitable stock farms in Southern California; within only a few years, 1500 head of cattle grazed the land. To expand his grazing land, Garner bought adjacent land and leased, then bought, the 5000-acre Hancock Johnston Ranch between Herkey Creek and Keen Camp. This purchase increased the size of Garner Ranch to 9500 acres. Despite the immense size of Garner Ranch, it was not until around 1947 that the valley containing the ranch was officially referred to as Garner Valley instead of Thomas Valley.

The decline of the Garner Ranch as a cattle ranch began in the late 1960s when it became more profitable to subdivide land for housing tract development than to run cattle. In 1968, 2500 acres of the ranch were sold for subdivision, in 1974 an additional 2000 acres were sold, and by 1991, the Forest Service had purchased or traded for 2500 acres of the Garner Ranch. The current Garner Ranch, centered around the old Thomas home in the upper valley, includes 2500 acres and is still owned by the Garner family. None of the subject property is included within the current Garner Ranch boundaries.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Research

Prior to commencement of the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment field survey, a records search request was submitted to staff at the Eastern Information Center located at the University of California, Riverside on February 22, 2021, with the results received on March 2, 2021. The records search included a review of all site maps, site records, survey reports, and mitigation reports within a one-mile radius of the subject property. The following documents were also reviewed: National Register of Historic Places, California Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, and California Office of Historic Preservation Historic Properties Directory. In addition to the records search, a request for a Sacred Lands File search was submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission on February 22, 2021, with the results received on March 9, 2021. The same day, project scoping letters were sent to 16 tribal representatives listed as being interested in project development within the Mountain Center area.

Following the records and Sacred Lands File searches, a literature search of available published references to the study area was undertaken. Reference material included all available photographs, maps, books, journals, historical newspapers, registers, and directories held in various repositories. Archival and cartographic research was conducted through the USGS Historical Map Collection, the General Land Office records currently maintained by the California Office of the Bureau of Land Management, and documents containing census and other information held by Ancestry.com. The Riverside County Archives have been closed due to the COVID-19 situation, thus precluding access to property-specific ownership information. The following maps were consulted:

1876 and 1894 General Land Office Plats, Township No. 6 south, Range No. 3 east
1901 San Jacinto, California 30’ USGS Topographic Map
1940 Hemet Reservoir, California 15’ U.S. Dept. of the Army Corps of Engineers Topographic Map
1959 Idyllwild, California 15’ USGS Topographic Map
1959 Santa Ana, California 1:250,000 USGS Topographic Map
1981 Idyllwild, California 7.5’ USGS Topographic Map
1980 (photorevised) Santa Ana, California 1:250,000 USGS Topographic Map
1988 (photorevised) Idyllwild, California 7.5’ USGS Topographic Map

Fieldwork

Subsequent to the literature, archival, and cartographic research, Jean Keller conducted an initial pedestrian field survey of the subject property on February 19, 2021, with a subsequent comprehensive field survey conducted for the purpose of locating, documenting, and evaluating all existing cultural resources within its boundaries on April 14, 2021. Beginning at the northeastern property corner, the comprehensive survey was accomplished by traversing the subject property in parallel transects at 15-meter intervals, when possible. The survey proceeded in a generally north-south, south-north direction following the existing land contours. Much of the property has been developed to at least a limited degree, with ground surface visibility restricted by the presence of structures, material storage, and debris. In these restricted areas, the direction and intervals of survey transects were altered accordingly.

Special attention was given to all bedrock outcrops due to the known presence of previously recorded archaeological site CA-RIV-9236/H (P-33-017847) near the southwestern property corner and the abundance of bedrock milling features recorded within a one mile radius. Although the DPR forms submitted for this site in 2009 included UTMS for the recorded site components, it did not include a legible map or any photographs. Trying to relocate the site features was somewhat problematic due to conflicting UTMs and sketches for the recorded site loci, as well as inconsistencies in the site description. Three of the five recorded site loci, all bedrock milling features, were relocated and evaluated. An updated DPR form for CA-RIV-9236/H was submitted to the Eastern Information Center and is included in the Appendix of this report. In addition to relocating these site features, two previously unrecorded bedrock milling feature loci were observed during the field surveys. Each site was mapped, measured, photographed, drawn, and GPS coordinates taken with a hand-held Garmin eTrex Venture HC. Site records for these sites were compiled and submitted to the EIC for assignment of Primary number P-33-029123 and P-33-029124; the DPR forms are included in the Appendix of this report.

RESULTS

Research

A records search completed by staff at the Eastern Information Center, University of California, Riverside (EIC) indicated that five previous cultural resources studies had involved the subject property, none of which included its entirety. All five studies were conducted for the California Department of Transportation District 8 and focused on State Route 74, which transects the southwestern corner of the subject property, and State Route 243.

Interestingly, during the course of an archaeological survey conducted in 2008/2009 for the Hurkey Creek Bridge Replacement Project (RI-10453), which according to the Eastern Information Center *did not* include the subject property, a multi-component site containing both prehistoric and historic resources was recorded on the subject property and assigned trinomial CA-RIV-9236H (P-33-33-017847). The site is located at the southwestern corner of the subject property, both north and south of SR-74. The prehistoric (Native American) component of the site was recorded as being comprised of a total of five bedrock milling features, two to the north and three to the south of SR 74, containing eight mortars. Dark ashy colored soil that potentially represented the presence of a subsurface cultural deposit, as well as a tightly clustered quartzite lithic scatter with a quartzite core and two rogue pieces of milky quartz debitage were also recorded. No formal prehistoric artifacts were observed. The historical component contained a small cluster of metal can fragments, clear glass, amethyst-colored and cobalt-colored glass, and pieces of white glazeware ceramics near the southern boundary of the site. A single ceramic piece was also identified north of SR 74 near the milky quartz debitage. Despite the site having been described as being comprised of five bedrock milling features, UTM locational data was provided for only four bedrock milling features and one lithic scatter; no locational data was provided for the historical component. In addition, locational data for the four bedrock milling features did not match the feature drawings,

In 2010, an Extended Phase I study for P-33-017847/CA-RIV-9236H was conducted by Applied Earthworks, Inc. (RI-10284) to investigate the horizontal and vertical extent of the site and this study did involve the subject property. The investigation included a remote sensing program comprised of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and a magnetometer survey, as well as 17 Shovel Probes (SHP) and two auger probes placed along SR 74 both within and southeast of the recorded site boundaries. There is no indication that the previously recorded site features were field-checked as these fell outside of the 15-meter APE. No evidence of buried cultural deposits or strata were identified during the excavations. One flake was recovered in a disturbed context on

the southwest side of the highway within the site boundaries, but no additional artifacts were observed. No further studies were recommended.

In November 2018, four cultural resource studies were conducted that involved a portion of the subject property. The APE of these studies was limited to the Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) between PM 48.1/64.3 on SR 74 and PM 0/3.5 on SR 243. The ROW was generally considered to be 60 feet out from the centerline on SR 74 (each side), and 40 feet from centerline on SR 243 (each side) and each study included a total of 171 acres.

The first 2018 study, entitled "Historic Property Survey Report for State Route 74 State Route 243 Cranston Fire Permanent Restoration Project, Riverside County, California" (RI-10801), did not directly reference what was referred to archaeological site CA-RIV-9236H, commonly referred to as the "Hurkey Creek Site."

A second study, entitled " Archaeological Survey Report for State Route 74 and State Route 243 Cranston Fire Permanent Restoration Project, Riverside County, California" (RI-10803), addressed site CA-RIV-9236, but there is no indication that the site was field-checked, despite the fact that nine years had passed since the original recordation. The report concluded that the site was extensively studied as part of Caltrans' PQS Dicken Everson's work on the Hurkey Creek Bridge replacement project in 2009, so that was considered adequate for the Cranston project. Further, the site was outside of the Area of Direct Impact (ADI) and no work was proposed within the site boundaries.

The third study was simply an ESA plan for the Cranston project. Entitled "Environmentally Sensitive Area Action Plan for State Route 74 and 243 Permanent Restoration from the Cranston Fire Project, From Postmile 48.1 to Postmile 3.5 Near Idyllwild, Riverside County, California PN 08-1900-0012" (RI-10804), this study noted that although CA-RIV-9236H was outside of the project ADI, the site extends beyond the ROW limits into areas that were potential staging areas. Although the areas were not studied as part of the Cranston project, they would be protected by enforcement of the ESA. Ultimately, no AMA was established at the Hurkey Creek Site because there was no work proposed at the location, it was outside of any ADI work, and all work was done within the Caltrans ROW.s

The final 2018 study, "Finding of Effect for RIV-74/RIV 243 Cranston Fire Permanent Restoration Project." (RIV-10805) applied the Criteria of Adverse Effect and determined that a finding of No Adverse Effect with Non-Standard Conditions was appropriate for the project pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5c and Section 106 PA Stipulation X.B.

The records search conducted by staff at the Eastern Information Center indicated that the subject property is located in a well-studied area with 24 previous cultural resource studies having been conducted within a one-mile radius. During the course of these studies, 24 cultural resources properties have been recorded, one of which involved the project area, as previously discussed (Table 1). Eleven sites are of prehistoric (Native American) origin, eleven are of historical origin, and two are comprised of both prehistoric and historical components. The predominant cultural resources recorded at the Native American sites are bedrock milling features, reflecting a focus on seasonal resource procurement and processing. Historical-era cultural resources are primarily associated with roadways, with two campground facilities also represented.

Table 1
Previously Recorded Cultural Resources in the Scope of the Records Search
and Distance from Conditional Use Permit No. 210121

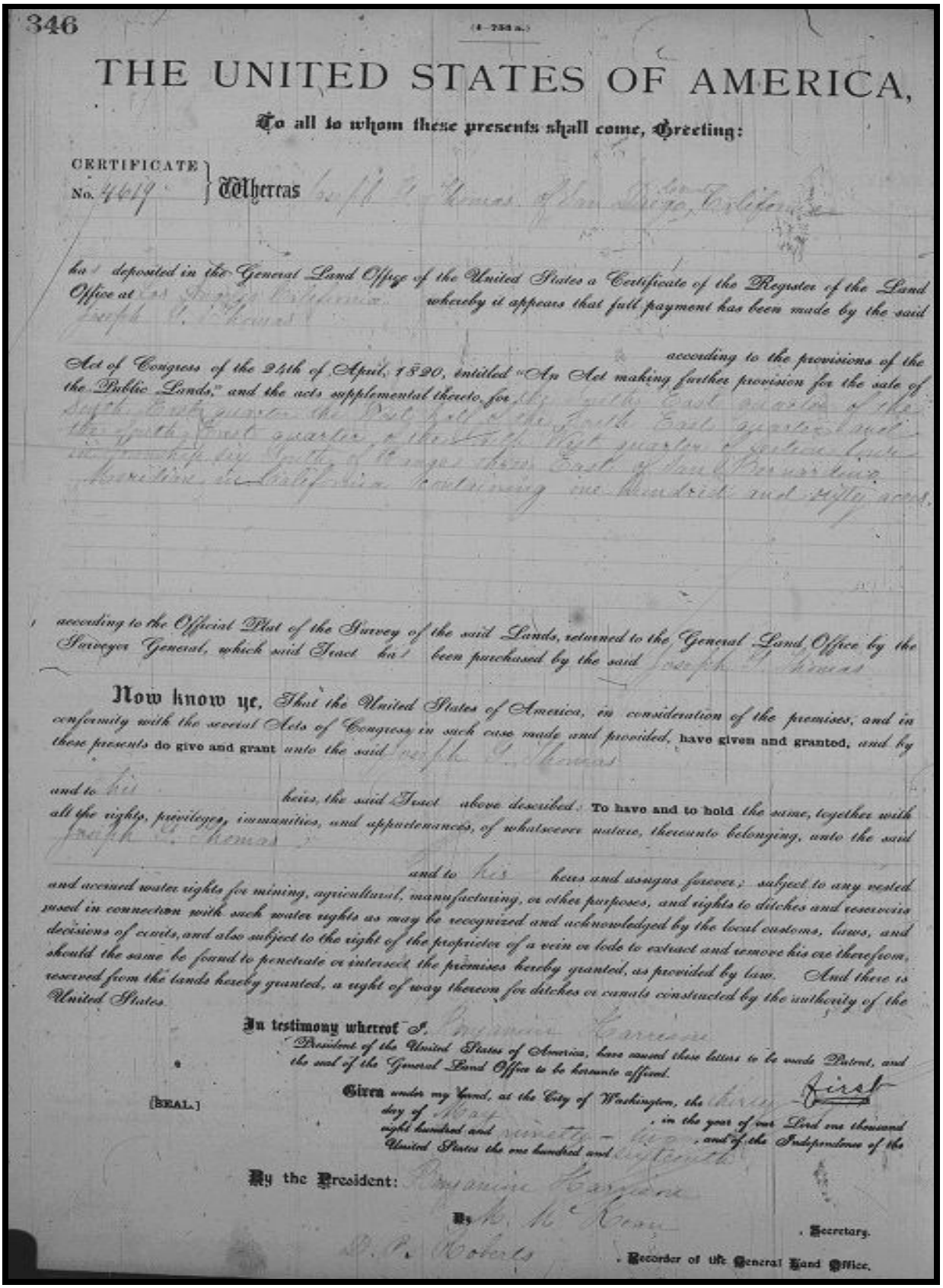
Primary No. (Trinomial)	Description of Recorded Cultural Resources	Distance From Project (*in miles)*
P-33-000298 (CA-RIV-298H)	Hurkey Creek Campground. Multi-locus site with prehistoric and historic components. *Prehistoric:* 14 loci with 6 slicks, 35 mortars, 1 cupule, 2 projectile points *Historic:* 5 loci 1 concrete slab, concrete covered rocks, 1 cesspool, pieces of crude concrete, random pieces of concrete	0.00 – 0.25
P-33-001911 (CA-RIV-1911)	Gathering and processing camp, with bedrock milling features, 4 pestles, metates, 1 mano	0.75 – 1.00
P-33-001915 (CA-RIV-1915)	Possible gathering, processing, and hunting camp used for processing acorns, seeds, & hunting small game (2 large BRMs, 2 shallow starter mortars, 2 metates, 1 shallow BRM, 1 BRM with 1 metate).	0.50 – 0.75
P-33-005998 (CA-RIV-5665H)	Ca. 1930s – 1950s trash scatter, possibly associated with former gas station or roadside stop (auto-associated, foodstuff, hardware, ceramics).	0.0 – 0.25
P-33-005999 (CA-RIV-5666H)	Remains of a turn-of-the-century steel pipe or casing.	0.25 – 0.50
P-33-014055 (CA-RIV-7699)	7 milling features with a total of 13 mortars & 4 slicks, 1 piece debitage, 1 ceramic sherd, 2 manos	0.75 – 1.00
P-33-014056 (CA-RIV-7700)	Large prehistoric seasonal habitation site with 12 stationary milling features (17 mortars & 18 slicks), 2 thermal rock features, midden, moderate-density scatter of ceramic sherds, portable milling implements, flaked stone tools, quartz/quartzite/chert flakes	0.50 – 0.75
P-33-014057 (CA-RIV-7701)	2 slicks on 2 boulders	0.50 – 0.75

P-33-014058 (CA-RIV-7702)	10 mortars & 1 slick on 7 boulders, 2 pieces of debitage	0.50 – 0.75
P-33-014059 (CA-RIV-7703)	4 slicks & 1 mortar on 2 boulders, 1 quartz flake	0.50 – 0.75
P-33-014060 (CA-RIV-7704)	6 mortars on 1 boulder	0.25 – 0.50
P-33-014061 (CA-RIV-7705)	22 slicks & 1 mortar cup on 11 boulders, associated portable milling implements, midden deposit, ceramic sherd, hammerstone, flaked stone debris	0.75 – 1.00
P-33-015132 (CA-RIV-8046)	Historical Mayberry Road (later known as Keen Camp Road), constructed in 1891 and in use until 1929	0.75 – 1.00
P-33-015321 (CA-RIV-8089)	State Route 74, a rural conventional 2-lane undivided highway built in 1930 (segment of Pines to Palms Highway)	0.00 – 0.25
P-33-015768 (CA-RIV-8203)	1 slick	0.75 – 1.00
P-33-017126	Camp Roosevelt, an organizational summer camp adjacent to, and illegally within, the San Bernardino National Forest. First building in 1952, subsequent buildings 1956-1974	0.00 – 0.25
P-33-017847* (CA-RIV-9236/H)	Multi-component food processing site and possible short-term prehistoric habitation site and historical refuse scatter located on the western side of Hurkey Creek, transected by SR 74. *Prehistoric*: 5 bedrock milling features containing 8 mortars, quartzite lithic scatter with quartzite core and 2 rogue pieces of milky quartz; 1 flake. *Historical:* Small cluster of metal can fragments, amethyst-colored and cobalt -colored glass, glaze ware ceramics. *Only portion of site within 15 meters on either side of SR 74 was recorded and included in Phase II Testing.*	0.00 – 0.25
P-33-019872 (CA-RIV-10117)	3 saucer mortars & 2 mortars on 3 boulders, highly exfoliated, lichen-covered, no subsurface deposit	0.25 – 0.50
P-33-020442 (CA-RIV-10343)	2 segments of historical-period Hemet Lake Road (asphalt, unmarked, 2-lane), constructed in 1940.	0.00 – 0.25
P-33-020490 (CA-RIV-10391)	Historical-period concrete slab bridge on Hwy 74 (single-span, post-and-lintel type), constructed in 1958.	0.75 – 1.00
P-33-020491 (CA-RIV-10392)	Segment of asphalt, unmarked, 1-lane historical-period road that connects to Hwy 74. Private drive leading to Garner Cattle Co., est. 1905.	0.75 – 1.00
P-33-020492 (CA-RIV-10393)	Historical-period concrete slab bridge on Hwy 74 that passes over Serro Creek (single span, post-and-lintel type), constructed in 1958.	0.50 – 0.75
P-33-020493 (CA-RIV-10394)	Historical -period concrete slab bridge on Hwy 74 that passes over Antsell Rock Creek(single span, post-and-lintel type), constructed in 1958.	0.25 – 0.50
P-33-028576	Hurkey Creek Bridge (single span, metal-rolled, multi-beam bridge with a cast-in-place reinforced concrete deck over 4 steel stringers on RC abutments, all set on steel “H” piles), constructed in 1930.	0.00 – 0.25

*Located within CUP 210121

A search of the *Sacred Lands File* was completed by the Native American Heritage Commission for the subject property, with negative results based on the provided USGS quadrangle information. Responses to project scoping letters were received from the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation and from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. The Quechan Historic Preservation Office stated that they have no comments on the project and defers to more local Tribes, supporting their decisions. According to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI), the project area is not located within the boundaries of their reservation, but it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. For this reason, they request the following: a cultural resources inventory of the project area be conducted by a qualified archaeologist prior to any development activities in the area; a copy of the records search with associated survey reports and site records from the information center; and copies of cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with this project. In addition, the ACBCI requests the presence of an approved Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Office. No information has been obtained through Native American consultation that the subject property is culturally or spiritually significant and no Traditional Cultural Properties that currently serve religious or other community practices are known to exist within the project boundaries. During the current cultural resources evaluation, no artifacts or remains were identified or recovered that could be reasonably associated with such practices.

Archival research was conducted relating to previous ownership of the subject property. Early settlers in the San Jacinto Mountains typically obtained land from the public domain of the United States through the Homestead Act of 1862 or other means of public land acquisitions, such as the Land Act of 1820. According to available archival records, the first non-Native owner of the subject property was Joseph G. Thomas (Joseph Gift Thomas). On May 31, 1892, a State Volume Patent (CAO560…484) for 160 acres located in the W½SE¼, SE¼SW¼, and SE¼SE¼ of Section 4, Township 6 south, Range 3 east was issued to Thomas under authority of the Land Act of 1820 (Fig. 9). The property now known as CUP210121 is in the SE¼SW¼ of Section 4. On November 23, 1891, Thomas had been issued a State Volume Patent for 160 acres of the SE¼ of Section 10, also under authority of the Land Act of 1820, under the name Joe G. Thomas. There is no evidence that he ever lived on either parcel of land. Instead, Joe Thomas' purchases were part of his family's effort to own most of the land in what was then Hemet Valley, and as a result of these land patents, became known as Thomas Valley. As illustrated in Figure10, the first landowner was Joe Thomas' father, Charles Henry Thomas, who received a State Volume Patent for 120 acres in the SW¼NE¼ of Section 10, T.6s, R.3e on May 20, 1885, under authority of the Homestead Act of1862. This was the only land held by the Thomas family that was obtained by homesteading



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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

CERTIFICATE No. 4619 } Whereas

has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said Tract has been purchased by the said

Now know ye, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant unto the said

and to heirs, the said Tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said and to heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law. And there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

In testimony whereof I, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the first day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and , and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and

[SEAL.]

By the President:

By , Secretary.

, Recorder of the General Land Office.

Figure 9: State Volume Patent issued to Joseph G. Thomas for 160 acres on May 31, 1892.

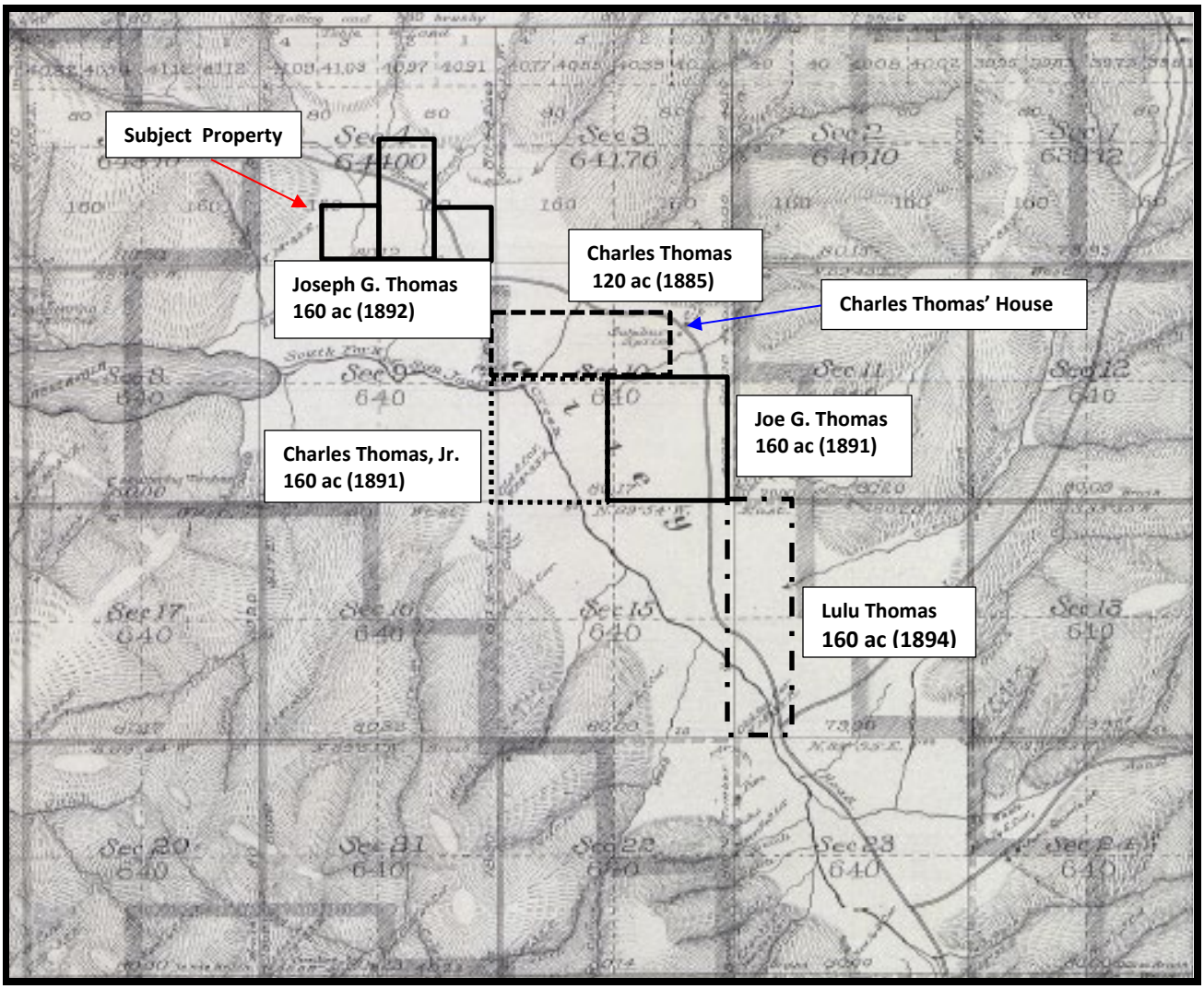


Figure 10: Location of the Thomas family land patents in relation to the subject property.

instead of purchase. As discussed in the History section of this report, the Homestead Act of 1862 required that within six months of submitting a claim, the applicant had to move to the property, build an abode, and plant crops, then continue to live on the land for five years. Since Charles Thomas received his patent on May 20, 1885, it may be assumed that he moved to the property and probably built his house by December of 1879. Interestingly, according to the 1894 General Land Office Plat, Thomas' house was slightly east of his homesteaded land, near a sulphur spring, which also wasn't on his land. This time frame is somewhat at odds with that proposed by other historians who have written about the Thomas family, in that according to previous histories, Thomas had moved his family to the mountain ranch as early as 1872-1873 (Gunther 1984, Lech 2004). Archival information also conflicts with the previous information, indicating that the Thomas family relocated to the mountain property between June 15/16, 1880, and June 21, 1880.

On the same day that Joe G. Thomas received a patent for 160 acres immediately south of his father's 120-acre homestead in Section 10, his younger brother, Charles Thomas, Jr. (Charley) received a State Volume Patent under the Land Act of 1820 for 160 acres of the SW ¼ of Section 10, which was immediately west of Joe's 160 acres and south of his father's homestead. The final member of the Thomas family to contribute land to what became the Thomas Ranch was Lulu Thomas. On February 17, 1894, Lulu received a State Volume Patent under authority of the Land Act of 1820 for 160 acres of land in the W½SW¼ and W½NW¼ of Section 14, which was immediately southeast of Joe G. Thomas' 160 acres. Through these contiguous land patents, the Thomas Ranch encompassed 760 acres by 1894. However, these were not the family's only holdings in that Charles and Genoveva (also known as Raden) both received State Volume Patents for other, non-contiguous properties. On January 21, 1890, Genoveva received a State Volume Patent for 160 acres for the SE ¼ of Section 28 (Thomas Mountain), and Charles received a State Volume Patent for 160 acres in the NE ¼ of Section 20, Township 5 south, Range 3 east on April 5, 1890.

As previously discussed in the History section of, the purchase of land through the Land Act of 1820 did not require the construction of an abode, planting crops, or five years of residence, as did the Homestead Act of 1862, which is one reason such a plan was especially attractive to land speculators. It is clear that the Thomas family, in a well-planned and collaborative effort, took advantage of the low price of land and lenient requirements in creating the Thomas Ranch. As noted earlier, there is no evidence that Joseph Gift Thomas ever lived on the subject property or on any of his other holdings. Various references indicate that the children lived at the Thomas Ranch compound into adulthood, but for a family of such prominence, surprisingly little is known about their lives. In fact, the 1880 U.S. Census is apparently the only census that the family or its individual members ever participated ever in. Interestingly, the Thomas family participated in TWO census surveys within a single week! A census taken on June 15-16, 1880, recorded the Thomas family, consisting of Charles, Genoveva, and thirteen children ages 18 to 4 months living in the Temecula Township. The second census survey, conducted one week later on June 21, 1880, shows the same family living in the San Jacinto Township, which included the San Jacinto Mountains. On this census, only 11 children are listed, ages 18 to 4 months old, and the names of the children listed on the two censuses do not completely match. This discrepancy may have been the result of the two enumerators hearing and/or spelling the names differently, a not uncommon occurrence, but it does not explain what happened to two of the children during the one week period. Numerous family trees trace the Charles Thomas family tree but contain conflicting information about the births and deaths of family members, so this remains a mystery. The two census documents support the fact that instead of moving his family from Temecula to the Thomas Ranch in the San Jacinto Mountains in 1872-1873, the move actually occurred the week between June 15/16 and June 21 of 1880. Neither census listed an occupation for Joseph, the oldest son, only that he was "At home," as were all the other children.

By 1886, Joseph and younger brother Charley had moved from the Thomas Ranch, with Joseph working as a farmer in Strawberry (near Idyllwild) and Charley working as a ranchero in Aguanga (Great Register 1886). In 1890, Joseph and Charley were living in Blaidon (San Diego County), where Joseph worked as a jockey and Charley worked as a Veterinary Surgeon (Great Register 1890). This is an interesting, yet logical, move for the two young men. According to the July 29, 1893 *Riverside Press & Horticulturist*, Charles Thomas "imported from Kentucky the first thoroughbred stock ever brought to Southern California, and today he owns probably the best herds of thoroughbreds and cattle in the state……..Some noted horses are from this ranch notably Pescadore, who beat the State record for three-years-olds. This season, Mr. Thomas took three of his best young horses East, and at St. Louis one of them, Charley T., had the best average among 1800 two-year-olds. So good was his record that Mr. Thomas was offered $8000 for him, which he refused, holding the colt for $10,000. He is now at Chicago, where he is entered at big races" (Gunther 543).

While it would be logical to assume that since Joseph was working as a jockey in 1890 and his father was racing hoses in 1893, that he would continue to have been involved in this endeavor. However, on August 13, 1892, Joseph G. Thomas registered to vote, listing his residence as Strawberry and his occupation as a miner. He was described as being "5'5", having a dark complexion, brown eyes, black hair, with a scar on his left temple" (Great Register 1892). By this time, Joseph had already received a patent for 160 acres in Section 10 and 160 acres in Section 4 (including the subject property) so the fact that he was living in Strawberry and working as a miner, supports the assumption that he never lived on his properties, but simply acquired them to add to the family's ranch.

By July 1, 1899, Joseph had again changed careers and was working for the Miscellaneous Land Services Division of the Office of United States Surveyors-General, living in San Jacinto, and earning $60 per annum, although it is unknown what his work entailed (U.S. Register of Civil, Military, and Naval Service, 1863-1959). This position was to be short-lived, because Joseph enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 1, 1900, listing his occupation as a forest ranger and his residence in Kenworthy, so it is likely that was the work he was doing for the U.S. Surveyors General; he was discharged from the army on July 20, 1901 (Register of Enlistments, United States Army 1900:71.71).

Except for his record of death on September 29, 1926, in Riverside, California and an October 1, 1926, obituary in *The Hemet* News, no records could be found regarding Joseph Gift Thomas' life after serving in the U.S. Army for a year. According to the obituary, at the time of his death he was 62 years old and had been ill for some time. Reportedly, along with his father he had been interested in horse racing in his early life, racing when "the sport of kings" was in its prime on California tracks. Although the obituary stated that Joe became one of the best known jockeys

on the California turf and was employed as a rider by "Lucky Baldwin" and other famous horsemen, no corroborating evidence could be located. Joe Thomas apparently never married or had children.

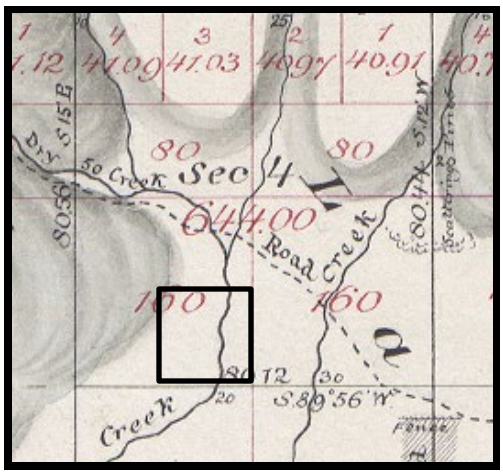
Cartographic research indicates that from the initial General Land Office survey of the subject property in 1876 to the 1988 USGS Idyllwild, California topographic map, no development occurred within the property boundaries Interestingly, except construction of State Route 74 (Fig. 11). Remarkably, the flow of Herkey Creek changed substantially over time, moving from the eastern half of the subject property in 1876/1894, to not existing in 1901, then reappearing in the western half of the property by 1940. By 1955 (date of aerial photos for 1959 USGS maps) a second USGS-designated blueline stream formed the eastern boundary of the subject property but had disappeared by 1975 (date of aerial photos for the 1981 USGS map). Since 1981, the flow pattern of Herkey Creek through the subject property has remained the same.

Fieldwork

There are essentially five different survey areas encompassed by the subject property: east of Herkey Creek, Herkey Creek, west of Herkey Creek (all included in CUP210121, GPA210006, & CZ2100014), the northwest corner of SR 74 and Lake Hemet Drive, and the southwest corner of SR 74 and Lake Hemet Drive (excluded from CUP210121, included in GPA210006 and CZ2100014). While all of the property has been disturbed to some degree, the field conditions of each area are different, so will be addressed individually.

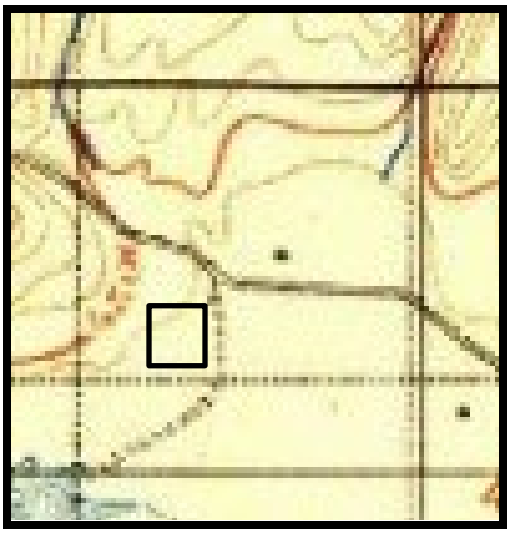
East of Herkey Creek

This area comprises the most acreage and is the only area where the proposed project, The Ridge Wellness Center (CUP210121), will be located. Field conditions varied somewhat between the initial survey on February 22, 20121 and the comprehensive survey conducted on April 14, 2021, due to different vegetation density and resultant ground surface visibility, but the differences were considered negligible. All of this area has been disturbed by prior usage, which primarily appears to have been a campground and equestrian facility. Numerous piles of dirt, debris, wood, rocks, and sawdust cover the southeastern property corner, resulting in an average ground surface visibility of approximately 25%. The remainder of the area east of Herkey Creek, has excellent overall ground surface visibility despite the presence of numerous alterations. These alterations include structures, corrals, campfire rock rings, rock piles, debris, cut trees, refuse deposits, grading, and vehicle activity. Ground surface visibility ranges from 50% to 100%, with an average of approximately $\pm$75%. During the two field surveys, standard survey transects at 15-meter intervals were possible, with all areas accessible except those previously noted. No cultural resources were observed within this area.

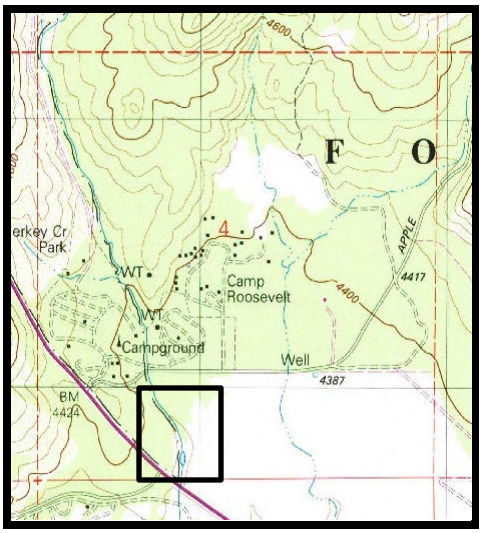


GLO T.6s, R.3e (1876)

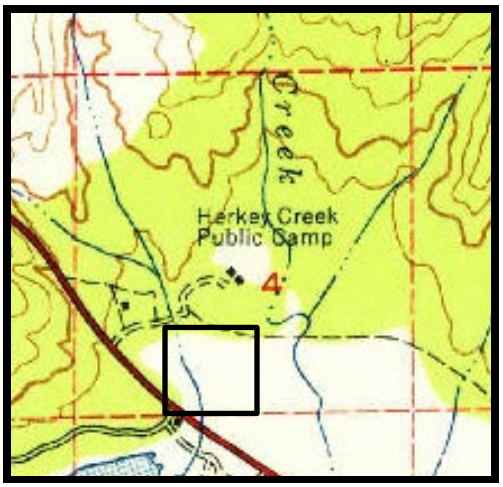
USGS Idyllwild (1959)



USGS San Jacinto (1901)



USGS Idyllwild (1981)



USGS Hemet Reservoir (1940)

Figure 11: Cartographic history of the subject property.

Herkey Creek

At the time of the field surveys, only minimal water was present in the creek, thus permitting standard parallel survey transects at 15-meter intervals and access to all areas with the exception of those with dense riparian vegetation. Ground surface visibility was less than 10% where vegetation was most dense, but 100% in the rest of the creek bed. Thousands of loose rocks fill the entirety of the creek bed and its banks, and both boulders and bedrock outcrops are scattered throughout the area. During the course of the initial field survey, a single bedrock outcrop containing three milling slicks was observed on the western bank of Herkey Creek. No associated cultural resources or evidence of a subsurface cultural deposit were observed. The site was recorded and DPR forms submitted to the Eastern Information Center for assignment of Primary number P-33-029124. The site is described later in this repost and the DPR site record is included in the Appendix of this report.

West of Herkey Creek

Although technically part of CUP210121, no development is proposed in the area west of Herkey Creek. Most of this area, comprised of low ridge slopes and terraces above the creek, has been disturbed to only a minimal degree, but the southern end, which constitutes the southwestern corner of CUPO210121 has been significantly disturbed by a number of activities. These include, but are not limited to, a previous mobile home residence with associated fencing, tree cutting, rock collection and piling, grading, livestock grazing, and some type of agriculture. There is also a dense accumulation of pine needles, debris, and wood in much of this area. With the exception of these disturbed/covered area, the remainder of the area west of Herkey Creek was accessible for survey. Ground surface visibility ranged from 25% to 100%, with an average of approximately +60%.

A single feature of previously recorded archaeological site CA-RIV-9236H was relocated in the disturbed portion of this area, but a second recorded feature could not be found. This site will be discussed in detail later in this report. In addition to this isolated bedrock milling feature, a second, previously unrecorded bedrock milling site was observed during the initial field survey. The site is located on top of a low slope above Herkey Creek and is comprised exclusively of an almost ground-level bedrock outcrop containing two milling slicks. No associated cultural resources or evidence of a subsurface cultural deposit were observed. The site was recorded during the comprehensive field survey and DPR forms submitted to the Eastern Information Center for assignment of Primary number P-33-029123. The site is described later in this report and the DPR form is included in the Appendix.

Northwest corner of SR 74 and Lake Hemet Drive (APN 568-070-006)

This 1.32-acre parcel is included in GPA210006 and CZ2100014, but not within CUP210121 and as such, no development is planned at this time. Much of the northeastern parcel boundary abuts a parking lot that is located partially within the SR 74 ROW. A well-travelled dirt road extends from the parking lot, beginning at its eastern corner and exiting near the center of the western property boundary, essentially bisecting the subject property. Due to the existence of the parking lot and dirt road, as well as its proximity to the Lake Hemet Campground, the property appears to be a common hiking destination with numerous trails and paths throughout its entirety. Vegetation is relatively sparse, enabling good ground surface visibility, but many trees have been cut down and as a result, some areas were not visible due to the presence of logs, wood chips, and sawdust. Overall surface visibility averaged approximately 75%.

Three features of CA-RIV-9236 were recorded on this parcel during a 2008/2009 field survey. These were comprised of two bedrock milling features (Feature 4 and 5), as well as a small lithic scatter (Feature 3), and a scatter of historical glass (not assigned a feature number or UTM location). The current field surveys relocated the two bedrock milling feature loci but could not find either the small lithic scatter (6 large flakes and small shatter) or the historical debris. The field update of CA-RIV-9236 will be described later in the report.

Southwest corner of SR 74 and Lake Hemet Drive (APN 568-070-007)

This 0.10-acre parcel is not included in CUP210121 but is part of associated Planning cases GPA210006 and CZ2100014. There are no development plans for this small parcel located at the northern corner of Lake Hemet Campground and bound on the remaining two sides by the roadways. This parcel has been altered topographically by surrounding uses and is essentially just a small depression. The entirety is currently covered by a variety of grasses, weeds, and debris and as such, ground surface visibility was limited to approximately 10%.

Archaeological Sites CA-RIV-9236, 33-P-029123, and P-33-029124

During the course of the current field surveys, components of previously recorded site CA-RIV-9236 (P-33-017847) were relocated and two additional archaeological sites, P-33-029123 and P-33-029124, each comprised exclusively of bedrock milling features, were observed and recorded (Figure 12). A singe component of site CA-RIV-9236/H and both newly recorded milling sites are technically located within CUP210121, but none are within the proposed development of The Ridge Wellness Center and will remain in open space. The two relocated features of CA-RIV-9236 are located within GPA210006/CZ2100014 and outside of CUP210121. There is no proposed development for this parcel of land.

Figure 12: Location of archaeological sites in relation to The Ridge Wellness Center (CUP210121)

CA-RIV-9236H (P-33-017847)

This site was first recorded in a 2008/2009 archaeological survey conducted by Caltrans archaeologists for the Hurkey Creek Bridge Replacement Project. As previously noted, according to the Eastern Information Center, this study *did not* include the subject property itself, so the circumstances surrounding the site recordation are unclear. According to the site record, the site was described as a multi-component site that contained evidence of both prehistoric and historical activities, with the prehistoric component consisting of a food processing and possible short-term habitation site located on the western flank of Hurkey Creek. The site was recorded as consisting of "A total of five bedrock milling features (two[2] to the north and three[3] of the south of SR 74) containing eight (8) mortars…. Dark ashy soil may indicate the presence of a subsurface cultural deposit." Further, the site contained " a small , tightly clustered quartzite lithic scatter with quartzite core, and two rogue pieces of milky quartz debitage. No formal prehistoric artifacts were recorded on the surface of the site."(DPR CA-RIV-9236/H).

Site feature descriptions and UTMs were inconsistent. Locational data was recorded for four bedrock milling features with eight mortars and one lithic scatter, yet sketches were provided for five bedrock features with eight mortars. The historical component consisted of a small cluster of metal can fragments, amethyst-colored and cobalt-colored glass, and glazeware ceramics near the southwestern corner of the site, but no UTMs were provided for this scatter. A sparse scatter of historical trash was also noted throughout the southern portion of the site, although nothing was specifically identified. A single piece of glazeware ceramic was identified north of SR 74 in the existing shoulder near the two pieces of milky quartz. No photographs of the features were included in the site record and although an aerial photograph of the site was provided, the resolution was such that only one feature could be clearly discerned. Noted disturbances to the site included a parking lot, construction of SR 74, and in the northern portion of the site, heavy ground disturbances in association with construction of a modern mobile home foundation, ancillary buildings, driveway, and fence, as well as livestock grazing.

In May of 2010, testing was conducted by Caltrans archaeologists to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of the site, as well as to determine if features and/or intact subsurface archaeological deposits were present in the Project APE. A remote sensing program consisting of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and a magnetometer survey was conducted. In addition, 17 Shovel Probes (SHP) along the SR 74 ROW both within and southeast of the recorded site location were manually excavated to a depth of 100 cm or until bedrock was reached, and two 10-cm auger borings were placed into the bottom of two SHP to confirm that no cultural materials were present below the final excavation level. No evidence of buried cultural deposits or strata was identified during excavation. One flake was recovered in a disturbed context on the southwest side of the highway within the site boundaries, but no additional artifacts were observed. No

further studies were recommended (RI-10284). There is no indication from the site record or report that the entire site was actually field-checked since the APE was only 15-meters on either side of the edge of highway SR 74. The site description is essentially a simplified version of that contained in the 2009 site record.

A portion of CA-RIV-9236H was field-checked in 2011 by Caltrans archaeologists, but only the first 15 meters from the edge of the highway (Caltrans right-of-way) was examined. Although previous site maps showed the site as being located in or near the SR 74 right-of-way, no trace of the site was found.

The current field survey field-checked the location, bedrock milling features, and artifacts recorded as CA-RIV- 9236H in 2008/2009 and found the information contained in the original site record to be problematic. There were no photographs of the site features and only an aerial photograph was provided to indicate where the site components were located, but the resolution was so poor that it was almost impossible to see anything. There is no indication that subsequent updated studies of the subject property conducted by Caltrans in 2018 included a field check of the recorded features or resource concentrations since the APE of these studies was only 15 meters on either side of the SR-74 roadway and the site features are some distance from that APE.

The original site record reported five bedrock outcrops (two to the north of SR-74 and three to the south of SR 74) with a total of eight mortars, and although sketches were provided for the five features, locational date was only given for four bedrock milling features and one lithic scatter. The UTM location given for Feature 1 was actually where Feature 2 (according to sketch) was found, and no bedrock, let alone one with milling features, was found at the UTM location given for Feature 2 (identified as Feature 1). Further, the UTMs for Feature 4 were actually the UTMs for Feature 5, and vice versa, based on sketches included in the site record. While an abundance of clear glass fragments and other debris was observed throughout the southern portion of the site, no amethyst or cobalt- colored glass was observed. There was no indication that any of the observed material was of historical origin due to a lack of maker's marks and/or other temporally-diagnostic landmarks. This portion of the site is adjacent to a frequently used parking lot, SR 74, Lake Hemet Road, the Lake Hemet Campground, is bisected by a well-used dirt road, and is laced with numerous trails. Due to the amount of pedestrian traffic through this area in the 12 years since the original site survey, it is entirely possible that someone collected the amethyst and cobalt-colored glass. It is also possible/probable that the clear glass and other debris observed during the current field survey is of contemporary origin as it was seemingly just part of the other clearly modern debris scattered throughout the property. The single piece of glazeware and two pieces of milky quart debitage, recorded north of SR-74, could not be relocated during the current field update.

When originally recorded, the portion of CA-RIV-9236H located north of SR 74 and containing Features 1 and 2, was heavily disturbed by the construction of a mobile home foundation, ancillary buildings, a driveway, and fence, as wellas livestock grazing. According to a barely legible aerial photo of the site from the site record, it appears that Feature1 (see above) may have been in the immediate vicinity of a fence, which no longer exists. Currently, there is a small shed, as well as large piles of rock, wood, debris, and dirt in this area. It is possible that when all of the improvements described in 2008/2009 were removed, the bedrock milling feature was destroyed or covered.

The three bedrock milling feature loci that were relocated during the field check were much the same as originally recorded (Fig. 13). However, as previously noted, sketches and locational data contained in the original site record did not match, so the updated site record (and photos) are based on the sketches, with the correct UTMs assigned accordingly. Feature 2 is comprised of a saucer mortar (14 cm x 15 cm x 0.5 cm) and a conical mortar (18 cm x 16 cm x 11 cm) on a granitic bedrock outcrop measuring 2.03 m N/S x 1.7 m E/W. Feature 4 is a saucer mortar measuring 14 cm x 14 cm x 1.5 cm on a granitic bedrock outcrop measuring 1.8 m x 1.45 m. Feature 5 is comprised of a conical mortar (17 cm x 17 cm x 13 cm) and a saucer mortar (12 cm x 12 cm x 2 cm) on a granitic bedrock outcrop measuring 1.4 m x 1.35 m. All of the bedrock is highly exfoliating to the point of actually crumbling, fractured, and lichen-covered, which has seemingly contributed to the poor quality of the features.

Functionally, bedrock mortars have most commonly been associated with the processing of acorns. However, the ethnographic record indicates that a range of other plant food resources, small animals, and minerals for pigments, were also processed in mortars. The presence of both deep conical mortars and shallow saucer mortars at this site may reflect the availability of diverse seasonal resources, with mortar depth/size/shape existing as a function of the differences in resources being processed. Since no associated surface artifacts or evidence of a subsurface cultural deposit were observed, it is not possible to determine exactly which resources were processed at this site.

Feature 2

Feature 4

Feature 5

Figure 13: Relocated CA-RIV-9236H bedrock milling features.

P-33-029123

This site is comprised of a low granitic bedrock outcrop measuring 99.0 cm N/S by 1.35 m E/W, with a height of 46 cm, located on a sandy bank above Herkey Creek. Most of the surface evidenced some degree of wear, ranging from minimal to a high polish (Fig. 14). While there are no completely discrete features, there are three areas that exhibit moderate-to-high polish, although the wear pattern is discontinuous, highly exfoliating, and in most cases, simply scattered high spots. The milling surface measures 40 cm N/S by 45 cm E/W and is considered a single feature, although at one time, it may have been three work areas that merged into a single milling surface. No associated surface artifacts or evidence of a subsurface cultural deposit were observed. Based on the ground surface, elevation, and vegetation, it appears that this bedrock milling site is in an area that floods periodically. This site is considered to represent an isolated food processing station used for a short period of time by an individual during seasonal resource exploitation. Bedrock metates (slicks,) such as the feature found at this site, were typically used with a handstone (mano) to process a variety if seeds and grasses, although the ethnographic record indicates that other plant, animal, and mineral resources may also have been processed at such sites. It is probable that it was associated with one of the large seasonal habitation sites in the vicinity, most likely site CA-RIV-7700 (P-33-014056), which is located approximately one mile to the northwest, or CA-RIV-298 (P-33-000298), which is located less than one-quarter mile to the north.

Figure 14: Archaeological site P-33-029123.

P-33-029124

Located on a ground-level granitic bedrock outcrop measuring 2.4 m N/S by 91.4 cm E/W by 15.2 cm high, this site is located on a ridge slope to the west of Herkey Creek. It is comprised exclusively of two milling slicks that are discontinuous and exfoliating, with primarily minimal wear, but some scattered polished high spots (Fig. 15). The slicks measure 22 cm N/S by 23 cm E/W and 35 cm N/S by 26 cm E/W. No surface artifacts or evidence of a subsurface cultural deposit were observed. This site is considered to represent an isolated food processing station used for a short period of time by an individual during seasonal resource exploitation. It is probable that it was associated with one of the large seasonal habitation sites in the vicinity, most likely either CA-RIV-7700 (P-33-014056), which is located approximately one mile to the northwest, or CA-RIV-298 (P-33-000298) located one-quarter mile to the north.

Figure 15: Archaeological site P-33-029124.

SIGNIFICANCE

Evaluations for site significance are typically made with respect to eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Since this measure of significance has come to be the determining factor in whether or not a particular site warrants consideration by the federal government in federally funded projects, state and local governments often use it to assess sites as well. However, the State of California has established its own criteria, as set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with respect to eligibility criteria for nomination to the California Register of Historical resources and since this is the principal statute utilized by the County of Riverside processing CUP 210121, as well as associated cases GPA 210006 and CZ 2100014, all archaeological sites located therein will be addressed accordingly.

The California Environmental Quality Act applies to all discretionary projects and equates a substantial adverse change in the significance of a cultural resource with a significant effect on the environment. Standards such as those of the California Register were established with the recognition that not every property of a certain age is necessarily significant and what is significant can only be determined by the integrity of the resources and by the historic context in which the property exists. Despite the existence of the above eligibility criteria and similar guidelines for assessing archaeological or historical significance found in other legislation, the determination of significance remains a somewhat subjective, and often difficult, endeavor. This is primarily due to conflicting perceptions of "important" or "distinctive" or "contributing," but also because it is not always easy to remain objective when considering the past.

According to the *Regulations for California Register of Historical Resources* formally adopted by the State Historical Resources Commission on December 31, 2018, and in effect January 1, 2019, an historical resource must be significant at the local, state, or national level under one or more of the following four criteria (Section 15064.5 a):

A. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States; or

B. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history; or

C. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values; or

D. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory of the local area, California, or the nation.

CEQA also relates to archaeological resources, specifically characterizing them as “Unique or Non-Unique” archaeological sites (Section (15064.5 g). As used in this section, “unique archaeological resource” means an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, that there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

1.Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in the information.

2. Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest or its type or the best available example of its type.

3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Alternately, according to this section, a “non-unique archaeological resource” means an archaeological artifact, object, or site which does not meet the criteria in the above subdivision. 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.

Based on the above criteria, it is clear that the bedrock milling features recorded at archaeological sites CA-RIV-9236H (P-33-017847), P-33-029123, and P-33-029124 would be considered “non-unique archaeological resources.” Each appears to be comprised exclusively of a granitic bedrock outcrop containing limited milling features generally evidencing minimal wear or at best, scattered polished high spots. The quality of the bedrock itself is poor - exfoliating, lichen-covered, and fractured - and this has directly impacted the quality of the milling features. The two newly recorded sites are considered isolated food processing stations utilized for a short period of time by an individual during seasonal resource procurement, undoubtedly associated with one of the large seasonal habitation sites within one-quarter to one mile of the sites. It must be noted that since Phase II Testing has not been conducted for any of the sites, except tangentially for P-33-017847, there is no way to determine whether subsurface cultural deposits are associated with the sites. Classification as “non-unique archaeological resources” does not negate the possibility that they could be considered significant resources according to CRHR or NEPA criteria, based on the results of Phase II Testing.

Although CA-RIV-9236H was originally recorded as a multi-component site, only three bedrock milling feature loci could be relocated. These features are similar to those found at P-33-029123 and P-33-029124, the only differences being the close proximity of Features 4 and 5 to each other, instead of isolated occurrences, and that mortars were present instead of only milling slicks. No associated cultural resources were observed during the current field survey and testing

conducted by Caltrans in 2010 found no surface artifacts or subsurface cultural deposits despite using multiple modes of exploration, including two types of remote sensing, manually-excavated SHPs, and machine auger probes.

Bedrock milling sites are the most common sites in the vicinity of CUP 210121 and are ubiquitous throughout Riverside County, with tens of thousands recorded. Typically, unless bedrock milling features have an associated cultural deposit that permits dating of the features and potentially provides information about other site activities, they are considered to have limited data potential and are not considered eligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP. However, unless Phase II Testing has been conducted for a bedrock milling site, it is not possible to determine whether an associated subsurface cultural deposit exists. Until testing has been conducted, there is an assumption that a “non-unique archaeological resource” may possibly be determined significant based on testing results and potentially be eligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cultural resources of historical origin were not observed within the Conditional Use Permit No. 210121 project boundaries or within the boundaries of associated Planning cases General Plan Amendment No. 210006 and Change of Zone No. 2100014. Five cultural resource loci of prehistoric (Native American) origin were discovered during the current field survey, each of which was comprised exclusively of bedrock milling features. Two previously recorded archaeological site loci (CA-RIV-9236H Features 4 & 5) are in the 1.32-acre APN 568-070-006, which is at the southwestern corner of GPA210006 / CZ2100014 and is not part of the proposed project. Feature 2 of CA-RIV-9236H is located near the southwestern corner of CUP210121 in an open space area that will not be developed. In 2010, an Extended Phase I study of CA-RIV-9236H was conducted to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of the site. Multiple modes of exploration found a single lithic waste flake, but no evidence of buried cultural deposits or strata. No further studies were recommended. Two previously unrecorded bedrock milling feature sites are also located within the boundaries of CUP21021. These features are not considered to be part of CA-RIV-9236H, and as such, were assigned Primary numbers P-33-029123 and P-33-029124 by the Eastern Information Center. These sites are located in an open space area west of Herkey Creek that will not be developed as part of The Ridge Wellness Center.

Based on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) criteria, archaeological sites CA-RIV-9236H, P-33-029123, and P-33-029124 would be considered “non-unique archaeological resources.” Typically, unless bedrock milling features have an associated cultural deposit that permits dating of the features and potentially provides information about other site activities, they are considered to have limited data potential and are not considered eligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP. As such, according to CEQA guidelines, a “non-unique archaeological resource” need be given no further consideration, other than the simple recording of its existence by the Lead Agency. It must be noted, however, that since Phase II Testing has not been conducted for any of the sites, except tangentially for P-33-017847, there is no way to determine whether subsurface cultural deposits are associated with the sites. Classification as “non-unique archaeological resources” does not negate the possibility that they could be considered significant resources according to CRHR or NEPA criteria and potentially be eligible for listing.

The subject property is located in a well-studied area with 24 previous cultural resource studies having been conducted within a one-mile radius. During the course of these studies, 24 cultural resources properties have been recorded, one of which involved the project area, as previously discussed. Eleven sites are of prehistoric (Native American) origin, eleven are of historical origin, and two are comprised of both prehistoric and historical components. The predominant cultural resources recorded at the Native American sites are bedrock milling features, reflecting a focus

on seasonal resource procurement and processing. Historical-era cultural resources are primarily associated with State Route 74, State Route 243, and associated roadway features, with two large campground facilities also represented.

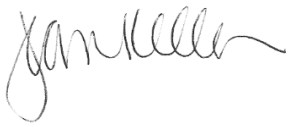
The Native American Heritage Commission determined that the Sacred Lands File search results were negative. Responses to project scoping letters were received from the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation and from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. The Quechan Historic Preservation Office stated that they have no comments on the project and defers to more local Tribes, supporting their decisions. According to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI), the project area is not located within the boundaries of their reservation, but it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. For this reason, they request copies of the records search and report generated in connection with this project, as well as having an approved Cultural Resource Monitor(s) present during any ground disturbing activities. No information has been obtained through Native American consultation that the subject property is culturally or spiritually significant and no Traditional Cultural Properties that currently serve religious or other community practices are known to exist within the project boundaries. During the current cultural resources evaluation, no artifacts or remains were identified or recovered that could be reasonably associated with such practices.

In consideration of the above summary, it is clear that CUP210121 (and associated cases GPA210006 and CZ2100014) are located in an area that is highly sensitive archaeologically and historically. Since the three sites within the boundaries of CUP210121 are within open space areas that are not part of The Ridge Wellness Center development, no further research or mitigation is recommended for the sites at this time. However, should future development of the subject property pose adverse impacts to these features, it is recommended that Phase II Testing be conducted in order to determine whether a subsurface cultural deposit exists, with the results determining appropriate mitigation measures. In addition, considering the fact that archaeological sites are located on the subject property and that two large multi-component sites representing both the prehistoric and historical periods are located immediately north of the property, it is recommended that a Riverside County qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor actively monitor all on-site and off-site ground disturbing activities associated with development of The Ridge Wellness Center, including, but not limited to, grubbing, tree removal, vegetation clearance, trenching, excavation, bedrock removal, and grading. Should any cultural resources be discovered during the course of earthmoving activities anywhere on the subject property, said activities should be halted or diverted until the qualified archaeologist and tribal monitor, with concurrence by the Riverside County Archaeologist, can evaluate the resources, make a determination of their significance with concurrence of the Riverside County Archaeologist, and recommend appropriate treatment measures to mitigate impacts to the resources from the project, if found to be significant. If human remains are encountered

unexpectedly during implementation of the project, compliance with State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 is required, with no further disturbances to the land until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98.

CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the attached report is a true and accurate description of the results of the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment described herein.



Jean A. Keller, Ph.D. Date
Riverside County Certificate No. 232

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1901 Map: San Jacinto, Calif. (30' 1:125,000); surveyed 1897-1898
1959 Map: Idyllwild, Calif. (7.5' 1:24,000); aerial photos taken in 1955
1959 Map: Santa Ana, Calif. (1:250,000); aerial photos taken in 1955
1981 Map: Idyllwild, Calif. (7.5' 1:24,000); aerial photos taken in 1975
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APPENDIX

Sacred Lands File Search Results
Responses to Project Scoping Letters
Record Search Results
DPR Forms