

# **Public Comments and Responses**

## **Jacumba Fire Station No. 43 Project Jacumba, California SCH No.: 2024090644**

### **Lead Agency:**

County of San Diego  
Department of General Services  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 2207  
San Diego, California 92123

### **Preparers:**

Ascent Environmental  
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 640  
San Diego, CA 92103

and

Ridgeline Environmental  
6977 Navajo Rd., #416  
San Diego, CA 92119

**February 10, 2025**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

### **B1. BACKGROUND**

A Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the Jacumba Fire Station No. 43 Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15070 and 15072), and County of San Diego (County) CEQA guidelines and procedures. The Draft Initial Study concluded that the proposed project would not result in any significant unavoidable impacts and that all impacts would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of the mitigation measures identified.

The Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was released for public and agency review from September 16, 2024 to October 16, 2024 and was available on the County's website at: [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/general\\_services/CEQA.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/general_services/CEQA.html). The County received a total of two (2) comment letters during the 30-day public review period.

Based on the comments received during the public review period of the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, minor revisions and clarifications were made to the Draft Initial Study. These minor revisions, which are indicated in strikeout for deletions and underline for additions, are intended to clarify or elaborate upon the findings in the Draft Initial Study and do not constitute a substantial revision of the Draft Initial Study. Furthermore, the minor clarifications would not alter the conclusions presented in the Draft Initial Study. These minor revisions and clarifications are provided in Attachment C, "Final CEQA Initial Study - Environmental Checklist Form."

### **B2. LIST OF PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLIC AGENCIES THAT COMMENTED ON THE DRAFT INITIAL STUDY**

Table 1 presents a list of the comment letters received on the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration during the public review period, including the numerical designation for each comment letter, the author of the comment letter, and the date of the comment letter. Comment letters and specific comments were numbered for reference purposes. A copy of the comment letter along with detailed responses to those comments is provided on the pages that follow.

**TABLE 1 LIST OF COMMENT LETTERS**

<b>Letter No.</b>	<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>AGENCIES</b>		
A1	California Department of Transportation	10/15/2024
<b>ORGANIZATIONS</b>		
O1	Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	10/10/2024

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

**California Department of Transportation**

DISTRICT 11  
4050 TAYLOR STREET, MS-240  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110  
(619) 709-5152 | FAX (619) 688-4299 TTY 711  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



**Letter  
A1**

October 15, 2024

11-SD-8  
PM R73.768  
Jacumba Fire Station No.43 Project  
MND/SCH#2024090644

Mr. Marcus Lubich  
Project Manager  
County of San Diego  
Department of General Services  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 410  
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Mr. Lubich:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) on the Jacumba Fire Station No. 43 project located on near Interstate 8 (I-8) in Jacumba. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with the County of San Diego in areas where the County and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and

A1-1

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

Mr. Marcus Lubich, Project Manager  
October 15, 2024  
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connections between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

A1-1  
cont.

Caltrans has the following comments:

**Land Use and Smart Growth**

Caltrans recognizes there is a strong link between transportation and land use. Development can have a significant impact on traffic and congestion on State transportation facilities. In particular, the pattern of land use can affect both local vehicle miles traveled and the number of trips. Caltrans supports collaboration with local agencies to work towards a safe, functional, interconnected, multi-modal transportation network integrated through applicable "smart growth" type land use planning and policies.

A1-2

The County of San Diego should continue to coordinate with Caltrans to implement necessary improvements at intersections and interchanges where the agencies have joint jurisdiction.

**Hauling**

Caltrans has discretionary authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and may, upon application and if good cause appears, issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code. The Caltrans Transportation Permits Issuance Branch is responsible for the issuance of these special transportation permits for oversize/overweight vehicles on the State Highway network. Additional information is provided online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/permits/index.html>

A1-3

**Environmental**

Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' R/W through the form of an encroachment permit process. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure that Caltrans can adopt the alternative and/or mitigation measure for our R/W.

A1-4

An encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Specifically, CEQA determination or exemption. The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

Mr. Marcus Lubich, Project Manager  
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Page 3

We recommend that this project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans' R/W that includes impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure including but not limited to highways, roadways, structures, intelligent transportation systems elements, on-ramps and off-ramps, and appurtenant features including but not limited to fencing, lighting, signage, drainage, guardrail, slopes and landscaping. Caltrans is interested in any additional mitigation measures identified for the project's draft Environmental Document.

A1-4  
cont.

**Right-of-Way**

- Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.
- Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by visiting the website at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>. Projects with the following:

A1-5

- require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit.
- have completed the Caltrans Local Development Review (LDR) process.
- have an approved environmental document.

are to submit documents for Quality Management Assessment Process (QMAP) process via email to [D11.QMAP.Permits@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D11.QMAP.Permits@dot.ca.gov). Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark McCumsey, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-4957 or by e-mail sent to [mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov](mailto:mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Kimberly D. Dodson*

KIMBERLY D. DODSON, GISP  
Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

**Letter A1 California Department of Transportation  
Kimberly D. Dodson, Branch Chief, Local Development  
Review**

**Response to Comment A1-1:**

The commenter thanks the County for being included in the environmental review process for the project and summarizes the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) mission to provide a safe and reliable transportation network and commitment to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities. The commenter states that Caltrans looks forward to working with the County of San Diego in areas where the County and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction.

The County appreciates Caltrans' interest in the proposed project. The comment is an introductory comment that does not raise any environmental issues regarding the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND. Responses to specific comments are provided below.

**Response to Comment A1-2:**

The commenter states that there is a strong link between transportation and land use. The commenter states that Caltrans supports collaboration with local agencies to work towards a safe, functional, interconnected, multi-modal transportation network integrated through applicable "smart growth" type land use planning and policies. The commenter states that the County should continue to coordinate with Caltrans to implement necessary improvements at intersections and interchanges where the agencies have joint jurisdiction.

The County will continue to coordinate with Caltrans in areas where their jurisdictions overlap. The comment does not raise any environmental issues regarding the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND. Therefore, no further response is required.

**Response to Comment A1-3:**

The commenter states that Caltrans has discretionary authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and issues a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code.

The comment is informational in nature and does not raise any environmental issues regarding the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND. The County will obtain all necessary permits for the project, including a special permit from Caltrans, if required.

**Response to Comment A1-4:**

The commenter indicates that Caltrans has some discretionary authority over a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' right-of-way through the encroachment permit process. The commenter states that an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' right-of-way prior to construction and that the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits as part of the encroachment permit process. The commenter recommends that the project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans' right-of-way that includes impacts on the natural environment, infrastructure, and appurtenant features. The commenter further states that Caltrans is interested in any additional mitigation measures identified for the project's draft Environmental Document.

The County acknowledges the process required for work conducted with Caltrans' right-of-way. The proposed project is located on an approximately 2.77-acre portion of a 5-acre property bounded by Old Highway 80 immediately to the south. Implementation of the proposed project would not require the construction, redesign, or alteration of any public roadways other than the construction of ingress/egress access driveways along Old Highway 80 that would allow access to the proposed project site. Although the project would encroach onto Old Highway 80 for the construction of new ingress/egress access driveways, this highway is a County maintained roadway. The project would not result in any modifications to any other roadways, including those in Caltrans' right-of-way. Therefore, the project would not be subject to Caltrans' encroachment permit process. No changes to the Draft IS/MND are required in response to this comment.

**Response to Comment A1-5:**

The commenter summarizes the requirements of Business and Profession Code 8771 related to survey monuments and states that any work within Caltrans' right-of-way will require discretionary review and an encroachment permit. The commenter states that projects requiring an encroachment permit, have completed the Caltrans Local Development Review process, and have an approved environmental document are required to submit documents for Caltrans' Quality Management Assessment Process.

As noted under the response to comment A1-5, the project would not result in any modifications to or require encroachment on any Caltrans' facilities. As such, the project would not be subject to Caltrans' encroachment permit process or Quality Management Assessment Process. In addition, the project would not result in the destruction of any survey monuments. No changes to the Draft IS/MND are required in response to this comment.



Letter  
01

## Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

October 10, 2024

County of San Diego  
Attn: Marcus Lubich  
Department of General Services  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 410  
San Diego, CA 92123-1239

Dear Mr. Lubich,

RE: Jacumba Fire Station No. 43  
Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation ("Tribe"), also known as the Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians, is a federally recognized Self-Governance Indian Tribe that operates pursuant to its constitution and Bylaws adopted on July 12, 1975 pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on January 9, 1976, and possesses inherent powers of self-governance with duties, rights and responsibilities, and with power, authority, and jurisdiction over the lands governed by the Manzanita Tribe and with interest and standing over lands that are within the Traditional Territory of the Kumeyaay People.

The Manzanita Tribe is one of twelve Tribes of the Kumeyaay Nation whose aboriginal territory extends from the Pacific Ocean to the desert lands of the Colorado River and approximately seventy-five miles north and south of the international border, adopted by the State of California through Assembly Joint Resolution No. 60 on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 2002. The Manzanita Tribe is also traditionally and culturally affiliated with cultural resources now submerged in the Pacific Ocean from three to seventeen kilometers further westward than today's coastline including the islands off the coast and as far as we could travel to harvest marine resources. Therefore, the Manzanita Tribe also strives to protect known and unknown cultural resources within the aboriginal territory.

The Manzanita Tribe has reviewed the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, and Appendix B. Archaeological

**PO Box 1302 Boulevard California 91905 Phone (619) 766-4930 Fax (619) 766-4957**

O1-1



Survey Report September 2024 for the proposed new Jacumba Fire Station No. 43. In addition, the Manzanita Tribe has requested Government to Government Consultation, has met with County staff and participated in a site visit. The Manzanita Tribe is providing the following information, comments and requests:

O1-1  
cont.

1. The Manzanita Tribe is particularly interested in the Jacumba area for several reasons. First the Jacumba area is critically important to the Kumeyaay People's history and spirituality, which is well documented and evidenced by the many protection districts in the area and includes the healing waters of the hot springs, the many sacred sites in the area, the archaeological resources, the significant plant gathering sites, trade routes, and cremation sites. All of these significant cultural resources have been adversely affected in the past and the Tribe wants to make sure that they are protected for our future generations. Secondly the Jacumba area is the home of the Aswayo Clan as documented in "Southern Diegueno Customs" by Leslie Spier and all of the modern-day members of the Aswayo Clan are enrolled in the Manzanita Tribe. The Manzanita Tribe does want to protect and strengthen the Clan's, The Tribe's, and the Kumeyaay People's connection to the Jacumba Area.

O1-2

2. Comments on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration
  - a. Section 2 Required Mitigation Measures A. Biological Resources
    - i. MM-BIO-1 – The County should consider consulting with the Manzanita Tribe and other Kumeyaay Tribes to develop Resource Management Plans for Culturally Significant Plants in the Jacumba Area to ensure continued preservation, management, and availability of Culturally Significant Plants to Kumeyaay People.
  - b. Section 2 Required Mitigation Measures B. Cultural Resources
    - i. MM-CUL-1 – The Tribe agrees that archaeological and Native American Monitoring Plans need to be developed for the project, in addition there should be a Discovery Plan and a NAGPRA Plan as well.
    - ii. Pre-Construction – the Monitoring Plan should outline that monitors should be Tribally Approved by the Participating Tribes and rotated weekly through the Participating Tribes.
    - iii. Construction – Monthly Reporting – The Tribe requests weekly reporting and include the Participating Tribes when sending the reports. The Tribe also wants to clarify that earth-disturbing activities include not only grading but also include trenching for water and utility lines and any other activities where earth is moved.
    - iv. Construction – If Cultural Resources are Identified during construction monitoring – Point 7 – The Tribe requests all isolates, artifacts or deposits be fully documented and curated as all of these deposits cumulatively contribute to the significance of the Jacumba Area and many have been destroyed or taken in the past. Point 8 – When modifying or updating the Research Design, Discovery Plan,

O1-3

O1-4

O1-5

O1-6

O1-7

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| and/or the Data Recovery Plan the County should consult with the Manzanita Tribe and other participating Tribes.   | O1-7<br>cont. |
| v. Construction – Human Remains – The Manzanita Tribe and the other Participating Tribes should be notified and consulted with as well.  | O1-8          |
| vi. Rough Grading Monitoring Report – Point 3 – The Manzanita Tribe and the other Participating Tribes should be sent a copy of all reports and supporting documentation.  | O1-9          |
| vii. Final Grading – Final Report – Point 3 – the County should consult with the Manzanita Tribe and the other Participating Tribes on the identification and selection of a curation facility for all of the collected Cultural Resources. Last Point in that section – A copy of the Final Report should be sent to the Manzanita Tribe and the other Participating Tribes.  | O1-10         |
| <b>3. Comments on Appendix B Archaeological Survey Report September 2024</b>   |               |
| a. Cultural Setting – Page 6 – the Manzanita Tribe is surprised to read that the analysis in this section includes does not include a discussion of the recent discoveries and information that was documented just down the road at the ECO Substation where the evidence confirmed what Kumeyaay Elders have said all along, that the People of this area have always been the same people the Kumeyaay People and yes we embraced technological advancements over the past twelve millennia, at the least, just as any other civilization throughout the world has.                 | O1-11         |
| b. CA-SDI-8072 – Page 14 – Although Dudek made the determination that this site had a low potential for significant buried deposits or culturally sensitive materials and recommended that SDI-8027 was not significant the Manzanita Tribe asserts that all sites are significant and contribute to the collective and overall significance of the Tribal Cultural Landscape in the Jacumba Region and there is evidence in many different areas in the Jacumba Region that have revealed buried deposits so the Manzanita Tribe is insisting on the development of a Discovery Plan. | O1-12         |
| c. Jacumba Valley Archaeological District (JVAD) – Page 15 – How can the County assist in the efforts to have this District approved?  | O1-13         |
| d. 1.3.3 – Traditional Cultural Properties / Tribal Cultural Resources – Page 18 – The Manzanita Tribe asserts and believes that the Jacumba Region has many critically significant Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Properties and is a critically significant Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Landscape that needs all of the available protections for its preservation for future generations of the Kumeyaay People.   | O1-14         |
| e. 4.1.1 – Archaeological Sites – Page 25 – Again the Manzanita Tribe asserts that all sites and resources including CA-SDI-8072 are connected to and contribute to the significance of the Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Landscape in the Jacumba Region.   | O1-15         |
| f. 4.1.2 – Tribal Cultural Resources – Page 26 – The Manzanita Tribe agrees with the Campo Tribe in their assertion of the importance of the viewsheds in the Jacumba Region and their connection to the Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural   | O1-16         |

Landscape in the Jacumba Region and this connection includes the unseen energy connection between the sacred sites and the water in the Jacumba Region.

O1-16  
cont.

- g. 5.1 Mitigable Impacts – Page 27 – a. 1. – The Manzanita Tribe would like to see Native American Monitors should be Tribally Approved and Monitors be rotated weekly through the Participating Tribes – a. 5. – the Manzanita Tribe would like notification be sent to the Participating Tribes of all discovered resources as outlined by a Discovery Plan that the Participating Tribes have been consulted on – Page 28 – a. 6. – the Tribe disagrees with this section and asserts that all isolates and deposits or resources be documented and curated – a. 7. – the Manzanita Tribe is asking the County to develop a Discovery Plan that would outline the steps, notifications, consultation, and reports that are required if deposits or resources are found on site – a. 8. – the Manzanita Tribe is asking the County to have a NAGPRA Plan that would outline immediate notification to the Participating Tribes – a. 10. – the Manzanita Tribe wants consultation on the identification of and selection of the curation facility and suggests including the other Participating Tribes on this consultation – a. 11. – Status Reports – the Manzanita Tribe is asking for Weekly Status Reports for this project – a. 12. - this report should be sent the Manzanita Tribe and the other Participating Tribes as well – a. 13. – this letter notification should be sent to the Manzanita Tribe and the other Participating Tribes as well.

O1-17

- 4. The Manzanita Tribe is requesting copies of all of the attachments including confidential attachments, cultural resource study, site records and/or other documents for this Declaration.

O1-18

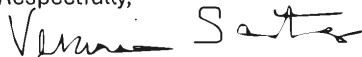
The Manzanita Tribe requests to be kept up to date on developments on this project as it moves forward and when there are any new findings whether isolates, human remains, or any artifacts.

The Manzanita Tribe reserves the right to make additional comments and request further consultation on this project.

O1-19

Should you have any questions or need any further information you can contact the Manzanita Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Veronica Santos at (619)766-4930x1004 or at [veronicasantos@manzanita-nsn.gov](mailto:veronicasantos@manzanita-nsn.gov).

Respectfully,



for Angela Elliott Santos, Tribal Chairman  
Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

## **Letter O1 Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation Angela Elliott Santos, Tribal Chairman**

### **Response to Comment O1-1:**

The commenter states that the Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation (Tribe), also known as the Manzanita Band of the Diegueno Mission Indians, is as federally recognized Self-Governance Indian Tribe and provides a description of the Tribe's aboriginal territory. The commenter states that the Manzanita Tribe has reviewed the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, and Archaeological Survey report for the proposed project. The commenter also states that the Manzanita Tribe has requested Government to Government Consultation, met with County Staff, and participated in a site visit.

The County appreciates the Manzanita Tribe's interest in and input on the proposed project and its potential effect on Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs). The comment is an introductory comment that does not raise any environmental issues regarding the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND. Responses to specific comments are provided below.

### **Response to Comment O1-2:**

The commenter describes the reasons for the Manzanita Tribe's interest in the Jacumba area and states that the Tribe wants to ensure that significant cultural resources are protected for future generations. The commenter states that the Jacumba area is home to the Aswayo Clan and that the Manzanita Tribe wants to protect and strengthen the Aswayo Clan's, the Tribe's, and the Kumeyaay People's connection to the Jacumba area.

The County recognizes and acknowledges the cultural significance of the Jacumba area to the Manzanita Tribe. The comment is informational in nature and does not raise any environmental issues regarding the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND. Therefore, no further response is required.

### **Response to Comment O1-3:**

The commenter requests revisions to Mitigation Measure MM-BIO-1 to include language that the County consider consulting with the Manzanita Tribe and other Kumeyaay Tribes to develop Resource Management Plans for Culturally Significant Plants in the Jacumba area to ensure continued preservation, management, and availability of Culturally Significant Plants to Kumeyaay People.

As provided in the project's Biological Resources Letter Report (Appendix A1) and on page 41 of the Initial Study (Attachment C to the Final MND), no special status species were observed during the field survey. Additionally, no suitable habitat for special status plant species occurs on the project site. Furthermore, opportunistic surveys for target list sensitive plant species were performed before and after focused surveys for burrowing owl and Quino checkerspot butterfly to definitively determine their absence. No sensitive plant species were observed. Historical agricultural use and grading and lack of

connectivity to natural source populations likely precludes special status plant species, including narrow endemics, from occurring within the project site. Moreover, no populations of special status plant species are known to occur immediately adjacent to the project site where they could be subjected to fugitive dust and/or encroachment upon by invasive and/or exotic landscape ornamental species. Therefore, potential direct and indirect impacts on special-status plant species would be less than significant.

Although the proposed project does not require a Resource Management Plan for existing plants that would be affected from earth-disturbing activities, MM-CUL-1 has been updated to include consultation with participating Tribes to determine if Culturally Significant Plants to the Kumeyaay People are present that could then be incorporated into the final landscape palette for the project. Please see the revisions and clarifications provided in the Final IS/MND.

**Response to Comment O1-4:**

The commenter agrees with the requirements in Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 for archaeological and Native American monitoring plans and suggests that there should also be a Discovery Plan and NAGPRA Plan as well.

Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 has been revised and clarified to include language requiring a Monitoring and Discovery Plan that includes State requirements for discovery of human remains. However, because there is no federal nexus, NAGRPA would not be applicable to the proposed project. Please see the revisions and clarifications provided in the Final IS/MND.

**Response to Comment O1-5:**

The commenter suggests that the Monitoring Plan included in Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 should state that monitors should be Tribally approved by the participating Tribes and rotated weekly through the participating Tribes.

Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 has been revised and clarified to include language requiring Native American monitors to be approved by the participating Tribes. In addition, MM-CUL-1 has been further revised to indicate that if multiple Kumeyaay Tribes are interested in participating in the monitoring effort, a daily/weekly rotation shall be developed to allow equal time for observation. Please see the revisions and clarifications provided in the Final IS/MND.

**Response to Comment O1-6:**

The commenter requests that construction monitoring reports be submitted weekly rather than monthly as currently stated in Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 and that the reports be provided to participating Tribes as well. The commenter also requests clarification that earth-disturbing activities include not only grading but also trenching for water and utility lines and any other activities where earth is moved.

In response to Comment O1-6, Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 has been updated. As revised, the County will provide weekly notification and summaries to participating Tribes. However, it is the County's practice to have construction monitoring reports prepared monthly and, therefore, reports would continue monthly. In addition, Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 has been revised and clarified that all earth-disturbing activities would include trenching for utilities, installation of BMPs and fencing, and other activities where earth is moved. Please see the revisions and clarifications provided in the Final IS/MND.

**Response to Comment O1-7:**

The commenter requests that all isolates, artifacts, or deposits discovered during construction monitoring to be fully documented and curated because all of these deposits cumulatively contribute to the significance of the Jacumba area and many have been destroyed or taken in the past. The commenter also requests that the County consult with the Manzanita Tribe and other participating Tribes when modifying or updating the Research Design, Discovery Plan, and/or Data Recovery Plan included in Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1.

Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 has been revised and clarified to include the language requested in the comment. Please see the revisions and clarifications provided in the Final IS/MND.

**Response to Comment O1-8:**

The commenter requests that the Manzanita Tribe and other participating Tribes be notified and consulted with if any human remains are discovered per Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1.

Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 has been revised and clarified to include the language requested in the comment. Please see the revisions and clarifications provided in the Final IS/MND.

**Response to Comment O1-9:**

The commenter requests that the Manzanita Tribe and other participating Tribes be sent a copy of all reports and supporting documentation per the "Rough Grading – Monitoring Report" requirements in Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1.

Please note that MM-CUL-1 already specifies that "[a] copy of the monitoring report shall be provided to...any culturally-affiliated tribe who requests a copy." Other clarifications have been made to Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1. Pursuant to the mitigation measure, the County will provide a copy of the monitoring report and any supporting documentation

**Response to Comment O1-10:**

The commenter requests that the County consult with the Manzanita Tribe and other participating Tribes on the identification and selection of a curation facility for all of the collected cultural resources and that a copy of the Final Grading Report be provided to the Manzanita Tribe and other participating Tribes per Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1.

Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 has been revised and clarified to include the language requested in the comment. Please see the revisions and clarifications provided in the Final IS/MND.

**Response to Comment O1-11:**

The commenter expresses surprise that the analysis in the Cultural Setting of the Archaeological Survey Report does not include a discussion of the recent discoveries and information documented at the ECO Substation.

Please see the update to the Archaeological Survey Report on page 9, which now includes a discussion of the recent discoveries and information documented at the East County Substation Project site.

**Response to Comment O1-12:**

The commenter states that although Dudek made the determination that site CA-SDI-8072 is not significant, the Manzanita Tribe asserts that all sites are significant and contribute to the collective and overall significance of the Tribal Cultural Landscape in the Jacumba region and there is evidence in many different areas in the region that have revealed buried deposits. Based on this, the Manzanita Tribe requests development of a Discovery Plan.

Please see the update to the Archaeological Survey Report, specifically under Section 3.1, Native American Participation, which now states the Manzanita Tribe's belief that that all sites are significant and contribute to the collective and overall significance of the Tribal Cultural Landscape in the Jacumba region and there is evidence in many different areas in the region that have revealed buried deposits.

In addition, mitigation measure MM-CUL-1 has been clarified to include a Monitoring and Discovery Plan.

**Response to Comment O1-13:**

The commenter references page 15 of the Archaeological Survey Report and asks how the County can assist in the efforts to have the Jacumba Valley Archaeological District (JVAD) approved.

The Jacumba Valley Archaeological District was approved in 2013. Please see page 15 of the project's Archaeological Survey Report (Appendix B). The Jacumba Valley Archaeological District is not listed but has been determined eligible for both the California and National Registers. The County can assist with placement on the Local

Register but listing to the California or National Register would need to be completed by a consultant. Also, listing to the Local Register would require all property owners to be in agreement.

**Response to Comment O1-14:**

The commenter references Section 1.3.3, Traditional Cultural Properties/Tribal Cultural Resources, page 18, and indicates that the Manzanita Tribe asserts and believes that the Jacumba region has many critically significant Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Properties and is a critically significant Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Landscape that needs all available protections for its preservation for future generations of the Kumeyaay People.

Please see the update to the Archaeological Survey Report, specifically under Section 3.1, Native American Participation, which now states the Manzanita Tribe's belief that the Jacumba region has many critically significant Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Properties and is a critically significant Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Landscape that needs all available protections for its preservation for future generations of the Kumeyaay People.

**Response to Comment O1-15:**

The commenter references Section 4.1.1, Archaeological Sites, page 25, and states that the Manzanita Tribe asserts that all sites and resources including CA-SDI-8072 are connected to and contribute to the significance of the Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Landscape in the Jacumba region.

Please see the update to the Archaeological Survey Report, specifically under Section 3.1, Native American Participation, which now states the Manzanita Tribe's belief that all sites and resources including CA-SDI-8072 are connected to and contribute to the significance of the Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Landscape in the Jacumba region.

**Response to Comment O1-16:**

The commenter references Section 4.1.2, Tribal Cultural Resources, page 26, and indicates support for the Campo Tribe's assertion of the importance of viewsheds in the Jacumba Region, emphasizing their connection to the Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Landscape, including the unseen energy linking sacred sites and water in the area.

Please see the update to the Archaeological Survey Report, specifically under Section 3.1, Native American Participation, which now includes a statement that the Manzanita Tribe supports the Campo Tribe's assertion of the importance of viewsheds in the Jacumba Region, emphasizing their connection to the Kumeyaay Traditional Cultural Landscape, including the unseen energy linking sacred sites and water in the area.



**Response to Comment O1-17:**

The commenter references Section 5.1, Mitigable Impacts, which has been clarified as Section 5, Management Considerations – Mitigation and Design Considerations, Section 5.1, Cultural Resources, on page 29. The commenter requests Tribally approved Native American monitors be rotated weekly among Participating Tribes and that tribes be notified of discovered resources per a consulted Discovery Plan. The commenter states that all resources, isolates, and deposits should be documented and curated and asks the County to develop a NAGPRA plan for immediate tribal notification. The commenter also requests consultation on selecting a curation facility, weekly status reports, and notifications be sent to all Participating Tribes.

Please see the update to the Archaeological Survey Report, specifically under Section 5, Mitigable Impacts, which modifies the Archaeological and Native American Monitoring mitigation measure to include Tribally approved Native American monitors rotated regularly (e.g., daily or weekly) among Participating Tribes, notification of participating tribes of discovered resources per the Monitoring and Discovery Plan, documentation and curation of resources (including isolates and deposits), onsite reinterment (if appropriate), or repatriation, consultation with participating Tribes on selecting the appropriate onsite location or curation facility, and weekly notifications and summaries of activities and results to be shared with participating tribes. Because the project does not occur on Federal or Tribal land, NAGPRA does not apply.

**Response to Comment O1-18:**

The commenter requests copies of all attachments, including confidential ones, cultural resource studies, site records, and related documents for the MND.

In addition to the Archaeological Survey Report that was circulated with the MND for public review, the County will provide the Manzanita Tribe with copies of all attachments, including confidential ones, cultural resource studies, site records, and related documents for the MND.

**Response to Comment O1-19:**

The commenter requests updates on the project's progress and any new findings, such as artifacts or remains. The commenter indicates that they reserve the right to provide further comments and request additional consultation. The comment concludes with the commenter providing their contact information.

The County appreciates the Manzanita Tribe's participation and input in the planning process for the Jacumba Fire Station No. 43 project.