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CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

SPR 23-012 Project
Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

NorthPoint Development proposes the SPR 23-012 Project (project) in Lancaster, California. The project involves constructing a high-cube distribution warehouse and associated site improvements. The project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City of Lancaster is the CEQA lead agency.

This cultural and paleontological resources assessment includes the methods and results of a South-Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) records search; literature and historical map review; historical society consultation; Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search; archaeological field survey; archaeological sensitivity analysis; and a California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) evaluation of a historic road segment and associated refuse scatters (CA-LAN0-1819H). Additionally, the study includes a Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) paleontological records search and online and published database review to identify paleontological localities and determine the paleontological sensitivity of the project area. These efforts were completed to determine whether the project could result in significant impacts to historical and archaeological resources as defined by CEQA Section 15064.5, as well as paleontological resources.

Based on the results of the study, the project area has a high potential to disturb paleontological resources within undisturbed bedrock due to the fossil sensitivity of the rock formations present within the project area (younger playa deposits of Holocene to late Pleistocene age). The SCCIC records search, literature review, interested parties consultation, and archaeological pedestrian survey identified one historic archaeological resource, CA-LAN-1819H, a historic road segment and associated trash scatters. The site was evaluated and is recommended as not eligible for listing in the CRHR. The resource does not meet the definition of historical resources as defined by Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5020.1(j), nor does it meet the criteria for listing on the California Register (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 4850), nor do they meet the definition of a “unique archaeological resource” as defined in PRC Section 21083.2. As such, no further work is recommended for the identified segment of CA-LAN-1819H. No historical resources are identified within the project area.

TABLE MS-1: CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Resource Name	Description	California Register Evaluation	Historical Resource
CA-LAN-1819H	Historic road and associated trash scatters	Ineligible	No

By following the recommended mitigation measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 and PALEO-1, 2, 3, and 4, impacts to cultural and paleontological resources within the SPR 23-012 project area would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

1 INTRODUCTION

In support of the SPR 23-012 Project (project), Michael Baker International completed a cultural resources identification study including a South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) records search; literature and historical map review; historical society consultation; Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search; archaeological field survey; archaeological sensitivity analysis; and a California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) evaluation of a historic road segment and associated refuse scatters identified during the field survey. These efforts were completed to determine whether the project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Additionally, Michael Baker International requested a Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) paleontological records search and searched online and published databases to identify paleontological localities and determine the paleontological sensitivity of the project area. Methods, results, and recommendations are summarized below.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The project area is in the city of Lancaster located in the Antelope Valley in northern Los Angeles County, approximately 70 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. Unincorporated Los Angeles County surrounds the city on all sides. Additional surrounding jurisdictions include unincorporated Kern County further to the north and the city of Palmdale to the south (**Figure 1**). The project area is mapped on the 7.5' quadrangle of *Lancaster West* in the southwest corner of Section 32, Township 8 North, and Range 12 West (**Figure 2**).

The project area is approximately 0.4 miles west of State Route 14 (SR-14). Specifically, the project area is located within the northeastern corner of the intersection of Avenue G and 30th Street West (**Figure 3**). Regional access to the project area is available via SR-14 at the Avenue G exit, approximately 0.4 miles east of the project area. Avenue G and 30th Street West provide local access to the project area. The project area consists of three parcels (Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APNs] 3114-010-002, -003, and -011).

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The approximately 76.8-acre project area is designated "Light Industry (LI)" with a "Specific Plan" overlay based on the *General Plan Land Use Map* in the *Lancaster General Plan 2030*.[1] The project area is zoned "SP 95-01 Fox Field Industrial Corridor Specific Plan" based on the *City of Lancaster Zoning Map*.[2] Based on the *Fox Field Industrial Corridor Specific Plan*, the project area is located within the focused area "Fox Field East" and designated "Light Industrial" and "Manufacturing/Distribution (MFG)."

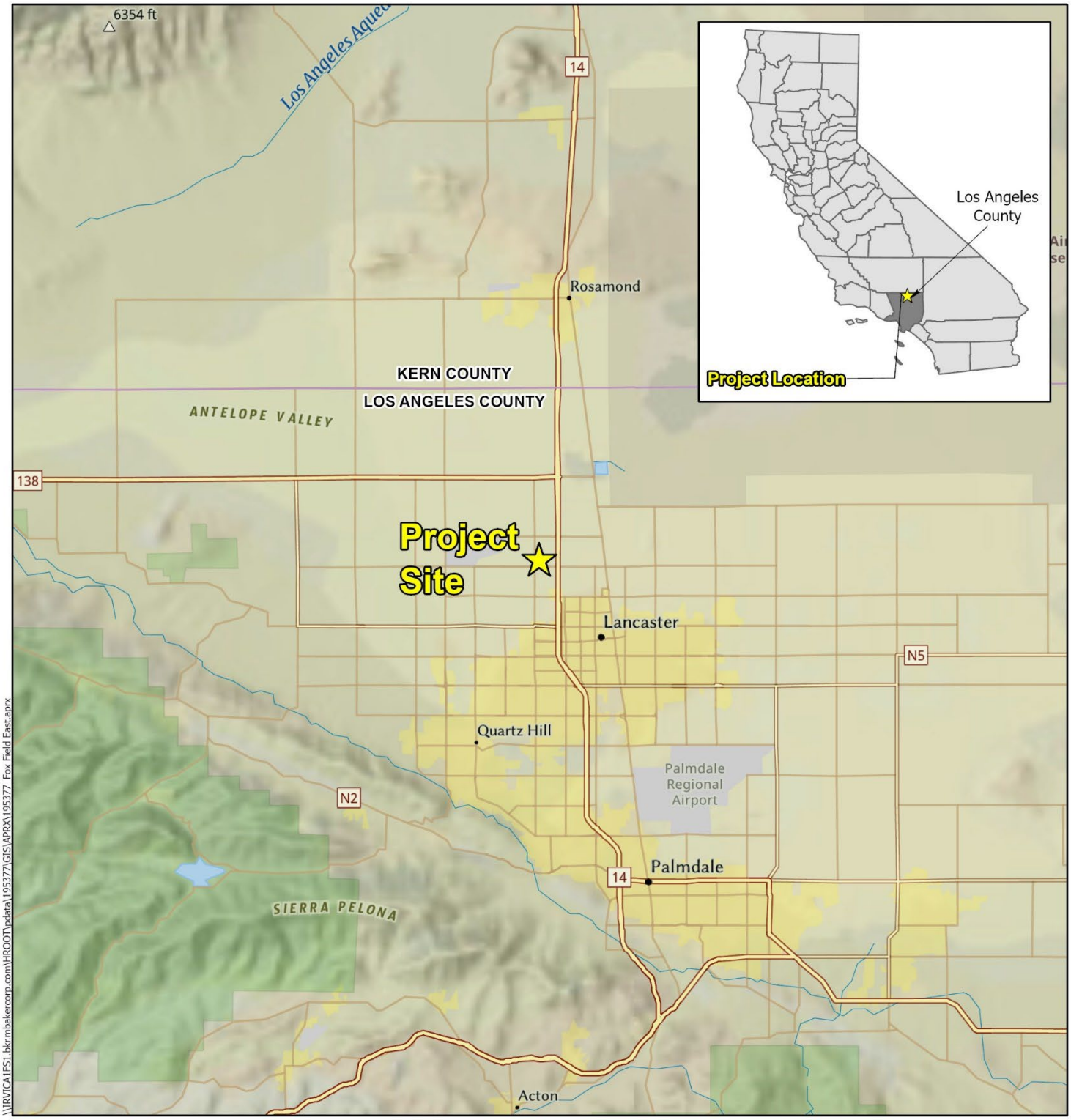
[1] City of Lancaster, *Lancaster General Plan 2030, General Plan Land Use Map*, adopted July 14, 2009, updated September 1, 2015.

[2] City of Lancaster, *City of Lancaster Zoning Map*, adopted July 13, 2010, revised October 26, 2022.

The proposed project involves the construction of a high-cube distribution warehouse. The tilt-up concrete warehousing and distribution facility would be approximately 1,227,596 square feet. The proposed warehouse would be approximately 50 feet in height. Other ancillary improvements would include lighting and utility improvements, among others. The facility is anticipated to employ approximately 467 individuals and could operate 24 hours per day.

Access to the project area would be provided via two full-access driveways along 30th Street West. The project would include 415 trailer parking spaces and 564 passenger vehicle parking spaces. Of the 564 passenger vehicle spaces, 169 would be electric vehicle (EV) parking spaces with electrical charging stations installed, and 113 would be EV charging-capable. The project would also include 28 bicycle parking spaces.

Three total detention basins are proposed, two to the east and one to the west of the building. Additionally, approximately 21.2 acres (27.93% landscaping coverage of the net project area) are proposed throughout the project area.



Legend

★ Project Location

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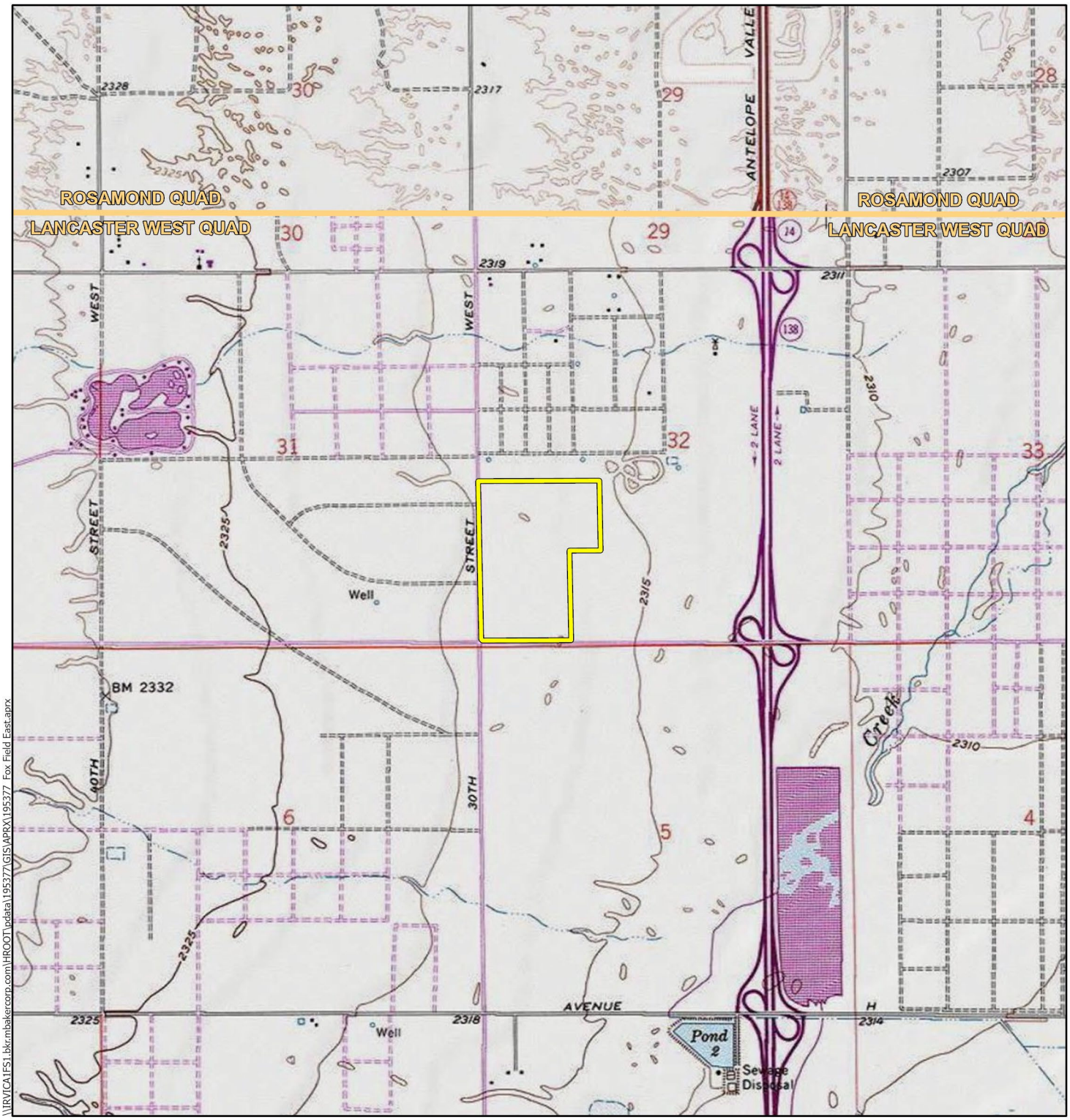
0 2.5 5 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, National Geographic World Map: *Lancaster, California*

SPR 23-012
LANCASTER, CA

Regional Vicinity

Figure 1



\\IRVCA1FS1.bkr.mbakercorp.com\HROOT\pdata\195377\GIS\APRX\195377 Fox Field East.aprx

Legend

Project Area

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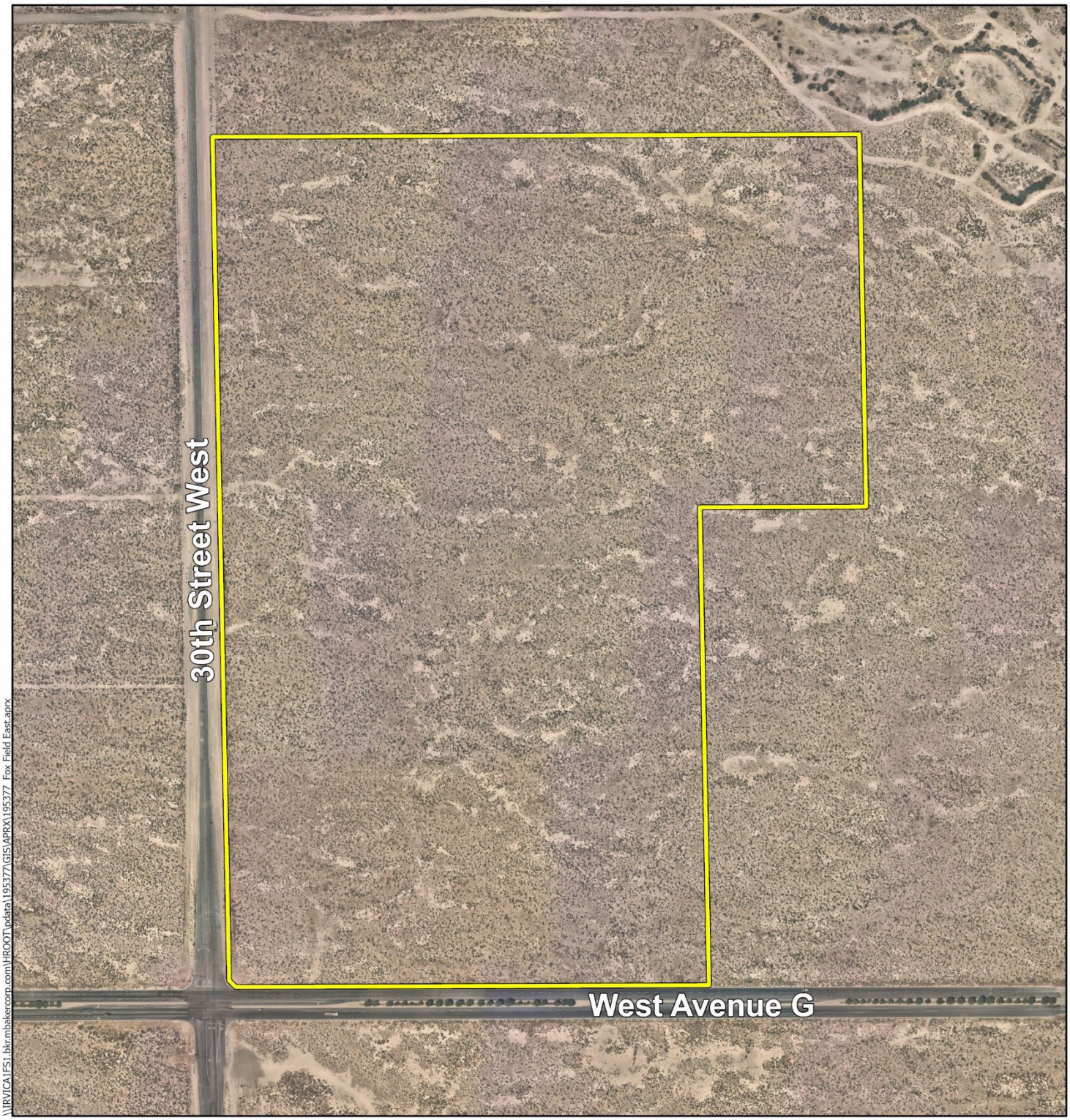
0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, Lancaster West USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: *Lancaster, California*

SPR 23-012
LANCASTER, CA

Project Location

Figure 2



\\IRVICA1FS1.bkr.mbakercorp.com\HROOT\pdata\195377\GIS\APRX\195377_Fox Field East.aprx

Legend

Project Area

0 250 500 Feet

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, 2023 Nearmap Imagery: *Lancaster, California*

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

SPR 23-012
LANCASTER, CA

Project Area

Figure 3

2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

2.1 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CEQA applies to all discretionary projects undertaken or subject to approval by the state's public agencies (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15002[i]). CEQA conditions that it is the policy of the state of California to "take all action necessary to provide the people of this state with historic environmental qualities and preserve for future generations examples of the major periods of California history" (PRC Section 21001[b], [c]). Under the provisions of CEQA, "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[b]).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) defines a "historical resource" as a resource that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register.
- Listed in a local register of historical resources (as defined in PRC Section 5020.1[k]).
- Identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting PRC Section 5024.1(g) requirements.
- Determined to be a historical resource by a project's lead agency (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[a]).

A historical resource consists of "any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be 'historically significant' if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources" (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[a][3]).

The CEQA planning process requires considering historical resources and unique archaeological resources (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5; PRC Section 21083.2). If feasible, adverse effects to the significance of historical resources must be avoided or mitigated (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[b][4]). The significance of a historical resource is impaired when a project demolishes or materially, adversely alters those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and justify its eligibility for the California Register. If there is a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) may be required (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15065[a]).

If the cultural resource in question is an archaeological site, CEQA (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[c][1]) requires that the lead agency first determine if the site is a historical resource as defined in CCR Title 14(3) Section 15064.5(a). If the site qualifies as a historical resource, potential adverse impacts must be considered in the same manner as a historical resource (Office of Historic Preservation [OHP] 2001a). If the archaeological site does not qualify as a historical resource but does qualify as a unique archaeological site, then the archaeological site is treated in accordance with PRC Section 21083.2 (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15069.5[c][3]). In practice, most archaeological sites that meet the definition of a unique archaeological resource will also meet the definition of a historical resource. CEQA defines a "unique archaeological

resource" as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions, and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- Has a special and particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC Section 21083.2[g]).

If an impact to a historical or archaeological resource is significant, CEQA requires feasible mitigation measures to minimize the impact (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15126.4[a][1]). Mitigation must lessen or eliminate the physical impact that the project will have on the resource. Generally, drawings, photographs, and/or displays do not mitigate the physical impact on the environment caused by the demolition or the destruction of a historical resource. However, CEQA (PRC Section 21002.1[b]) requires that all feasible mitigation be undertaken even if it does not mitigate impacts to a less-than-significant level (OHP 2001a: 9).

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register is an authoritative guide to the state's historical resources and to which properties are considered significant for purposes of CEQA (OHP 2001a: 4), and it indicates which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (PRC Section 5024.1[a]). Any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register is to be considered during the CEQA process (OHP 2001a: 4).

A cultural resource is evaluated under four California Register criteria to determine its historical significance. A resource must be significant in accordance with one or more of the following criteria:

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

Age

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the California Register requires that sufficient time must have passed to allow a "scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource." Fifty years is used as a general estimate of the time needed to understand the historical

importance of a resource (OHP 2006: 3). The OHP recommends documenting, and taking into consideration in the planning process, any cultural resource that is 45 years or older (OHP 1995: 2).

Period of Significance

The period of significance for a property is "the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, persons, or attained the characteristics which qualify it for National Register listing" (NPS 1997: 42). The period of significance begins with the date of the earliest important land use or activity that is reflected by historic characteristics tangible today. The period closes with the date when events having historical importance ended. The period of significance for an archaeological property is "the broad span of time about which the site or district is likely to provide information" (NPS 1997: 42). Archaeological properties may have more than one period of significance.

Historic Context

The significance of cultural resources is generally evaluated using a historic context that groups information about related historical resources based on theme, geographic limits, and chronological period (OHP 1995: 11).

Integrity

The California Register also requires a resource to possess integrity, which is defined as "the authenticity of a historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association" (OHP 2006: 2).

Archaeologists use the term "integrity" to describe the level of preservation or quality of information contained within a district, site, or excavated assemblage. Integrity is relative to the specific significance that the resource conveys. Although it is possible to correlate the seven aspects of integrity with standard archaeological site characteristics, those aspects are often unclear for evaluating the ability of an archaeological resource to convey significance under Criterion 4. The integrity of archaeological resources is judged according to the site's ability to yield scientific and cultural information that can be used to address important research questions (NPS 1997: 44–49).

Eligibility

Resources that are significant, meet the age guidelines, and possess integrity are considered eligible for listing in the California Register.

Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains, imprints, or traces of past life preserved in the geologic record. These resources include bones, teeth, soft tissues, shells, plant material, microscopic organisms, footprints, trackways, and burrows. Fossils record the natural history of life on Earth. Despite the frequency of sedimentary rock in the geologic record and the number of organisms that have lived throughout the planet's history, only a minimal number of remains have been preserved in the fossil record.

Paleontological resources are afforded protection by CEQA environmental legislation. Appendix G (part V) of the CEQA Guidelines explains significant impacts on paleontological resources. It details that a project would significantly impact paleontological resources if it disturbs or destroys unique paleontological resources or a unique geologic feature. Additionally, PRC Section 5097.5 specifies that any unauthorized removal of paleontological remains is a misdemeanor. Penalties for this removal or damage of paleontological resources are set forth in California Penal Code Section 622.5.

2.2 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5097.5

PRC Section 5097.5 prohibits excavation or removal of any "vertebrate paleontological site or any other archaeological, paleontological, or historical feature, situated on public lands, except with express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over such lands." Public lands are defined to include lands owned by or under the jurisdiction of the state or any city, county, district, authority, or public corporation, or any agency thereof. Section 5097.5 states that any unauthorized disturbance or removal of archaeological, historical, or paleontological materials or sites located on public lands is a misdemeanor.

2.3 CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 7050.5

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that in the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the remains are discovered has determined whether or not the remains are subject to the coroner's authority. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the coroner must notify the NAHC within 24 hours of this identification. The NAHC will identify a Native American most likely descendant to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods.

2.4 CITY OF LANCASTER GENERAL PLAN 2030

The City of Lancaster General Plan 2030 Plan for Active Living includes goals, objectives, policies, and specific actions designed to protect and conserve historic and archaeological resources. Policies that apply to the proposed project are listed below:

- **Goal 12**: To promote community appreciation for the unique history of the Antelope Valley and the city of Lancaster and to promote community involvement in the protection, preservation, and restoration of the area's significant cultural, historical, or architectural features.
- **Objective 12.1**: Identify and preserve and/or restore those features of cultural, historical, or architectural significance.
- **Policy 12.1.1**: Preserve features and sites of significant historical and cultural value consistent with their intrinsic and scientific values.
- **Specific Action 12.1.1(a)**: As part of the CEQA review process, require site-specific historical, archaeological, and/or paleontological studies when there exists a possibility that significant

environmental impacts might result or when there is a lack of sufficient documentation on which to determine potential impacts.

- **Specific Action 12.1.1(b)**: Include a condition of approval on all development projects that addresses state and federal regulations with respect to the disposition of cultural resources.
- **Specific Action 12.1.1(c)**: Process requests for inclusion in state and federal historic registers those historic and prehistoric sites and features which meet state or federal criteria.
- **Specific Action 12.1.1(d)**: Prior to permitting demolition of any historic structure, require that an evaluation of the condition of the structure, potential adaptive reuse of the structure, and the cost of rehabilitation be undertaken.
- **Policy 19.3.4**: Preserve and protect important areas of historic and cultural interest that serve as visible reminders of the city's social and architectural history.
- **Specific Action 19.3.4(a)**: Through the development review process, apply community design guidelines that incorporate site-sensitive building design techniques into developments that shall integrate harmoniously into the community to preserve areas of historic and cultural interest.

3 PROJECT SETTING

3.1 GEOLOGICAL SETTING

California is divided into 11 geomorphic provinces, each defined by unique geologic and geomorphic characteristics. The project is in the western Mojave Desert geomorphic province, a broad region of isolated mountains separated by expanses of desert plains (CGS 2002). The project area is situated in a geographic sub-region of the southwestern Mojave Desert known as the Antelope Valley. The region is commonly referred to as the "High Desert" due to its approximate elevation of 2,900 feet above sea level. The Mojave Desert is bounded to the west by the Tehachapi Mountains and to the south by the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains. The project area and surrounding area are relatively flat. The San Andreas and Garlock Faults and adjacent mountain ranges, e.g., the Tehachapi Mountains, define the western border of the Mojave Desert province. This province is bordered to the north by the Sierra Nevada and Basin and Range geomorphic provinces, to the west by the Transverse Ranges province, to the south by the Colorado Desert province, and to the east by the Colorado River (CGS 2002).

The western Mojave Desert contains sedimentary (lake- and river-sourced) and volcanic rocks, ranging from Cenozoic to Quaternary deposition (Dibblee 1967; DeCourten 2010) and metamorphic and igneous rocks of Mesozoic and earlier ages (Hernandez 2010; Dibblee and Minch 2008). The Mojave block is a tectonic region in the western Mojave Desert defined by the nearby San Andreas and Garlock Faults, with several accessory faults trending northwest that were active throughout the Quaternary Period (Dibblee 1967).

The geology of the Lancaster area was mapped by Ponti et al. (1980) and Dibblee and Minch (2008) at a scale of 1:62,500, and by Hernandez (2010) at a scale of 1:24,000. The coarser scale map (Dibblee and Minch 2008) indicates that the entire project area is entirely underlain by Quaternary alluvium (Qa), while the finer-scale map (Hernandez 2010) shows the project area consists of Quaternary younger playa deposits (Qyp). Quaternary alluvium consists of unconsolidated to weakly consolidated fluvial gravel, sand, and silt. These alluvial deposits are Holocene in age, a period that overlaps with archaeological concern, though Holocene deposits older than 5,000 years in age can possibly contain significant fossil resources (SVP 2010). Quaternary younger playa deposits in this region are described as moderate to well-consolidated clay with some silt, and they range from Holocene to late Pleistocene in age and possibly contain significant fossil resources. The soil throughout the project area has been mapped as Pond-Oban complex (NRCS 2023). The Pond series consists of poor to moderately well-drained, fine-loamy, mixed soils that occur on nearly level to undulating alluvial fans formed from alluvium from granitic rock (NRCS 2023; USDA 2003). The Oban series consists of moderately well-drained, fine soils that occur on nearly level valley troughs and basins at elevations between 2,300 and 2,500 feet (NRCS 2023; USDA 2015). Like the Pond series, the Oban series formed in alluvium derived from granitic rock sources (USDA 2015).

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located in the western Antelope Valley. The Antelope Valley is in the western tip of the Mojave Desert, surrounded by the Tehachapi, Sierra Paloma, and San Gabriel Mountains. The project area is located on a relatively flat alluvial plain, overlain in places with aeolian deposits. Summers are hot, arid, and clear; winters are cold and partly cloudy. The average annual rainfall is just 7.7 inches.

At an altitude of approximately 2,359 feet above mean sea level (amsl), Lancaster is located in C. Hart Merriam's Lower Sonoran Life Zone. This low-elevation, hot desert life zone is dominated by plants which can survive the arid environment, including creosote bush, desert shrubs, Joshua trees, and other succulents. Animals found in the Antelope Valley include the pronghorn antelope (which gives the valley its name), jackrabbits, pocket gophers, and various reptiles.

The natural surface water near the project area is limited to seasonal creeks, streams, and washes. One named ephemeral creek, Amargosa Creek, is approximately 1.5 kilometers east of the project area.

3.3 CULTURAL SETTING

Unless otherwise noted, this section has been adapted from *Cultural Resources Assessment, Baldy Mesa Solar Project, Adelanto, San Bernardino County, California* (BCR Consulting 2019). Both the Baldy Mesa Solar Project and the Lancaster Eastside Project are located in the western Mojave Desert, and the two project locations share a similar prehistoric and historic background.

The prehistoric cultural setting of the Mojave Desert has been organized into many chronological frameworks. Mojave chronologies have relied upon temporally diagnostic artifacts, such as projectile points, or upon the presence/absence of other temporal indicators, such as ground stone. Five prehistoric periods are proposed for the western Mojave area.

Paleoindian (12,000 to 10,000 before present [BP]) and Lake Mojave (10,000 to 7,000 BP) Periods. Climatic warming characterizes the transition from the Paleoindian to Lake Mojave periods. This transition also marked the end of the Pleistocene epoch and ushered in the Holocene. The Paleoindian period has been loosely defined by isolated fluted (such as Clovis) projectile points, dated by their association with similar artifacts discovered in situ in the Great Plains. Some fluted bifaces have been found in association with fossil remains of Rancholabrean mammals near China Lake in the northern Mojave Desert, and dated to ca. 13,300-10,800 BP. The Lake Mojave period has been associated with cultural adaptations to moist conditions, and with resource allocation pointing to more lacustrine environments. Artifacts that characterize this period include stemmed points, flake and core scrapers, choppers, hammerstones, and crescentics. Projectile points associated with the period include the Silver Lake and Lake Mojave styles. Lake Mojave sites commonly occur on shorelines of Pleistocene lakes and streams, where geological surfaces of that epoch have been identified.

Pinto Period (7,000 to 4,000 BP). The Pinto period has been largely characterized by desiccation of the Mojave. As formerly rich lacustrine environments began to disappear, the artifact record reveals more sporadic occupation of the Mojave, indicating occupants' recession into the cooler, moister fringes. Pinto period sites are rare, characterized by surface manifestations that usually lack significant in situ remains. Artifacts from this era include Pinto projectile points and a flake industry similar to the Lake Mojave tool complex, though use of Pinto projectile points as an index artifact for the era has been disputed. Milling stones have also occasionally been associated with sites of this period.

Gypsum Period (4,000 to 1,500 BP). A temporary return to moister conditions during the Gypsum period is postulated to have encouraged technological diversification afforded by the relative abundance of resources. Lacustrine environments reappear and begin to be exploited during this era. Concurrently, a more diverse artifact assemblage reflects intensified reliance on plant resources. The new artifacts include

milling stones, mortars, pestles, and a proliferation of Humboldt Concave Base, Gypsum Cave, Elko Eared, and Elko Corner-notched dart points. Other artifacts include leaf-shaped projectile points, rectangular-based knives, drills, large scraper planes, choppers, hammer stones, shaft straighteners, incised stone pendants, and drilled slate tubes. The bow and arrow appear around 2,000 BP, evidenced by the presence of a smaller type of projectile point, the Rose Spring point.

Saratoga Springs Period (1,500 to 800 BP). During the Saratoga Springs period, regional cultural diversifications of Gypsum period developments are evident within the Mojave. Basketmaker III (Anasazi) pottery appears during this period, and has been associated with turquoise mining in the eastern Mojave Desert. Influences from Patayan/Yuman assemblages are apparent in the southern Mojave, including the appearance of buff and brown wares often associated with Cottonwood and Desert Side-notched projectile points. Obsidian becomes more commonly used throughout the Mojave, and characteristic artifacts of the period include milling stones, mortars, pestles, ceramics, and ornamental and ritual objects. More structured settlement patterns are evidenced by the presence of large villages, and three types of identifiable archaeological sites (major habitations, temporary camps, and processing stations) emerge. Diversity of resource exploitation continues to expand, indicating a much more generalized, somewhat less mobile subsistence strategy.

Shoshonean Period (800 BP to Contact). The Shoshonean period is the first to benefit from contact-era ethnography, as well as being subject to its inherent biases. Interviews of living informants allowed anthropologists to match artifact assemblages and particular traditions with linguistic groups and plot them geographically. During the Shoshonean period, continued diversification of site assemblages and reduced Anasazi influence both coincide with the expansion of Numic (Uto-Aztecan language family) speakers across the Great Basin, Takic (Uto-Aztecan language family) speakers into southern California, and the Hopi across the southwest. Hunting and gathering continued to diversify, and the diagnostic arrow points include Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood Triangular varieties. Ceramics continue to proliferate, though they are more common in the southern Mojave during this period. Trade routes have become well-established across the Mojave, particularly the Mojave Trail, which transported goods and news across the desert via the Mojave River. Trade in the western Mojave was more closely related to coastal groups.

3.4 ETHNOGRAPHY

Ethnographically, the project area is within the Serrano territory.

The Uto-Aztecan “Serrano” people occupied the western Mojave Desert periphery. The term “Serrano” is generally applied to four groups, each with distinct territories: the Kitanemuk, Tataviam, Vanyume, and Serrano. Only one group in the San Bernardino Mountains and west-central Mojave Desert ethnically claims the term “Serrano.” “The Serrano resided in an area that extended east of the Cajon Pass, located in the San Bernardino Mountains, to Twenty-nine Palms, the north foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains and south to include portions of the Yucaipa Valley” (Bean and Smith 1978: 570). Both the Serrano and Cahuilla utilized the western Mojave region seasonally.

Evidence for longer-term/permanent Serrano settlement in the western Mojave most notably includes the Serrano-named village of Guapiabit in Summit Valley. Access to water determined where the Serrano

built their settlements/villages. Most of the villages were located within the Sonoran life zone (scrub oak [*Quercus sp.*] and sagebrush [*Salvia sp.*]) or forest transition zone (Ponderosa pine [*Pinus ponderosa*]). Like many neighboring tribes, the Serrano and Cahuilla were Takic (Uto-Aztecan language family) speakers. Serrano traded with their neighbors and actively participated in a shell bead exchange economy with the Cahuilla, Luiseño, and Gabrielino. Occasionally, villages were located in the desert, adjacent to permanent water sources.

Structures for families were usually circular domes, constructed of willow frames and tule thatching. Individual family homes were used primarily for sleeping and storage. Families conducted many of their daily routines outside of their house or under a ramada. A ramada consisted of a thatched roof supported by vertical poles in the ground, which provided a shaded work area. Other village structures included a ceremonial house, granaries, and sweathouses. Subsistence strategies focused on hunting and gathering, occasionally supplemented by fishing. Food preparation varied and included a variety of cooking techniques. These ranged from baking in earth ovens to parching. Food processing utilities included scrapers, bowls, baskets, mortars, and metates. A lineage leader, or kika, administered laws and ceremonies from a large ceremonial house centrally located in most villages. The size of lineages is a matter of some dispute, but most probably numbered between 70 and 120 individuals. Serrano people were organized into clans affiliated with one of two exogamous moieties. Clans were led by a hereditary chief who occupied the village “big house” where ceremonies took place and shamans were initiated.

3.5 HISTORY

Historic-era California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish or Mission period (1769 to 1821), the Mexican or Rancho period (1821 to 1848), and the American period (1848 to present).

Spanish Period (1769–1821)

The Spanish period is characterized by exploration and settlement of the area by Europeans. In 1772, Pedro Fages became the first known European explorer to enter the Antelope Valley when he traveled through the Cajon Pass and into the Mojave Desert to pursue deserting soldiers. Fages most likely followed the Mojave Trail, a Native American trail predating European exploration of the area, which followed the Mojave River from Soda Lake to the San Bernardino Mountains, and then down the Cajon Pass into the coastal region. The earliest known contact of native inhabitants in Serrano territory came in 1776 when Francisco Garces visited Native American villages along the upper Mojave River. Garces later traveled the Mojave Trail again when he visited Mission San Gabriel (Barton, Terry, and Scott 2019: 16).

As the Spanish developed commerce between their outposts in Santa Fe and Los Angeles, they further developed a series of trails following the Mojave River, known collectively as the Old Spanish Trail. The trail was utilized for trading goods from Santa Fe and Mexican horses from Los Angeles. After an attack on Mission San Gabriel in 1810 by local Mojave Native Americans, the Spanish used this new trail to raid the deserts, leading to a significant decrease in the native population in the region (Barton, Terry, and Scott 2019: 16).

Mexican Period (1821–1848)

The Mexican period is marked by the inland settlement on large land grants (ranchos) and by the opening of Alta California to American explorers. One such explorer from New York, Jedediah Strong Smith, crossed the Mojave River in 1826, calling it the "Inconstant River" because of its sporadic and partially underground flow. Later, in 1844, General John C. Fremont recorded the Mojave River as the "Mohave River" while in search of the Old Spanish Trail. The route would later be utilized and improved by the Mormon Battalion as they were stationed there between 1847 and 1848 to guard the Cajon Pass during the Mexican-American War. The Mormons used the route to return to Salt Lake City following the war in 1848 (Barton, Terry, and Scott 2019: 16-17).

American Period (1848–Present)

The American period is distinguished by the influx of American and European settlers into the area. In 1848, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill near Coloma on the south fork of the American River, thereby kicking off the California Gold Rush and spurring a mass migration to the state from all over the country.

Lancaster (1876–Present)

In 1876, the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) completed a new track passing through the western Antelope Valley, connecting Los Angeles and Bakersfield. Approximately 3,000 workers, half of them Chinese, labored on the track. Soon thereafter, the SPRR constructed a siding, roundhouse for locomotive repairs, and shacks for railroad workers. The siding and small railroad settlement was named Lancaster (Gurba 2005). This was the future city's first non-indigenous settlement.

In 1883, an artisanal well was drilled at Lancaster, meeting the settlement's most important need. That same year, developer Moses Langley Wicks built a lumberyard in Lancaster, the first commercial structure there. In 1884, Wicks purchased 60 sections (38,400 acres) from the SPRR, marked out lots and streets, and began development of a town (Gurba 2005).

With access to distant markets via a new transcontinental railroad, combined with a climate that provided enough rainfall for dry farming, many homesteaders established farms in the area during the 1880s, cultivating alfalfa, barley, wheat, and tree fruits. The profitability of farming decreased substantially, however, between 1894 and 1904 due to a severe drought that decimated the region's economy and forced many farmers to abandon their homesteads (Los Angeles County Library 2022).

In the early twentieth century, agriculture revived in the Antelope Valley with increased irrigation, made possible by electricity. By the 1930s, much of the Antelope Valley was under cultivation for alfalfa, and downtown Lancaster served as the local commercial hub (Gurba 2005).

The decade-long drought also hurt cattle ranches in the Lancaster area. Cattles ranches had been established in the Antelope Valley as early as the 1840s. With the discovery of gold in California and the rising demand for beef, cattle ranching became increasingly important to the local economy. However, during the second decade of the twentieth century, land disputes between ranchers and farmers led to the fencing of land by farmers and alfalfa growers to protect their crops from damage by livestock. This restriction, combined with a population increase in the Antelope Valley, contributed to a substantial decline in the local cattle industry during the 1920s (Los Angeles County Library 2022).

For farmers, however, the first half of the twentieth century was a productive period overall. With advancements in irrigation methods and electrical water pumps, farmers could access underground water with relative ease. The new, modern pumps provided a more reliable source of water than the free-flowing artesian wells and contributed to a resurgence in local farming beginning in 1905. In addition to reestablishing crops and orchards that had previously thrived, farmers were able to utilize these modern irrigation methods to cultivate crops, particularly alfalfa, on a large, commercial scale. By 1920, alfalfa had emerged as the Antelope Valley's major crop, with up to 100,000 tons produced annually by the early 1930s. Other important agricultural products included pears, grapes, and poultry. After World War II, the economy of the Antelope Valley shifted largely from agriculture to the defense and aerospace industries. The area around the subject property, however, still retains its rural, agricultural character (Thompson 1929; Gardiner 2002).

While alfalfa requires 4.92 acre feet of water per year to grow, the same amount of onions require only 2.96 acre feet per year. Increased demand for onions as greater Los Angeles boomed in the post-World War II years led to a sizable increase in onion production in Lancaster and the surrounding Antelope Valley. At the height of onion production in the Antelope Valley, 29 onion farms worked 5,000 acres (Drake 2019; Pera 2021). The Calandri family is the last onion grower in the Antelope Valley. In 1946, Pacoima-born John Calandri moved to the Antelope Valley east of Lancaster and began growing cantaloupes. He continued growing melons, later experimenting with carrots, before specializing in onions (*Valley Times* 1954). Early on, the primary Calandri farm was located on B Street between 90th and 110th Streets (*Valley Times* 1960), but it was expanded by both Calandri and his family. In the 1980s, John Calandri, Jr. purchased additional acreage and began farming onions. The two farms were merged after the senior Calandri's death. Today, John Calandri, Jr.'s son Brandon Calandri manages the sprawling Calandri family operations, and his large onion-growing operation encompasses the entirety of the Cannabis Facility site (Onion Business 2016).

Although aerial imagery and newspaper accounts indicate that land use on the Cannabis Facility site was agricultural and planted with row crops—perhaps alfalfa during the late 1940s and onions beginning in the 1950s—the 1974 United States Geological Survey (USGS) aerial image reveals that a portion of the property near 40th Street East and East Avenue K 8 had been developed with an equestrian training track and a long, L-shaped stable with 20 stalls (NETRonline 1948; Onion Business 2016). By 2005, Google Earth aerial imagery shows that the stables were physically deteriorating, suggesting that the property was no longer being used to board and train horses. Today, the track is no longer extant, and the area is now used to store trailers, irrigation pipes, and farm equipment. While the property at 43200 40th Street East is no longer used for equestrian-related purposes, there are still a few horse boarding and training ranches in the area, including the 100-year-old Lazy T Ranch located 20 miles south of Lancaster (Lazy T Ranch 2022).

4 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS

Michael Baker International conducted background research to identify previously recorded paleontological resources within the project vicinity. The research consisted of records searches for paleontological resources at the NHMLAC, a search of online databases, and a paleontological sensitivity analysis. Results of the efforts are presented in this section.

4.1 PALEONTOLOGICAL RECORDS SEARCHES

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Michael Baker International staff received a fossil locality records search from the NHMLAC on August 27, 2023 (**Appendix A**). The records search showed no previously identified fossil localities within the project area. However, several fossil localities from similar sedimentary deposits to those mapped within the project area occurred nearby. The closest fossil localities are LACM VP 7853, a rich fossil locality approximately four miles east of the project area, and LACM VP 7884, a fossil locality approximately four miles southeast of the project area. Additional localities are documented in **Table 1** and include Holocene and Pleistocene-aged mammal, reptile, and fish fossils.

TABLE 1. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES FROM NHMLAC RECORDS SEARCH

Collection Number	Taxa	Formation	Intervals	Depth	Distance to Project Area
LACM VP 7884	Camel (*Camelops hesternus*)	Unknown formation (fluvial brown clayey silt)	Pleistocene	4 feet below ground surface (bgs)	<4 miles SE
LACM VP 7853	Rabbit (*Sylvagus*), camel family (*Camelidae*), antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus*), kangaroo rat (*Dipodymus*), pocket mouse (*Perognatus*), pack rat (*Neotoma*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus*), vole family (*Microtinae*), iguana (*Dipsosaurus*), pocket gopher (*Thomomys*), spiny lizard (*Sceloprus*), side blotched lizard (*Uta*), colubrid snakes (*Trimorphodon, Masticophis, Phyllorynchus*), night lizard (*Xantusia)*, western alligator lizard (*Elgaria*), toothy skinks (*Plestiodon*), whiptail lizard (*Aspidocelis*), spiny lizards (*Phrynosomatidae*), smelt (*Osmeridae*)	Unknown formation (sandy loess under a dune deposit strand, sandy siltstone, siltstone to clayey siltstone)	Pleistocene	3–11 feet bgs	<4 miles E

Collection Number	Taxa	Formation	Intervals	Depth	Distance to Project Area
LACM VP 5942-5950	Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis*), Lizard (*Lacertilia*), leopard lizard (*Gambelia*); snake (*Ophidia*), gopher snake (*Pituophis*); rabbit (*Lagomorpha*), rodent (*Rodentia*), Pocket gopher (*Thomomys*), pocket mouse (*Chaetodippus*), kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys*); birds (*Aves*)	Unknown formation	Holocene	0-9 feet bgs	~22 miles SE
LACM VP 7891	Camel (*Hemiauchenia*)	Unknown formation	Pleistocene	21 feet bgs	~16 miles NW

Online Paleontological Records Searches

Michael Baker International conducted supplemental paleontological records searches within four miles of the project area using the following websites:

- University of California Museum of Paleontology Locality Search (UCMP 2023)
- San Diego Natural History Museum Collection Database (SDNHM 2023)
- The Paleobiology Database (PBDB 2023)

While the databases showed no previously identified fossil localities within the project area, one locality reported by the PBDB is within 3.5 miles of the project area (**Table 2**). Upon further examination of this locality, it was discovered that the reported geologic formation (Juncal Formation) does not appear on the local geologic maps (Dibblee and Minch 2008; Hernandez 2010), and the source document for this locality (Squires 1988) reports fossil localities for Lockwood Valley in Ventura County (approximately 50 miles west of the project). It is possible that the GPS coordinates for this PBDB record were entered incorrectly.

TABLE 2. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES FROM ONLINE DATABASES

Collection	Taxa	Formation	Intervals	Distance to Project area
PBDB	Bivalves (clams, cockles), gastropods (turban snails, tower snails, cone snails)	Juncal Formation	Eocene	~9 miles NW

4.2 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The NHMLAC paleontological records search and fossil locality searches of online databases (PBDB, SDNHM, and UCMP) did not identify any paleontological resources within the project area. However, two localities have been found at shallow depths and within four miles of the project area from similar rock formations to those underlying the project, including one locality with several mammal, reptile, and fish fossils. Per mitigation impact guidelines set forth by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP 2010), due to the fossil sensitivity of the rock formations present within the project area (younger playa deposits of Holocene to late Pleistocene age), the project has a high potential to disturb paleontological resources within undisturbed bedrock.

5 CULTURAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS

Michael Baker International conducted an SCCIC records search; literature, map, and aerial photograph reviews; NAHC Sacred Lands File search; local historical group consultation; field survey; and one California Register evaluation. Methods and results of the efforts are presented in this section.

5.1 SCCIC RECORDS SEARCH

On August 31, 2023, Michael Baker Senior Archaeologist Marc Beherec, PhD, RPA, conducted a records search at the SCCIC (**Appendix B**). The records search included the project area and a half-mile radius. The SCCIC is part of the California Historical Resources Information System; it is housed at California State University, Fullerton, an affiliate of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). The SCCIC is the official state repository of cultural resources records and reports for Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties. Michael Baker International supplemented this search with available online databases maintained by federal and state repositories. As part of the records search, the following federal and California inventories were reviewed:

- California Inventory of Historic Resources (OHP 2023a).
- California Points of Historical Interest (OHP 1992).
- California Historical Landmarks (OHP 1996).
- Built Environment Resource Directory (OHP 2023b). The directory includes resources evaluated for listing, as well as those listed in the National Register of Historical Places (National Register), National Historic Landmarks, CRHR, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest for Riverside County.

Results

Previous Studies

A total of eight cultural resources studies have been conducted within the half-mile search radius (**Table 3**). Of those studies, one (LA-07991) addresses the project area. However, that particular study is a cultural resources overview study of the entire city of Lancaster and only included a reconnaissance-level field survey which included a “windshield survey” of the Lancaster planning area and spot checks of previously identified cultural resources. The project area has not previously been subjected to an intensive archaeological pedestrian survey.

TABLE 3. PREVIOUS STUDIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND SEARCH AREA

Report Number	Author	Title/Description	Date	Addresses Project Area
LA-02054	Love, Bruce and William H. De Witt	Cultural Resources Evaluation for Lancaster EIR Group 13 Lancaster, Los Angeles County	1990	No
LA-02140	Alexander, Molly B.	An Archaeological Investigation of a 448+/- Acre Parcel in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County	1989	No
LA-05323	Norwood, Richard H.	Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for a 200 Acre Property "parcel 3" 30th Street West and West Avenue G, Lancaster, Los Angeles County California	2000	No

Report Number	Author	Title/Description	Date	Addresses Project Area
LA-05799	McKenna, Jeanette A.	City of Lancaster, Avenue G Improvements and Associated Elements	2001	No
LA-07991	Tang, Bai "Tom," Michael Hogan, and Josh Smallwood	Cultural Resources Technical Report City of Lancaster General Plan Update	2006	Yes
LA-08986	Schmidt, James J.	Southern California Edison (SCE) Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Mechanic's Yard, Avenue F and 30th Street West, Lancaster Area, Los Angeles County, California.	2007	No
LA-09679	Loftus, Shannon L. and Robin D. Turner	Cultural Resource And Paleontological Assessment, North Los Angeles / Kern County, Regional Recycled Water Master Plan, Los Angeles / East Kern Counties, California.	2008	No
LA-11455	Orfila, Rebecca	Archaeological Survey for the Southern California Edison Company: Thirty-nine (39) deteriorated power poles near Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California	2011	Yes

Documented Resources

A total of seven cultural resources are documented within the half-mile search radius, as identified below (**Table 4**). The resources include three prehistoric isolated artifacts and four historic sites including one historic dirt road and three refuse scatters. No previously recorded sites were identified within or intersecting the project area.

TABLE 4. RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY RECORDED IN THE PROJECT AREA AND SEARCH AREA

Primary Number	Permanent Trinomial	Description	Age	Evaluation Status	Distance from Project Area
P-19-001819	CA-LAN-001819H	Historic Site – Five Points Dirt Road	Middle 20th Century	Not evaluated	78 meters
P-19-002823	CA-LAN-002823H	Historic Site – Refuse Scatter	Middle 20th Century	Not evaluated	435 meters
P-19-004751	CA-LAN-4751H	Historic Site – Refuse Scatter	Middle 20th Century	Not evaluated	646 meters
P-19-100318	--	Historic Isolate – Three pieces of historic amethyst glass	Prehistoric	Ineligible	642 meters
P-19-100408	--	Prehistoric Isolate – Flake tool	Prehistoric	Ineligible	650 meters
P-19-100409	--	Prehistoric Isolate – Secondary flake	Prehistoric	Ineligible	583 meters
P-19-100410	--	Prehistoric Isolate – Secondary	Prehistoric	Ineligible	655 meters

5.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Michael Baker International reviewed publications, maps, and websites for archaeological, ethnographic, historical, and environmental information about the project area and its vicinity. Literature reviewed here includes:

- *Township 8 North Range 12 West, San Bernardino Meridian Plat map* (GLO 1856)
- *73. Part of Southern California* (Wheeler 1883)
- *Perris' Miners' Map of Southern California* (Perris 1896)
- *Elizabeth Lake, Calif,*. 1:96,000 scale topographic quadrangle (USGS 1915)
- *Oban, Calif.*, 1:24,000 scale topographic quadrangle (USGS 1930)
- *Oban, Calif.*, 1:24,000 scale topographic quadrangle (USGS 1934)
- *A Guide to Historic Places in Los Angeles County* (Grenier, Nunis, and Poole 1978)
- *Historic Spots in California* (Hoover et al. 2002)
- Aboriginal Society in Southern California (Strong 1929)
- A Brief Sketch of Serrano Culture (Benedict 1924)
- Serrano (Bean and Smith 1978)
- Handbook of the Indians of California (Kroeber 1925)
- "The Desert Serrano of the Mojave River" (Sutton and Earle 2017)
- *Here Roamed the Antelope* (Glen 1963)
- *The Antelope Left and the Settlers Came* (Glen 1975)

Results

The project area is located within the traditional ancestral territory of the Serrano. This ethnic group was given the name "Serrano," meaning "mountaineers," by the Spanish who encountered them in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Cajon Pass, but their territory continued east onto the desert floor of the Mojave. The Serrano were organized into small villages and hamlets. Most of these settlements were located in the Upper Sonoran Life Zone, ranging in elevation from approximately 3,500 feet amsl to 7,000 feet amsl, from which seasonal parties would depart to exploit the diverse ecologic areas in the desert, mountains, and passes that made up their territory. Some permanent villages were located around permanent water sources on the desert floor (Bean and Smith 1978; Benedict 1924; Strong 1929). Unfortunately, the ethnogeography of the western Antelope Valley is not well-documented. The project area does not appear in comprehensive maps of Native American sites in Southern California such as Kroeber's (1925) or even in maps focused on the Serrano and Desert Serrano (Benedict 1924: 367; Strong 1929: 7; Sutton and Earle 2017: 22). The consulted sources identified no hamlets, villages, or named locations within project area.

Middle nineteenth-century General Land Office maps depict a completely unsettled area devoid of buildings, roads, and trails. No human-made features are visible in these maps (GLO 1856). By the late nineteenth century, Lancaster had been founded along the SPRR line (Perris 1896; Wheeler 1883).

A review of the historic aerials and topographic maps associated with the project area indicate that the project area has undergone no development. A dirt road ran through the project area during the early twentieth century. The dirt road is visible on the 1915 *Elizabeth Lake, CA* topographic map (USGS 1915)

on up to the 1949 *Oban, CA* topographic map (USGS 1949). The road is also visible in aerials from 1930 (UCSB 1930) and 1948 (NETR 2023) up until 1994 when the road is no longer visible. The road stretched between Lancaster and a community formerly known as Five Points at the intersection of 60th Street West and Avenue D. The road was known as the Five Points-Lancaster Road (Settle 1963). In an article written by Glen Settle for the Kern-Antelope Historical Society in 1963, C.J. Gerblick, a citizen of the region in the early 1900s, explained that the road runs along what is now Avenue 60 West for approximately two miles and then in a southeast direction across the desert to Lancaster. He commented that there were few signs of life except for large herds of cattle and the occasional cowboy on that route. Mr. Gerblick also noted that there was an artesian well flowing about a mile and a half west of Lancaster. The artesian well is identified on the topographic maps of the area approximately 100 meters north of the northwest corner of the project area. The Five Points-Lancaster Road was used well into the 1930s to avoid sand and bogs on the direct route between Rosamond and Lancaster (Settle 1975).

5.3 INTERESTED PARTIES CONSULTATION

Native American Coordination

On August 14, 2023, Michael Baker International sent a letter describing the project to the NAHC in Sacramento asking the commission to review its Sacred Lands File for any Native American cultural resources that the project might impact. The NAHC responded with a letter sent via email, dated September 8, 2023. The letter stated, "A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative" (**Appendix C**).

Separately, the City of Lancaster is conducting Assembly Bill 52 consultation with those tribes who have informed the City in writing of their interest in consulting on projects in the City's jurisdiction. No Native American contact was completed by Michael Baker International. The City will document the Assembly Bill 52 consultation results separately as part of the environmental document.

Historical Society Consultation

On September 12, 2023, Michael Baker International sent a letter describing the project, with maps depicting the project area, to the Kern Antelope Historical Society based in Rosamond, California. The letter requested any information about, or concerns regarding, historical resources that may be impacted by the project (**Appendix D**). No response to the consultation letter has been received to date.

5.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PEDESTRIAN SURVEY

Survey Methods

Michael Baker International archaeologists Marcel Young, BA, and Alexandra Aguilar conducted an archaeological field survey of the area of the potential area from September 6 through September 8, 2023. The survey started at the southeast corner of West Avenue G and 30th Street West and moved west. It was completed along 30th Street West and the northmost boundary of the project area, which is just south of West Avenue F 8. All portions of the project area were accessible and surveyed systematically along east/west-oriented transects spaced at 15-meter intervals.

Before fieldwork, a map was created in ArcGIS Online that includes the project area and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) feature classes, including point, line, and polygon features for collecting data in the field. The maps were downloaded in Esri's Field Maps app on Apple iPads and coupled via Bluetooth with a Trimble DA2 Catalyst GNSS GPS receiver with submeter accuracy. The iPad and GPS unit were used to locate and survey the project area accurately. The Field Maps app allows for photographs of features, artifacts, and overviews to be attached to GIS points, lines, and polygons recorded in the field.

Digital photographs taken with the Solocator application allowed for photographs with directional and field-of-view information to be geotagged. Documentation of the project area environment and the general character of the project area were collected via photographs and field notes.

A daily survey summary form was completed at the end of the survey to convey the conditions of the area and summarize findings. This form included a description of vegetation cover (including contextual photographs) and estimates of ground surface visibility, rated as poor (0-25%), fair (26-50%), well (51-75 %), or excellent (76-100%). Evidence for buried cultural deposits was opportunistically sought by inspecting natural or artificial erosional exposures and the spoils from rodent burrows.

Survey Conditions

The project area was accessed via 30th Street West and West Avenue G. The project area consists of rural undeveloped property which has been utilized for livestock grazing and light travel historically. Disturbances include evidence of vehicular travel and modern roadway maintenance. Modern and historic refuse includes Styrofoam, broken plastic from toys and household items, discarded clothing, glass bottle fragments, modern aluminum cans, and tin cans. There are scant instances of shotgun shell casings, as well as fragments of clay disc practice targets. In the northwest quadrant of the project, a partially intact fence line consistent with the remnant barbed wire and wooden posts noted as disturbances runs north to south and then east to west for an unknown distance beyond the project's footprint. Visibility is moderate (30%) due to vegetation, and the ground surface is relatively flat with small mounds, some waist-high, formed from windblown dirt. Vegetation is a mix of native and introduced species such as shadscale saltbrush, Cattle saltbrush, rubber rabbitbrush, desert mariposa lily, California buckwheat, and saltwort (**Photo 1**). Sediments observed throughout the project area consisted of fine sandy loam and silty clay loam with inclusions of granitic pea-gravel.

Photo 1: Overview of the project area (facing southeast).

Survey Results

During the archaeological pedestrian survey, eight historic trash scatters were identified along an alignment from the southwestern corner of the project area to the northwestern edge. As mentioned in Section 5.3, the two-track dirt road, referred to historically as Five Points Road, once ran through the project area along a similar alignment. The artifacts within the trash scatters predominantly consisted of tin cans, glass bottles, ceramic shards, and automotive parts from the early to mid-twentieth century. During the survey, the locations of the historic artifacts encountered in the trash scatters were recorded with the GPS, and boundaries were drawn around the concentrations. When the locations were overlaid on the historic aerials from 1930 and 1948, the recorded trash scatters are positioned along the road visible in the aerials (**Confidential Figure 4**). However, the archaeological survey crew did not see any evidence of the previous two-track dirt road on the ground. No ruts or linear clearings were noted. Vegetation, wind, and modern off-roading have likely masked the alignment of the historic dirt road. As mentioned previously, Five Points Road is depicted on the topographic quadrangle up to 1949 and can be seen in historic aerials up to 1990. Then, it is no longer easily discernable in subsequent years' aerials. Given the spatial relation to the previous road alignment, and that a segment of Five Points Road was previously recorded, the trash scatters and the portion of the historic road intersecting the current project area were recorded as an extension of CA-LAN-1819H. The resource is described below and has been recorded on DPR 523 series forms included in **Appendix E**. No additional historic or prehistoric archaeological resources were encountered during the survey.

CA-LAN-1819H

A segment of the historic Five Points-Lancaster Road (CA-LAN-1819H) was recorded by Bruce Love and William H. De Witt of Pyramid Archaeology in May 1990 in the parcel south of West Avenue G. However, their location map shows the road skewed left of its actual location in the historic aerials. The site record on file at the SCCIC indicates that the road was barely discernable through the low brush and could only be seen when looking along the alignment of the road. It was noted that the road trace is straight and consists of two parallel tracks through the brush.

During the current survey, the only physical evidence that CA-LAN-1819H intersected the project area was the eight historic trash scatters that follow the alignment of the road as depicted on aerial imagery from the early twentieth century. The updated site boundary for CA-LAN-1819H includes the portion of the historic road alignment as depicted on the 1948 aerial that intersects the project area and the locations of the eight trash scatters identified (**Confidential Figure 5**). Trash Scatter 2, located adjacent to 30th Street West, is also included in the site boundary as the artifacts are contemporaneous in age as the other scatters and were adjacent to the previous dirt road that ran north/south and intersected Five Points Road.

Trash Scatter 1 measures approximately 60 meters east/west by 20 meters north/south and consists of about 108 historic artifacts, including cans, glass bottle fragments, ceramic dinnerware shards, and fragments of wooden furniture. The survey crew counted 24 whole sanitary cans, 53 crushed or fragmented ones, and six other tin cans. The types of cans identified include hoe-in-top and sanitary cans and date to the first half of the twentieth century (Rock 1993). One complete Ball jar was identified, along with 11 glass bottle bases and approximately 20 other glass bottle fragments. The Ball jar dates to between 1933 and 1962. One cobalt bottle base is that of a Phillips milk of magnesia bottle with the embossed lettering that reads “GENUINE (slight arch) / PHILLIPS (horizontal) / MADE IN U.S.A. (slight inverted arch)” – with the last line upside down in relation to the first two and a “G” to the left of “GENUINE” indicating it was produced by Gulfport Glass Co. sometime between 1955 and 1970) (Lockhart, Shriever, and Serr N.D.). One Ball mason jar bottle base may be dated to 1968 based on the maker’s mark and an embossed number “68” on the bottom. Two Purex brown bottle bases are dated 1958 and 1959 based on the circled L maker’s mark indicating Latchford Glass Co. as the manufacturer. One has an embossed “58,” and the other has an embossed “59” to the right of the mark, identifying the years of manufacture. The glass shards' colors include clear, brown, green, aqua, amethyst, and cobalt. Twenty-five pieces of ceramic dinnerware were counted in Trash Scatter 1. Other historic debris noted included wooden furniture fragments, furniture legs, and one broken toilet.

Trash Scatter 2 measures approximately 20 meters by five meters in size. The trash scatter consists of five glass bottle bases, including one brown Purex bottle base with a maker’s mark that dates to 1958. A total of 48 ceramic shards were counted, including nine teal Fiesta ware shards, seven yellow Fiesta ware shards, 23 plain white ceramic shards, and four shards with scalloped edges. Just one sanitary tin can was identified in Trash Scatter 2.

Trash Scatter 3 measures approximately 55 meters east/west by 25 meters north/south and consists of six whole sanitary cans, 14 crushed cans, two paint cans, and one large square tin can. Nine glass bottle bases and multiple aqua and green glass shards were noted. One clear glass bottle base has a maker’s

mark that indicates it was produced by the Thatcher Manufacturing Company between 1944 and 1985 (Lockhart et al. 2007). A brown glass bottle base with "Jefferson Food Products" and a date of 1996 are embossed on the bottom. A relatively modern Crush Soda bottle was also identified, indicating that the road may have remained in use at least to off-roaders well into the 1990s. Several automotive parts were identified, including nuts, bolts, washers, gaskets, hoses, springs, and two tires.

Trash Scatter 4 measures 12 meters east/west by 10 meters north/south and consists of around 54 artifacts consisting of 30 glass bottle fragments, 11 metal jar lids, 10 ceramics, and three metal cans. One of the bottle bases contains a Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. maker's mark used from 1923 to 1982 (Lockhart et al. 2007). The bottom half of a Nehi soda bottle was identified in the trash scatter. This particular product and glass bottle were manufactured and in use from 1939 to 1956 (Lockhart 2010). One of the cans identified was a pull-tab beer can of the first design manufactured between 1962 and 1964 (Rustycans.com 2023).

Trash Scatter 5 measures approximately 10 meters east/west by 10 meters north/south and consists of several tin cans and glass shards of clear, green, brown, and cobalt colors. There are also several ceramic shards. Of the diagnostic glass bottles and bases in this trash scatter, there is one clear milk bottle with an orange label that reads "Manfulls DAIRY FARM I invite you to visit our farm C.W. Manfull MANFULL REG CAL." This bottle base is square and shows the Owens-Illinois Glass Company's maker mark that has a date range of 1954 to present at the apex. At the center is stamped "Duraglass" in cursive (Lockhart et al. ND). Other glass bottles include a glass Coke bottle with a label that has the original "Coca Cola" on one side with "TRADE MARK…" on the opposite side, and the maker's mark reads "ANGELES." There is also one brown liquor bottle base with the maker's mark "THE CHRISTIAN BROS 686K OF CALIF," along with a maker's mark of an O with an L inside, associated with the Latchford Glass Company, that dates to the 1930s. Six metal can lids were also identified, including an oil can lid that reads "SAE 10W-20W 30," two church-key opened cans, one cone top can, and two sanitary can lids.

Trash Scatter 6 measures approximately 20 meters east/west by 40 meters north/south and consists of glass bottle fragments, tin cans, and ceramic shards. The bottle fragments with diagnostic attributes include one clear soda bottle base with the maker's marks "S [G C monogram with angular, stylized intertwined letter] 9" at the apex, as well as "1132" and "0" at the bottom dating to 1934-ca. 1968 (Lockhart et al. N.D.); one Owens-Illinois brown beer bottle base that is stippled and has embossing that reads "20 [diamond with an O] 9," "IA" at the apex, and "2984 A" at the bottom; one cobalt ointment base reading "GENUINE PHILLIPS MADE IN U.S.A" with a side and heel seam that are perpendicular, one clear bottle top with a metal screw lid attached, and a side seam to the neck; one Owens-Illinois clear oval shape base with a basal seam, with the makers mark showing press molding and reading "D 7," "60 49," and "[diamond with an O over the top];" and one brown bottle with a shoulder, neck, and finish, where the side seam stops at the finish, which is double-lipped. The one diagnostic ceramic was a Harvest white dinnerware shard with a red flowers, grapes, and leaves pattern; the maker's mark reads "HARVEST USA J47 N6" and dates to about the 1940s (Gonzalez 2023). There are also two clear glass serving containers with ornate side embossing, one solder dot can that had been church-key opened, and one pull-tab beer can.

Trash Scatter 7 measures approximately 12 meters east/west by 14 meters north/south and consists of 16 aqua-colored glass shards and one aqua base, two amethyst shards, three brown shards, and 15 clear shards. Eight ceramic shards were also counted, as well as three crushed sanitary cans.

Trash Scatter 8 is a small, very sparse scatter of five bimetal pull-tab Budweiser beer cans and one crushed can of transmission flush. The type of pull tab on the beer cans is the teardrop-shaped opening with "smile" and beads along the side to prevent spillage, and it dates from 1965 to 1975 (Maxwell 1993).

The tabulation and assessment of the artifacts in the eight trash scatters suggests that they are associated with individual dumping events as people traversed the two-track dirt road known as the Five Points-Lancaster Road. The artifacts within trash scatters have an approximate date range from 1930 to 1970. Based on the review of historic maps, aerials, and literature, the Five Points-Lancaster Road that once crossed the current project area was in regular use between 1915 and 1949 as a means to travel between Lancaster and a community called Five Points just west of Rosamond (Settle 1963, USGS 1915, USGS 1949). Even after the construction of 30th Street West in the late 1950s and West Avenue G in the late 1960s, off-roading in the project area continued as indicated by off-road tire tracks and modern trash noted during the pedestrian survey.

5.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The archaeological sensitivity for potential unknown prehistoric archaeological sites within the project area is moderate. The project area is located within the ancestral territory of the Serrano Native American tribe. No village sites are known or anticipated to have existed within the project area. However, human use of the area extends into the deep past, including periods when the climate was much more suitable for human habitation. Moreover, the presence of a nearby artesian well may have drawn Native Americans to the area seasonally. No prehistoric archaeological sites are documented within the project area. However, several isolated flakes have been documented within 0.5 miles of the project area, further suggesting sporadic or seasonal use of the area and its vicinity.

The sensitivity for undocumented historic period buildings, structures, and archaeological sites is low to moderate. Topographic maps and aerial photographs indicate that the project area was once used as a corridor for travel between Lancaster and Rosamond in the early 1900s. CA-LAN-1819H, a historic road with associated trash scatters, was recorded within the project area during the current study, as detailed in the survey results section above. Similar historic archaeological sites may be identified on the surface and at shallow depths within the project area, but given that the area was intensively surveyed, any unidentified resources that may be encountered are likely to be sparse or isolated finds.

6 CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES EVALUATIONS

One resource within the project area required evaluation with the California Register: the historic-period road and associated trash scatters (CA-LAN-1819H). Below is a summary of the evaluation. Further documentation for the resource is located in the DPR 523 forms (see **Appendix E**).

6.1 CA-LAN-1819H

The historic-period road and associated refuse scatter are recommended not eligible for listing in the California Register based on the following criteria evaluations.

Criterion 1: Archival research indicates that this resource is located on a parcel that has not previously been developed with the exception of the improvised dirt road. However, this site was just one of many dirt roads in the Lancaster area used during the same period. Research has not revealed any significant events in national, state, regional, or local history associated with the road or associated refuse scatters. The site is not eligible for inclusion in the California Register under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2: Research failed to identify names of individuals or groups associated with the road or refuse scatters. Therefore, the site is ineligible under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3: The road and refuse scatters do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, nor represent the work of a master or possess high artistic values. Thus, the resource is ineligible under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4: The data potential of the historic road and associated refuse scatters is exhausted by this documentation. Available information does not indicate any further potential to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the community, state, or nation. Therefore, the resource is ineligible under Criterion 4.

In conclusion, CA-LAN-1819H is ineligible for listing in the California Register and is not a historical resource as defined by PRC Section 15064.5(a) or a unique archaeological resource as defined by PRC Section 21083.2(g).

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 PALEONTOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Full-time paleontological monitoring is recommended during ground disturbance in undisturbed geologic contexts which have the potential to contain significant paleontological resources. Ground disturbance refers to activities that would impact subsurface geologic deposits, such as grading, excavation, boring, etc. Activities taking place in current topsoil or within previously disturbed fill sediments (e.g., clearing and grubbing), or at the current topsoil surface (e.g., building renovations), do not require paleontological monitoring. The following mitigation measures (MM) are recommended to be implemented such that in the event of any discovery of unknown paleontological resources during earthwork, impacts would be **less than significant**.

MM PALEO-1 The contractor shall retain a Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) qualified paleontologist to provide or supervise a paleontological sensitivity training to all personnel planned to be involved with earth-moving activities, prior to the beginning of ground-disturbing activities. The training session shall focus on how to identify paleontological localities such as fossils that may be encountered and the procedures to follow if identified.

MM PALEO-2: Prior to grading or excavation in sedimentary rock material other than topsoil, the contractor shall retain an SVP-qualified paleontologist to monitor these activities.

If any paleontological resources are encountered during construction or the course of any ground-disturbance activities, all such activities shall halt immediately. At this time, the applicant shall notify the City of Lancaster and consult with a qualified paleontologist to assess the significance of the find. The assessment will follow SVP standards as delineated in the *Standard Procedures for the Assessment and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts to Paleontological Resources* (2010). If any find is determined to be significant, appropriate avoidance measures recommended by the consultant and approved by the City must be followed unless avoidance is determined to be infeasible by the City. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery, excavation) shall be instituted. The recommendations of the qualified paleontologist shall be implemented with respect to the evaluation and recovery of fossils, after which the on-site construction supervisor shall be notified and shall direct work to continue in the location of the fossil discovery. Any fossils recovered during mitigation shall be cleaned, identified, cataloged, and permanently curated with an accredited and permanent scientific institution with a research interest in the materials.

If no fossils have been recovered after 50 percent of the excavation has been completed, full-time monitoring may be modified to weekly spot-check monitoring at the discretion of the qualified paleontologist. The qualified paleontologist may recommend to the client to reduce paleontological monitoring based on observations of specific site conditions during initial monitoring (e.g., if the geologic setting

precludes the occurrence of fossils). The recommendation to reduce or discontinue paleontological monitoring in the project site shall be based on the professional opinion of the qualified paleontologist regarding the potential for fossils to be present after a reasonable extent of the geology and stratigraphy has been evaluated.

A qualified professional paleontologist is a professional with a graduate degree in paleontology, geology, or related field, with demonstrated experience in the vertebrate, invertebrate, or botanical paleontology of California, as well as at least one year of full-time professional experience or equivalent specialized training in paleontological research (i.e., the identification of fossil deposits, application of paleontological field and laboratory procedures and techniques, and curation of fossil specimens), and at least four months of supervised field and analytic experience in general North American paleontology as defined by the SVP.

MM PALEO-3 If the fossils are determined to be significant, then the SVP-qualified paleontologist shall prepare and implement a data recovery plan. The plan shall include the following measures at a minimum:

▪ The paleontologist shall ensure that all significant fossils collected are cleaned, identified, catalogued, and permanently curated with an appropriate institution with a research interest in the materials (which may include the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County);

▪ The paleontologist shall ensure that specialty studies are completed, as appropriate, for any significant fossil collected; and

▪ The paleontologist shall ensure that curation of fossils is completed in consultation with the City of Lancaster. A letter of acceptance from the curation institution shall be submitted to the City of Lancaster.

7.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS

Impacts to cultural resources may be avoided or reduced to a less-than-significant level by implementing the following recommendations:

MM CUL-1: If subsurface cultural resources are encountered during project-related earthmoving activities, excavations shall be halted in the vicinity of the discovery and a qualified archaeologist (who is a Registered Professional Archaeologist or eligible for listing on the Register of Professional Archaeologists) shall evaluate the resource in accordance with state guidelines, including those set forth in the California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2, to assess the significance of the find and, if the resource is significant, identify appropriate treatment measures. If avoidance is not feasible then the City shall determine the appropriate treatment of the resource, which may include data recovery excavations, based upon the recommendations of the qualified archaeologist. Additionally, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 mandate the process

to be followed in the unlikely event of an accidental discovery of human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

8 PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

This report was prepared by Michael Baker International Archaeologist James T. Daniels, Jr. and Paleontologist Peter Kloess. Archaeologists Marcel Young and Alexandria Aguilar conducted the field survey and site recordation. Michael Baker International Cultural Resources Department Manager Margo Nayyar conducted quality assurance review.

James T. Daniels, Jr., MA, RPA, is a senior archaeologist with cultural resource management experience in California, Nevada, and North Carolina. His experience includes archaeological surveys, evaluations of historic and prehistoric sites for listing in the California and National Registers, site mitigation data recoveries, mitigation monitoring, and preparation of archaeological resource management reports and cultural resources technical reports. As senior archaeologist, he supports projects needing CEQA, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NHPA, Section 106, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Assembly Bill 52, USACE 404 permits, and local cultural resource regulation compliance. He assists with environmental impact statements/reports and alternative mitigation measures for clients, including interpretive signage, informative website design, brochures, and ethnographic studies. He also assists in Native American consultation and coordination of Native American monitoring. James provides advanced technical services for clients, including geophysical surveys with ground-penetrating radar; obsidian and ceramic sourcing using portable X-ray fluorescence; photogrammetry; and GIS predictive modeling and data collection using Esri Field Maps. James meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology and historic preservation.

Marcel Young, BA, has worked in various capacities in cultural resource management since 2013. He is experienced in surveying and conducting recording and evaluations of historic and prehistoric archaeological sites in California. Marcel is versed in conducting fieldwork within frameworks of Section 106 of the NHPA, CEQA, and NEPA. He has participated in projects in several phases of archaeology: Phase I pedestrian surveys, Extended Phase I testing, Phase II testing, Phase III data recovery, and monitoring. He is experienced in identifying and recording prehistoric and historic-period archaeological resources. Additionally, he conducts laboratory analysis under the supervision of a laboratory director.

Alexandria Aguilar is an archaeologist who has worked in the field of cultural resources management since 2021. She is currently pursuing a B.A. at the University of California, San Diego, where she researched and excavated human remains and Iron Age metallurgical and village remains in Togo. She conducts fieldwork throughout California, including Phase I pedestrian surveys, Extended Phase I testing, Phase II testing, Phase III data recovery, and construction monitoring. She is experienced in identifying and recording prehistoric and historic-period archaeological resources. Additionally, she conducts laboratory analysis under the supervision of a laboratory director.

Peter Kloess, Ph.D., is an experienced and celebrated paleontologist, paleontology instructor, and author. As the recipient of many grants and fellowships to support his paleontological research, he is often invited to lecture at educational institutions and paleontology seminars, and to consult with the media. He has mentored dozens and taught hundreds of students over his career. His publication topics include the earliest fossils of giant-sized bony-toothed birds (Aves: *Pelagornithidae*) from the Eocene of Seymour Island, Antarctica, and a specimen-based approach to reconstructing the late Neogene seabird communities of California. His research with the giant bony-toothed birds of Antarctica was the topic of a

Science Friday interview and can be heard online here: https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/fossil-bird-teeth/. Dr. Kloess has over 20 years of experience conducting field monitoring, excavation, and laboratory research on projects across the western United States, predominantly in California. He has consulting experience with a range of projects, including construction, transportation, utility, transmission, monitoring, and surveys, as well as experience recovering a diversity of fossils from project sites, such as marine invertebrates, microfossils, plants, small mammals and birds, large marine and terrestrial mammals, and dinosaurs. Additionally, Dr. Kloess has extensive experience in paleontological museum collections and lab settings. He has worked on and co-led scientific excavations of large mammals and dinosaurs in California, Utah, New Mexico, and Montana. Dr. Kloess has served as a lab preparator and assistant curator for paleontology museums in California and Montana, where his duties included manual preparation of specimens, casting, jacketing, public outreach, cataloging, and curation. In addition to extensive field and curation work, Dr. Kloess has researched, written, and published articles for paleontology publications. Several of his research projects have relied on paleontology and modern comparative collections housed in institutions across California, spanning geologic time from the Cretaceous Period to present. He meets the SVP Standards for Qualified Professional Paleontologist.

Margo Nayyar, Senior Cultural Resources Manager, is a senior architectural historian with 13 years of cultural management experience in California, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Idaho, New Mexico, Alaska, and Mississippi. Her experience includes built environment surveys; evaluation of historic-era resources using guidelines outlined in the National and California Registers; and preparation of cultural resources technical studies pursuant to CEQA and NHPA Section 106, including identification studies, finding of effect documents, memoranda of agreement, programmatic agreements, and Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey mitigation documentation. She prepares cultural resources sections for CEQA environmental documents, including infill checklists, initial studies, and environmental impact reports, as well as NEPA environmental documents, including environmental impact statements and environmental assessments. She also specializes in municipal preservation planning, historic preservation ordinance updates, Native American consultation, and provision of Certified Local Government training to interested local governments. She develops Survey 123 and Esri Collector applications for large-scale historic resources surveys, and authors National Register nomination packets. Margo meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for history and architectural history.

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Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Appendix A
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Records Search Results

Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

tel 213.763.DINO
www.nhm.org

Research & Collections

e-mail: paleorecords@nhm.org

August 27, 2023

Michael Baker International

Attn: James T. Daniels

re: Paleontological resources for the Fox Field East Commerce Center Project (195377)

Dear James:

I have conducted a thorough search of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for proposed development at the Fox Field East Commerce Center project area as outlined on the portion of the Lancaster West USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on August 25, 2023. We do not have any fossil localities that lie directly within the proposed project area, but we do have fossil localities nearby from the same sedimentary deposits that occur in the proposed project area, either at the surface or at depth.

The following table shows the closest known localities in the collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLA).

Locality Number	Location	Formation	Taxa	Depth
LACM VP 7853	Waste Management of North America Lancaster Landfill	Unknown formation (Pleistocene; sandy loess under a dune deposit strand, sandy siltstone, siltstone to clayey siltstone)	Rabbit (*Sylvagus*), camel family (Camelidae), antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus*), kangaroo rat (*Dipodymus*), pocket mouse (*Perognathus*), pack rat (*Neotoma*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus*), vole family (Microtinae), iguana (*Dipsosaurus*), pocket gopher (*Thomomys*), spiny lizard (*Sceloporus*), side blotched lizard (*Uta*), colubrid snakes (*Trimorphodon, Masticophis, Phyllorhynchus*), night lizard (*Xantusia*), western alligator lizard (*Elgaria*), toothy skinks (*Plestiodon*), whiptail lizard (*Aspidocelis*), spiny lizards (Phrynosomatidae), smelt (Osmeridae)	3-11 feet bgs
LACM VP 7884	E of the SE corner of the intersection of East 3rd Street & East Avenue H-13	Unknown formation (Pleistocene; fluvial brown clayey silt)	Camel (*Camelops hesternus*)	4 feet bgs

LACM VP 5942-5950	Along Avenue S from 90th St East in Palmdale to Lake Los Angeles	Unknown formation (Holocene)	Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis*), Lizard (Lacertilia), leopard lizard (*Gambelia*); snake (Ophidia), gopher snake (*Pituophis*); rabbit (*Lagomorpha*), rodent (Rodentia), Pocket gopher (*Thomomys*), pocket mouse (*Chaetodippus*), kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys*); birds (Aves)	0-9 feet bgs
LACM VP 7891	near the California Aqueduct between the Tehachapi Mountains & the Rosamond Hills north of Willow Springs	Unknown formation (Pleistocene)	Camel (*Hemiauchenia*)	21 feet bgs

VP, Vertebrate Paleontology; IP, Invertebrate Paleontology; bgs, below ground surface

This records search covers only the records of the NHMLA. It is not intended as a paleontological assessment of the project area for the purposes of CEQA or NEPA. Potentially fossil-bearing units are present in the project area, either at the surface or in the subsurface. As such, NHMLA recommends that a full paleontological assessment of the project area be conducted by a paleontologist meeting Bureau of Land Management or Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Bell, Ph.D.
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

enclosure: invoice

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Appendix B
South Central Coastal Information Center Records Search Results
(Confidential)

Michael Baker
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Appendix C
Native American Heritage Commission Coordination

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Laurena Bolden
Serrano

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
Miwok, Nisenan

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

September 8, 2023

James Daniels
Michael Baker International

Via Email to: james.daniels@mbakerintl.com

Re: Fox Field East Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Daniels:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Andrew Green

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
9/8/2023

Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians	N	Sarah Brunzell, CRM Manager	1019 Second Street San Fernando, CA, 91340	(818) 837-0794		CRM@tataviam-nsn.us	Tataviam	Kern,Los Angeles,Ventura	5/25/2023
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Ann Brierty, THPO	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5259	(951) 572-6004	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Robert Martin, Chairperson	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5110	(951) 755-5177	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 261-0254		historicpreservation@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	5/16/2023
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jordan Joaquin, President, Quechan Tribal Council	P.O.Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(760) 919-3600		executivesecretary@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	5/16/2023
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman - Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 210-8739		culturalcommittee@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	5/16/2023
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians	N	Donna Yocum, Chairperson	P.O. Box 221838 Newhall, CA, 91322	(503) 539-0933	(503) 574-3308	dyocum@sfbmi.org	Kitanemuk Vanyume Tataviam	Kern,Los Angeles,San Bernardino,Ventura	5/8/2023
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	F	Alexandra McCleary, Cultural Lands Manager	26569 Community Center Drive Highland, CA, 92346	(909) 633-0054		alexandra.mccleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov	Serrano	Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	3/27/2023
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(909) 528-9032		serranonation1@gmail.com	Serrano	Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(253) 370-0167		serranonation1@gmail.com	Serrano	Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	4/29/2019

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

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Fox Field East Project, Los Angeles County.

Record: PROJ-2023-004556
Report Type: List of Tribes
Counties: Los Angeles
NAHC Group: All

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Appendix D
Historical Society Consultation

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

We Make a Difference

September 12, 2023

KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1255
Rosamond, CA 93560

RE: FOX FIELD COMMERCE CENTER-EAST PROJECT, CITY OF LANCASTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Historical Society:

Michael Baker International is conducting a cultural resources identification study supporting the Fox Field Commerce Center-East Project in Lancaster, California. The project involves the construction of a high-cube distribution warehouse. The tilt-up concrete warehousing and distribution facility would be approximately 1,227,596 square feet in size. The proposed warehouse would be approximately 50 feet in height. Other ancillary improvements would include lighting and utility improvements, among others.

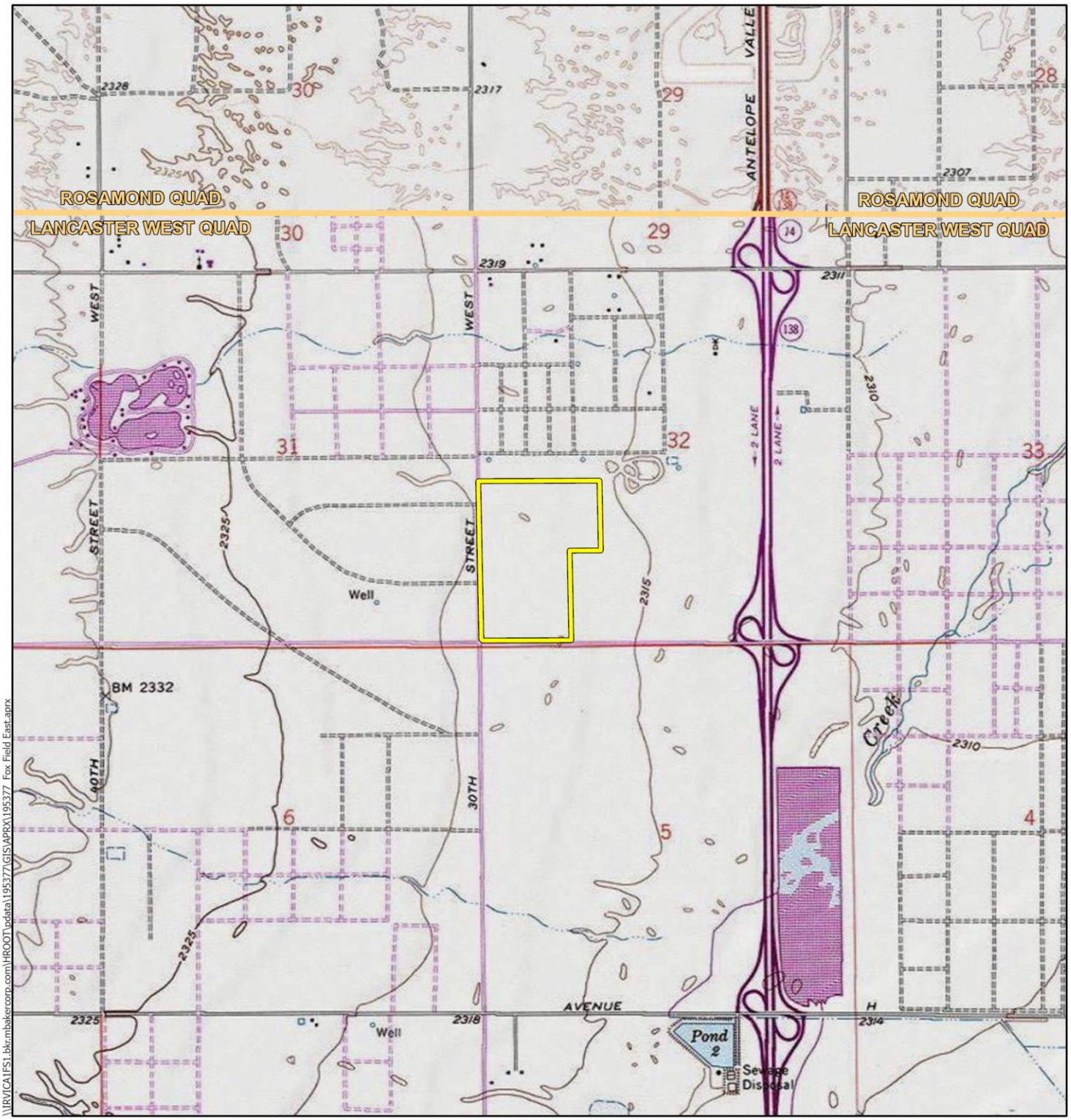
Please notify us if your organization has any information or concerns about cultural resources in the project area. This is not a request for research; it is solely a request for public input for any concerns that the Historical Society may have. If you have any questions, please contact me at joshua.rawley@mbakerintl.com or (909) 974-4956.

Sincerely,

Josh Rawley
Architectural Historian

Attachments:
Project Location Map
Project Area Map

2729 Prospect Park Drive, Suite 220, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
P: (916) 361-8384 F: (916) 361-1574



\\IRVCA1FS1.bkr.mbakercorp.com\HROOT\pdata\195377\GIS\APRX\195377 Fox Field East.aprx

Legend

Project Area

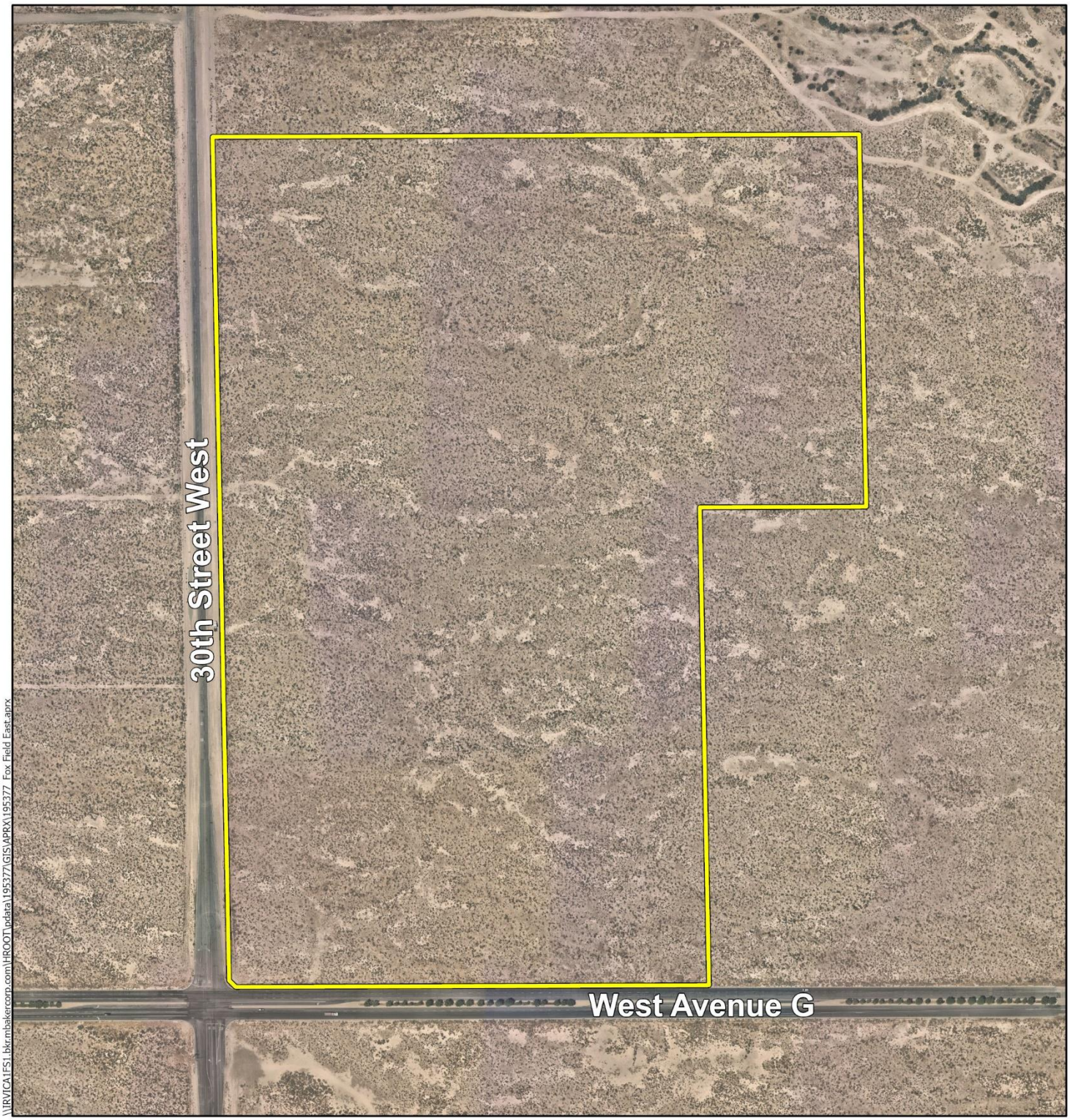
Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, Lancaster West USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: *Lancaster, California*

FOX FIELD EAST
LANCASTER, CA

Project Location



\\IRVICA1FS1.bkr.mbakercorp.com\HROOT\pdata\195377\GIS\APRX\195377_Fox Field East.aprx

Legend

Project Area

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 250 500 Feet

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, 2023 Nearmap Imagery: *Lancaster, California*

FOX FIELD EAST
LANCASTER, CA

Project Area

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INTERNATIONAL

Appendix E
DPR 523 Series Site Record

(Confidential)

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Appendix F
Confidential Report Figures

(Confidential)