

CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY UPDATE FOR THE NW TELEGRAPH & SANTA FE SPRINGS PROJECT

**CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

APN 8005-015-051

Submitted to:

**City of Santa Fe Springs
11710 East Telegraph Road
Santa Fe Springs, California 90670**

Prepared for:

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3333 Michelson Drive, Suite 500
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Prepared by:

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February 2, 2024



BFSA Environmental Services
A Perennial Company



February 2, 2024

Jeremy Krout
EPD Solutions, Inc.
3333 Michelson Drive, Suite 500
Irvine, California 92612

Subject: Cultural Resources Study for the Telegraph & Santa Fe Springs Project, City of Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Krout:

BFSA Environmental Services, a Perennial Company (BFSA), has conducted a focused cultural resources study for the NW Telegraph & Santa Fe Springs Project. The proposed 26.77-acre project (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 8005-015-051) is located at 12400 Hawkins Street, north of Telegraph Road and between Norwalk Boulevard and Santa Fe Springs Road in Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1 in Appendix A). The subject property is situated within an unsectioned portion of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute *Whittier, California* topographic quadrangle map (Township 3 South, Range 11 West [projected]) (Figure 2 in Appendix A). The property, which is currently being used as an active oil field containing six pumpjacks and associated equipment, is being proposed for redevelopment (Figure 3 in Appendix A).

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this study was conducted to identify cultural resources eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and provide recommendations for the treatment of any resources that may be impacted by the proposed redevelopment of the property. The scope of work for this assessment includes:

- 1) A review of records search data regarding recorded archaeological sites and cultural resources studies within one mile of the property;
- 2) A review of Sacred Lands File (SLF) search information from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC);
- 3) A pedestrian survey of the property to search for any potential cultural resources; and

- 4) Preparation of this letter report to summarize the results of the study and present recommendations regarding the potential impact any future redevelopment may have upon any cultural resources.

Records Search Review

An archaeological records search for the project and a one-mile radius was conducted by BFSA at the South Central Coastal Information Center at California State University, Fullerton (Appendix B). The search did not identify any resources within the proposed project; however, 12 resources are recorded within the one-mile search radius. These resources are primarily associated with the built environment but do include two prehistoric sites (Table 1). The records search also identified 35 previous studies within a one-mile radius of the project, one of which overlaps the southern three-quarters of the subject property (Brown 2000).

Table 1
 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources
 Within a One-Mile Radius of the Proposed Project

Site Number(s)	Site Description
LAN-182	Prehistoric village site (recorded in multiple locations)
LAN-1016	Historic Patricio Ontiveros Adobe
LAN-2809	Prehistoric shell and lithic scatter
P-19-178663	Historic Metropolitan State Hospital (Norwalk State Hospital) District
P-19-178669	Historic Slusher Estate (also includes the Patricio Ontiveros Adobe)
P-19-180716	Historic Clarke Estate
P-19-186804	Historic railroad alignment
P-19-187084	Historic Little Lake School and Auditorium
P-19-187877	Historic single-family property (Hathaway Ranch/Museum)
P-19-187878	Historic single-family property (Jesse Hathaway House)
P-19-187879	Historic public utility building
P-19-188168	Historic industrial building

BFSA also requested a SLF search from the NAHC to identify any sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance within the project (Appendix C). At this time, the results of the NAHC SLF search have not yet been received.

In addition, a review of aerial photographs (1938 to 2023) was conducted to characterize

the historical development of the property. The aerial imagery indicates that as early as 1938, the property was actively being utilized for oil extraction and contained structures, equipment, and oil tanks. Aerial photographs illustrate continued use along with the subsequent clearing and removal of structures throughout the twentieth century. According to photographs, much of the surrounding area transitioned from oil fields to industrial warehouse developments from 1976 to 1986. However, undeveloped properties appear to have continued to be utilized for oil extraction. Current aerial photographs also show modern structures and equipment associated with continued use of the property for oil extraction.

Results of the Field Review

BFSA Principal Investigator Tracy A. Stropes, M.A., RPA directed the survey of the property, which was conducted by staff archaeologist Mary Chitjian on January 15, 2024. The survey found the property to be entirely disturbed as a result of past development, clearing, grading, and steady use for oil extraction (Plates 1 and 2). During the survey, six active oil pump jacks along with tanks, pipes, and associated infrastructure were identified throughout the property (Plates 3 and 4). In addition, one main prefabricated steel building and one similarly constructed ancillary equipment shelter were identified in the northwestern corner of the property (Plates 5 and 6). No cultural resources were identified on the property as a result of the survey. Further, none of the features identified on the property during the survey appear older than 50 years. The prefabricated steel structures are not visible on aerial photographs until 1986 and the six oil pump jacks do not correspond with the historic extraction of oil on the property. As such, none of the features identified on the property during the current survey are eligible to be considered under CEQA for CRHR eligibility.



Plate 1: Overview of the subject property, facing south.



Plate 2: Overview of the subject property, facing west.



Plate 3: One of six pumpjacks identified on the subject property, facing west.



Plate 4: Overview of other equipment found on the subject property, facing east.



Plate 5: West façade of the main steel building on the property, facing east.



Plate 6: Overview of a steel equipment shelter, facing north.

Conclusion

Given that no historic or prehistoric resources were identified during the survey, no potential impacts to cultural resources are anticipated with the proposed redevelopment of the property. A review of maps, aerial photographs, and the current survey found that the proposed project has been extensively disturbed by development, clearing, grading, and steady use for oil extraction. Therefore, as a result of previous ground-disturbing activities to the property, there is minimal potential for archaeological resources to be present or disturbed by the proposed project. As such, no further archaeological study is recommended and no site-specific mitigation measures for cultural resources are recommended as a condition of project approval. However, in the event that any historic or prehistoric cultural resources are inadvertently discovered, all construction work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall stop and a qualified archaeologist shall be engaged to evaluate the discovery and determine if further mitigation measures are warranted. Should human remains be discovered, treatment of these remains shall follow California Public Resources Code 5097.9. Any human remains that are determined to be Native American shall be reported to the County of Los Angeles County Medical Examiner and subsequently to the NAHC.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Garrison, M.A., RPA
Project Archaeologist

Attachments:

Appendix A – Figures 1 to 3

Appendix B – Archaeological Records Search Results*

Appendix C – NAHC SLF Search Results*

**Deleted for public review; bound separately in the Confidential Appendix.*

References

Brown, Joan

2000 Cultural Resources Literature Review and Reconnaissance for the City of Santa Fe Springs Redevelopment Project. Prepared by RMW Palo Associates, Incorporated. Unpublished report on file at the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, California.

APPENDIX A

Figures

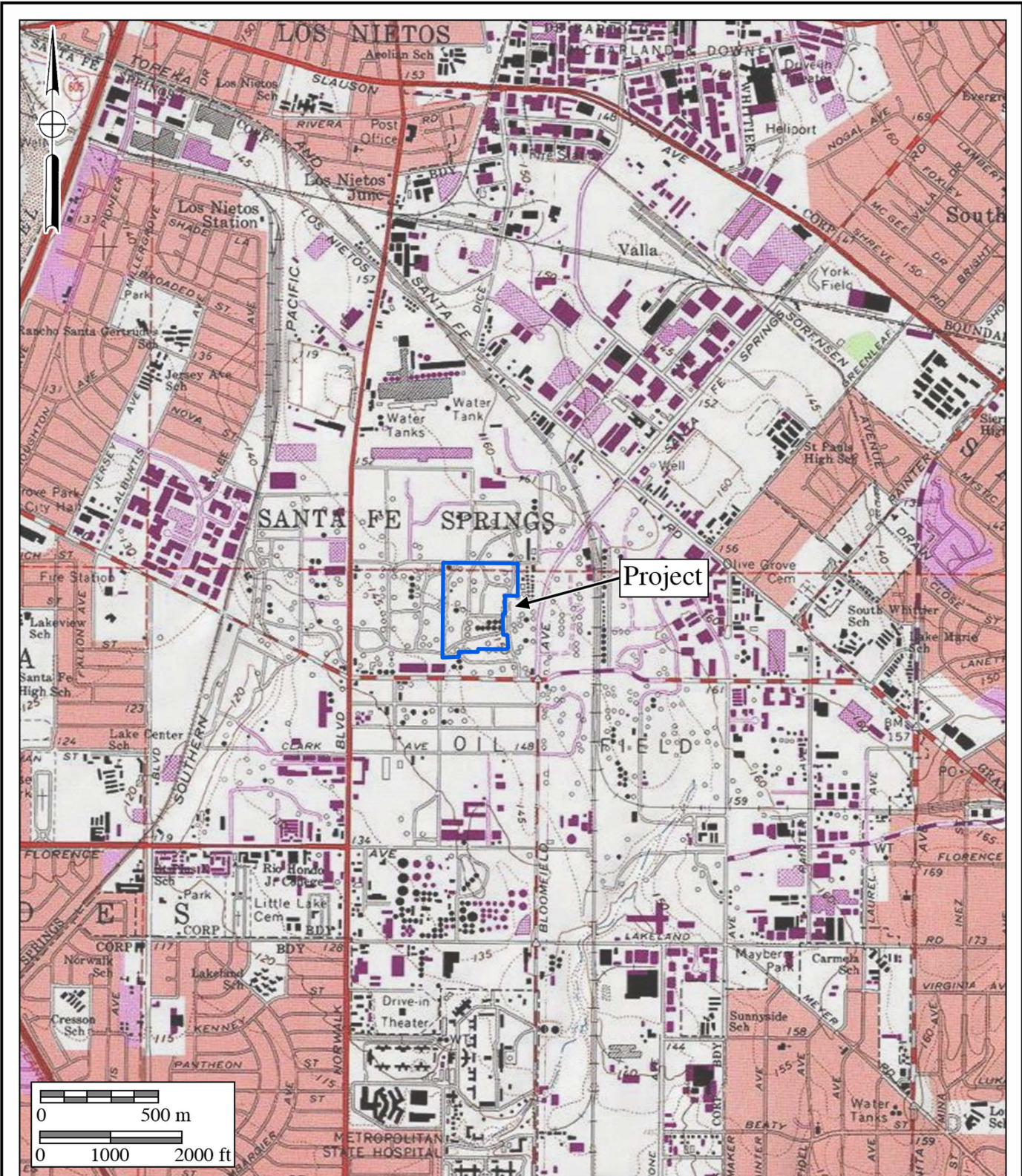


Figure 2

Project Location Map

The NW Telegraph & Santa Fe Springs Project

USGS Whittier Quadrangle (7.5-minute series)



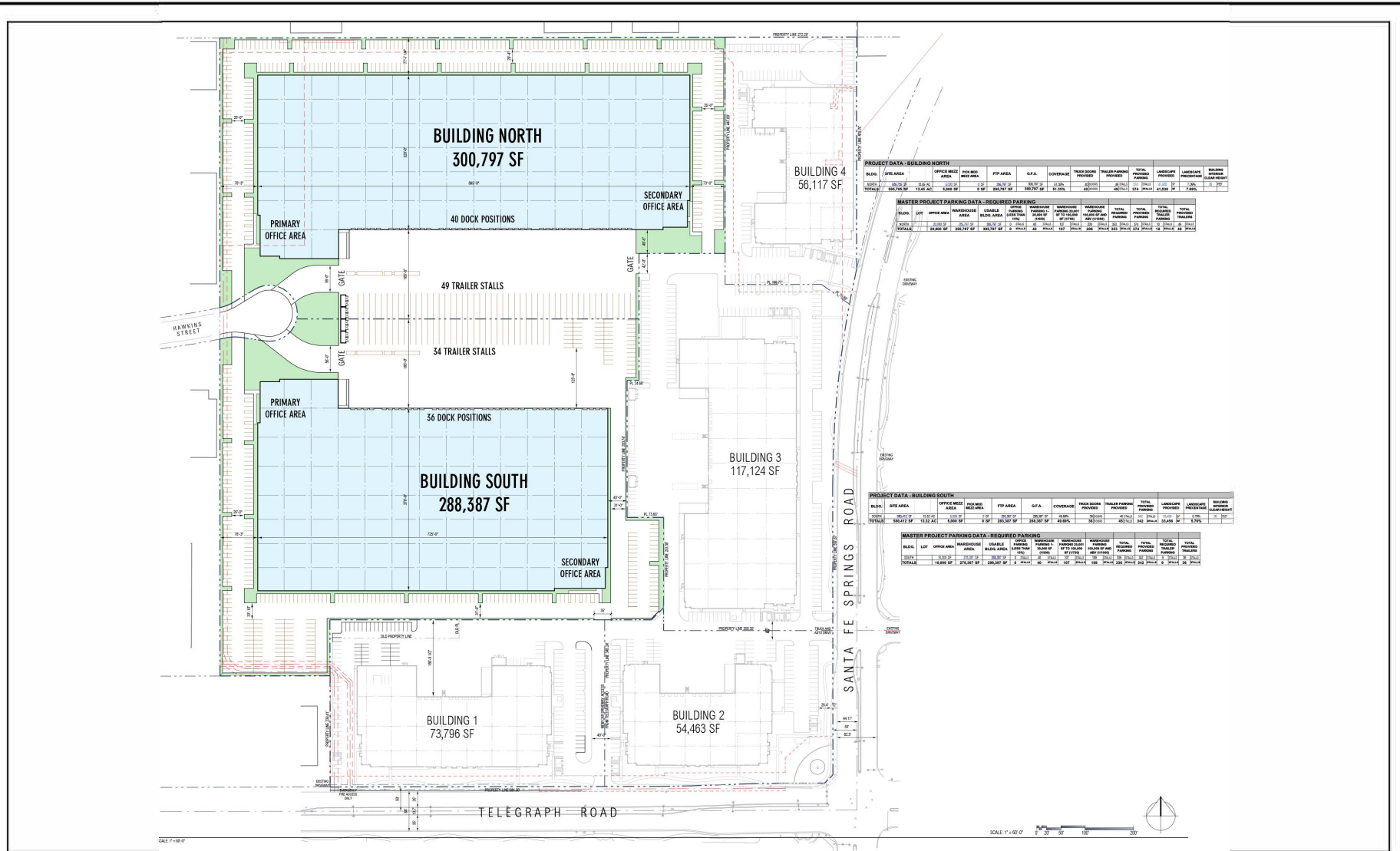


Figure 3
Site Plan

The NW Telegraph & Santa Fe Springs Project

APPENDIX B

Archaeological Records Search Results

(Deleted for Public Review; Bound Separately)

APPENDIX C

NAHC SLF Search Results

(Deleted for Public Review; Bound Separately)