

# Appendix 6.5-1: Cultural Resources Assessment

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Amanda Acuna, Senior Planner  
City of Gardena Planning Department  
1700 West 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Gardena, CA 90247

From: Jessica Mauck, MA, RPA  
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.  
3801 University Ave., Ste 300, Riverside, CA 92501

Date: 30 August 2023

Subject: Cultural Resources Assessment for the 1610 Artesia Boulevard Project in the City of Gardena, Los Angeles County, California

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To Whom It May Concern,

At the request of the City of Gardena (City), Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA) conducted a Cultural Resources Assessment of the 1610 Artesia Boulevard Project (Project) area located within the City of Gardena, Los Angeles County, California. This study was completed to support the City's review of potential impacts to cultural resources within the property as a result of the proposed Project. A literature review was conducted for the property to identify the likelihood of present cultural resources that would be adversely impacted by the Project.

### Project Location and Setting

The 1610 Artesia Boulevard Project (Project) area is within the southern portion of the City of Gardena in the southwestern portion of the County of Los Angeles, California. The Project area encompasses one parcel of land (APN 6106-013-049) and includes a total of 3.43 acres with Artesia Blvd to the north, Dominguez Channel to the south, S. Normandie Ave to the east, and S. Western Ave to the west (Figures 1-3).

The Project is located within the Los Angeles Basin and is bounded on the northeast by the Puente Hills and the Pacific Coast to the south and west. The Compton Fault, which trends coast to coast northwest/southeast through Lomita, is located southwest of the Project area. The Dominguez Channel is located just south, where it flows southeast toward Long Beach (U.S. Geological Survey 2021; *Faults | U.S. Geological Survey*, accessed July 12, 2023). The Project area naturally consists of Holocene-age alluvial deposits made of mostly loamy clay of valleys and flood plains, with a slight elevation in the southern portion near the channel (Dibblee et al. 2003). The area, like much of California, contains a unique and diverse climate and environment. This regional diversity provided Native Californians the ability to exploit a range of different plants, animals, and natural resources.

The proposed Project site is located within the ancestral territory of the Gabrieleño/Tongva. Although Alfred Kroeber recorded the territories of southern California tribes in 1925, the ancient territorial

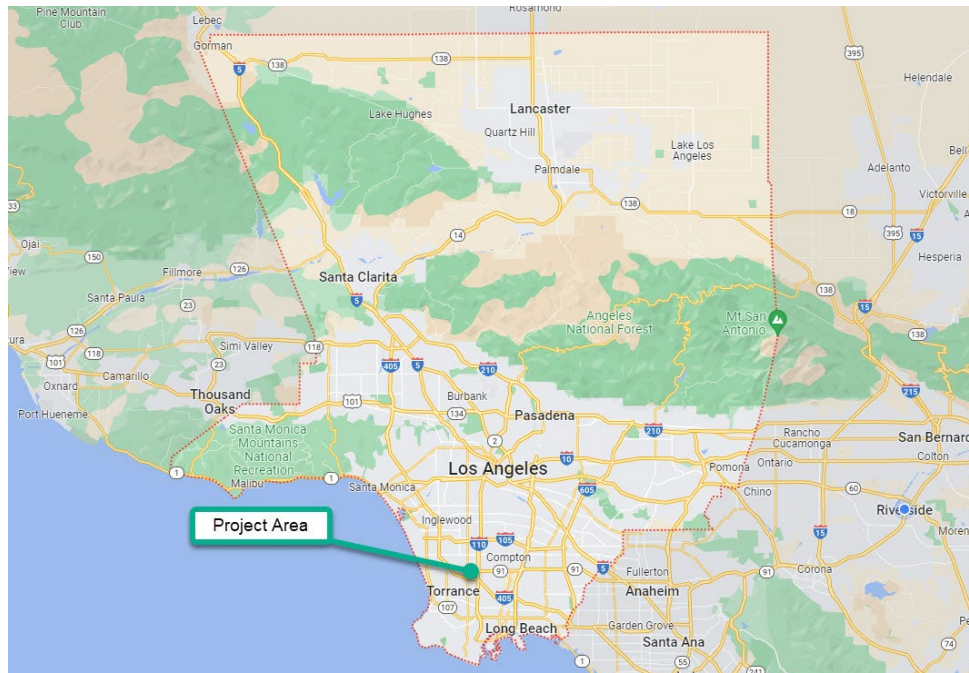


Figure 1: Project Area in Los Angeles County

borders remain vague for two reasons: first, territorial boundaries were flexible and, secondly, indigenous borders and land use were not recorded until after European contact destroyed native lifeways. Although firm and defining borders cannot be known, archaeological, ethnographic, and historic evidence exists to support the prehistoric use by the Gabrieleño/Tongva (Gabrieleño [Tongva] Band of Mission Indians, accessed July 12, 2023).

After the decimation of the Gabrieleño/Tongva population, including the removal of many to the San Gabriel Mission established in 1771, the Project area was included within the Rancho San Pedro Spanish land grant established in 1800. It was then later named the Rosecrans Rancho when 16,000 acres of the land grant was purchased by Union Army Major General William Starke Rosecrans after the Civil War. The area of present-day Gardena saw the beginnings of modern growth by the late 1800s and was officially incorporated as the City of Gardena in 1930. By that time, the City was well-established as a small farming community, with berries highlighted as its most popular crop (*Gardena local history – LA County Library*). In 1936, the first card room was established within the City by Ernest J. Primm. At the same time, the City became home to many Japanese-Americans, both before and after their Federally-ordered internment from 1942 to 1945. This population, as well as many other blue-collar workers from the fringe of Los Angeles, played a large role in creating a fairly robust economy for the City through use of legal cardrooms from the 1930s to 1980, at which time the industry suffered as a result of poker legalization in nearby areas (Ferrell 1998). Today, the City of Gardena remains an active residential and business community, with the Japanese-American population contributing to the largest concentration of Japanese companies within the mainland United States in Los Angeles' South Bay (*Gardena local history – LA County Library*).

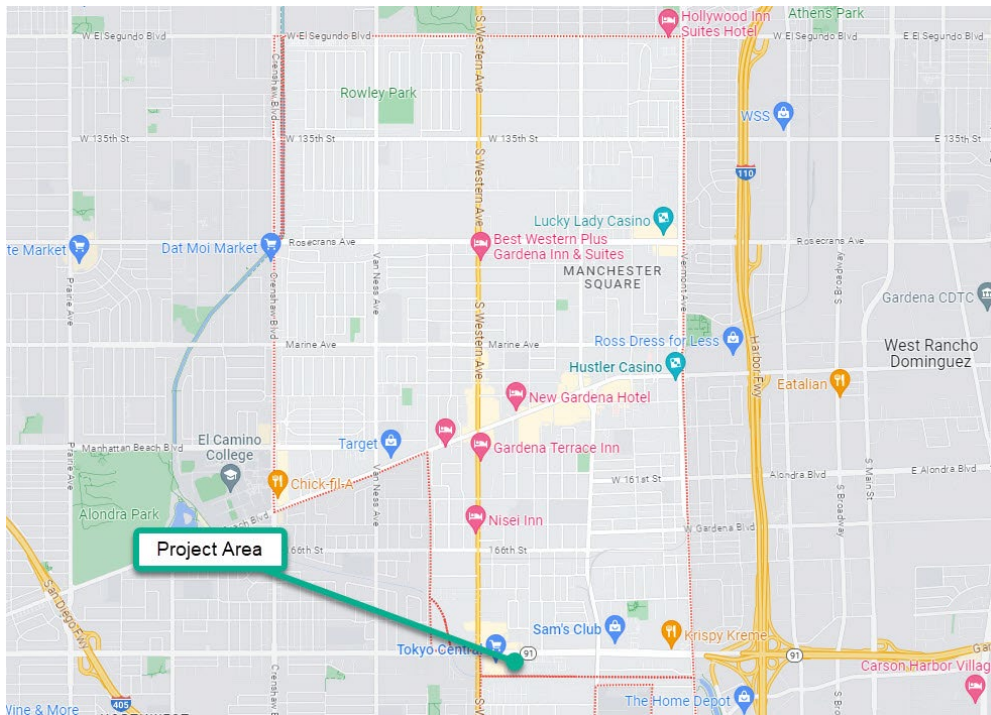


Figure 2: Project Area in the City of Gardena



Figure 3: Overview of the Project Area

### Literature Review

A review of available cultural reports, as well as historical and topographic maps and aerial imagery, was conducted to ascertain the level of existing disturbance, potential for archaeological resources, and presence of any recorded or unrecorded built historic resources within the Project area. The City of Gardena conducted a historical resource survey in 1981, though no resources were recorded within the Project area at that time (City of Gardena 1981). Historic topographic maps from 1896 show that the Project area was located on the shoreline of a historic marsh/shallow lake. The Project area was then modified between the 1930s and 1940s when there were apparent attempts to control water flow into a channel. By 1952, the Project area was manicured into a flat, undeveloped area with the constructed Dominguez Channel located just to the south. The Project area was then further modified and developed in 1979 with the construction of two commercial structures that remain within the Property area today (Historic Aerials, accessed July 12, 2023).

### Results

Prior to development, the buried archaeological sensitivity of the Project area would have been moderate-to-high given the Holocene-age soils tied to human occupation that were present across the property, as well as the location of the Project area on the shores of a marsh/shallow lake. In its current condition, the Project area has low potential for archaeological material given the history of extensive modification, to include a commercial development, within the property. Further, the two structures within the Project area appear to have been constructed within the last 45 years, which is generally utilized as the age threshold for identifying whether or not built properties are considered historic in age and, therefore, subject to consideration as a cultural resource. While lead agencies are afforded flexibility to consider younger properties as cultural resources, the two structures within the Project area are not qualified for special consideration as cultural resources.

### Recommendations

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA) did not identify any historical resources or unique archaeological resources within the Project area as a part of the Cultural Resources Assessment. As such, no further consideration regarding the impacts to cultural resources as a result of the Project is recommended during the environmental review process. However, it is recommended that Project include conditions that outline process for the inadvertent discovery and treatment of cultural resources, as well as conditions outlining the legal process for inadvertent discovery of human remains referenced in California State Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The City's standard Condition of Approval for the Inadvertent Discovery of Unknown Archaeological Resources and applicable language included in Gardena Municipal Code (GMC) 18.42.210 is below:

1. Native American/Tribal Cultural Resources
  - a. If Native American or tribal cultural resources are found on the site, the Applicant shall enter into a cultural resources treatment agreement with a local Native American tribe traditionally and culturally affiliated with Gardena that is acknowledged by the Native American Heritage Commission, which shall address the following:
    - i. Treatment and disposition of cultural resources;



- ii. Designation, responsibilities, and participation of professional tribal monitors during grading, excavation and ground disturbing activities;
- iii. Project grading and development scheduling;
- iv. Terms of compensation for the tribal monitors;
- v. Treatment and final disposition of any cultural resources, sacred sites, and human remains discovered on site;
- vi. Tribal monitor's authority to stop and redirect grading in order to evaluate the significance of any potential resources discovered on the property, and to make recommendations as to treatment; and
- vii. The Applicant's agreement to relinquish ownership of all cultural resources, including all archaeological artifacts that are found on the project area, to the tribe for proper treatment and disposition; and the Applicant's agreement that all tribal sacred sites are to be avoided and preserved.

2. Archaeological Resources

- a. If any archaeological materials are encountered during the course of Project development, all further development activity in the vicinity of the materials shall halt and the services of an archaeologist shall then be secured by contacting the South Central Coastal Information Center (657-278-5395) located at California State University Fullerton, or a member of the Society of Professional Archaeologist (SOPA) or a SOPA-qualified archaeologist, who shall assess the discovered material(s) and prepare a survey, study, or report evaluating the impact;
- b. The archaeologist's survey, study or report shall contain a recommendation(s), if necessary, for the preservation, conservation, or relocation of the resource; and
- c. The Project Applicant shall comply with the recommendations of the evaluating archaeologist, as contained in the survey, study, or report.
- d. Project development activities may resume once copies of the archaeological survey, study or report are submitted to:
  - SCCIC Department of Anthropology
  - McCarthy Hall 477
  - CSU Fullerton
  - 800 North State College Boulevard
  - Fullerton, CA 92834
- e. Prior to building permit issuance, Applicant shall submit a letter to the case file indicating what, if any, archaeological reports have been submitted, or a statement indicating that no material was discovered.
- f. A covenant and agreement binding the Applicant to this condition shall be recorded prior to the issuance of a grading permit.

3. Human Remains

- a. In compliance with state law, if human remains are unearthed, the project developer, pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section [7050.5](#), will contact the county coroner and ensure no further disturbance occurs until the county coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section [5097.98](#).
- b. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be notified within twenty-four hours.
- c. Pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, if human remains are encountered unexpectedly during construction demolition and/or grading activities, it is required that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made

the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to California PRC Section 5097.98. In the event that human remains are discovered during excavation activities, the following procedure shall be observed:

- i. Stop immediately and contact the County Coroner:  
1104 N. Mission Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90033  
323-343-0512  
(8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) or 323-343-0714 (after hours, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays)
- ii. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the Coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will immediately notify the person it believes to be the most likely descendent of the deceased Native American.
- iii. The most likely descendent has 48 hours to make recommendations to the owner, or representative, for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the human remains and grave goods.
- iv. If the owner does not accept the descendant's recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the NAHC.

Sincerely,



Jessica Mauck, MA, RPA  
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

RPA Number: 37243944

## References:

City of Gardena, 1981. *Historical Resources Survey Report*. On file, City of Gardena Planning Department.

Dibblee, T.W., Ehrenspeck, H.E., Ehlig, P.L., and Bartlett, W.L., 1999. *Geologic map of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and vicinity, Redondo Beach, Torrance, and San Pedro quadrangles, Los Angeles County, California*. Dibblee Geological Foundation, Dibblee Foundation Map DF-70, 1:24,000.

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Ferrell, David, 1998. *Living by Casinos, Losing by Casinos*. Los Angeles Times. Accessed July 12, 2023.

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*Gardena local history – LA County Library*. LA County Library - Gardena Local History. (n.d.). <https://lacountylibrary.org/gardena-local-history/>. Accessed July 12, 2023.

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