

## **APPENDIX E – CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT**

# Cultural Resources Study Results Letter Report for the City of Beaumont Cherry Channel Drainage Project

City of Beaumont

# CHAMBERS GROUP

October 23, 2024  
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**Subject: Cultural Resources Study Results Letter Report for the City of Beaumont Cherry Channel Drainage Project, City of Beaumont, Riverside County, CA.**

Chambers Group, Inc. (Chambers Group) is providing this Letter Report to the City of Beaumont documenting the results of a cultural resources records search and literature review in support of the Cherry Channel Drainage Project (Project, Proposed Project) in the City of Beaumont (City), Riverside County, California. This assessment includes a review of available cultural resources records data and literature review for the Project site and study area (Figure 1). The purpose of the review is to gather and analyze information needed to assess the potential for impacts to cultural resources within the Proposed Project site.

## Project Description

The Project plans to line the existing Cherry Channel with concrete to improve the channel flow conditions to alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City staff. The existing channel is lined with a turf reinforced geo-mat lining along the side slope and channel bottom. The channel geo-mats have been affected by urban runoff flows, with sections torn or missing over the years. The Project proposes to remove the existing geo-mat lining, wingwall, and riprap within the channel and replace it with concrete along the slopes and channel bottom. The existing headwalls and culverts will remain and be protected in place. The Project would result in reduced maintenance costs and improved flow of runoff to the channel. The City is the lead agency for the Proposed Project.

## Location and Setting

The Project site is located along the eastern margin of Cherry Avenue, between Cougar Way and Oak Valley Parkway in Riverside County. Residential communities are located along Cherry Avenue to the northeast, southeast, and southwest. Beaumont Adult School and San Geronio Middle School are located to the west of Cherry Avenue.

An operational and City-owned paved parking lot located to the east of Cherry Avenue, north of Rover Lane, will be utilized for staging and material storage for the Project. The parking lot is owned by the City and primarily used as overflow parking for the Community Recreation Center to the south as well as access to the drainage and conducting maintenance to the area. In addition to City use, the parking lot is available for recreational use by the public, such as walking/hiking on the maintenance access roads and unmarked trails within the open space area of an existing Southern California Edison (SCE) easement following the powerlines. Land uses surrounding the Cherry Avenue channel consist of Single Family Residential, High-Density Residential, Public Facilities, and Open Space.

The Project site is located on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' Beaumont Quadrangle, Township 2 South, Range 1 West, Section 34. The elevation at the Project site ranges from 2,680 to 2,703 feet above mean sea level (amsl).



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Figure 1: Project Location

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## Regulatory Context

As the lead agency for the Proposed Project, the City of Beaumont must comply with the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which requires a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on historical resources (PRC §21084.1). In addition to State regulations, projects built in the City of Beaumont are also subject to several policies relating to archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources. Chapter 8 of the Beaumont General Plan pertains specifically to historic preservation within the city. The regulatory framework as it pertains to cultural resources under CEQA has been detailed below.

Under the provisions of CEQA, including the CEQA Statutes (PRC §§ 21083.2 and 21084.1), the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] § 15064.5), and PRC § 5024.1 (Title 14 CCR § 4850 et seq.), properties expected to be directly or indirectly affected by a proposed project must be evaluated for eligibility for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).

## California Register of Historic Resources

The purpose of the CRHR is to maintain listings of the State's historical resources and to indicate which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from material impairment and substantial adverse change. The term *historical resources* includes a resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR; a resource included in a local register of historical resources; and any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant (CCR § 15064.5[a]). The criteria for listing properties in the CRHR were expressly developed in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP 1995:2) regards "any physical evidence of human activities over 45 years old" as meriting recordation and evaluation.

A cultural resource is considered "historically significant" under CEQA if the resource meets one or more of the criteria for listing in the CRHR. The CRHR was designed to be used by State and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify existing cultural resources within the state and to indicate which of those resources should be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change. The following criteria have been established for the CRHR. A resource is considered significant if it:

1. is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
2. is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
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; or
4. has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, historical resources eligible for listing in the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be able to convey the reasons for their significance. Such integrity is evaluated in regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Under CEQA, if an archeological site is not a historical resource but meets the definition of a "unique archeological resource" as defined in PRC § 21083.2, then it should be treated in accordance with the provisions of that section. A *unique archeological resource* is defined as follows:

- An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:
  - Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that 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



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

Resources that neither meet any of these criteria for listing in the CRHR nor qualify as a “unique archaeological resource” under CEQA PRC § 21083.2 are viewed as not significant. Under CEQA, “A non-unique archaeological resource need be given no further consideration, other than the simple recording of its existence by the lead agency if it so elects” (PRC § 21083.2[h]).

Impacts that adversely alter the significance of a resource listed in or eligible for listing in the CRHR are considered a significant effect on the environment. Impacts to historical resources from a proposed project are thus considered significant if the project:

- (1) physically destroys or damages all or part of a resource;
- (2) changes the character of the use of the resource or physical feature within the setting of the resource, which contributes to its significance; or
- (3) introduces visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of significant features of the resource.

## Assembly Bill 52

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 was enacted in 2015 and expands CEQA by defining a new resource category: tribal cultural resources (TCR). AB 52 establishes that “a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment” (PRC § 21084.2). AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California tribes regarding those resources. The consultation process must be completed before a CEQA document can be certified. AB 52 requires that lead agencies “begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project.” Native American tribes to be included in the process are those that have requested notice of projects proposed in the jurisdiction of the lead agency. It further states that the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts that would alter the significant characteristics of a TCR, when feasible (PRC § 21084.3). PRC § 21074 (a)(1)(A) and (B) define TCRs as “sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe” which meet either of the following criteria:

- Listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC § 5020.1(k)
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1 (in applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe)

## Local

In addition to State regulations, projects built in the City of Beaumont are also subject to the following goals and policies outlined in the City of Beaumont General Plan Update (2020), Chapter 8: Conservation + Open Space. Specifically, Chapter 8 of the General Plan outlines several policies relating to archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources driven by Goal 8.11

Goal 8.11: A City where archaeological, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, and historical places are identified, recognized, and preserved.

Policies:

- 8.11.1 Avoid or when avoidance is not feasible, minimize impacts to sites with significant archaeological, paleontological, cultural and tribal cultural resources, to the extent feasible
- 8.11.2 Comply with notification of California Native American tribes and organizations of proposed projects that have the potential to adversely impact cultural resources, per the requirements of AB52 and SB18.



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- 8.11.3 Encourage the preservation of historic (i.e., non-archaeological) resources, when practical. When it is not practical to preserve a historic resource in its entirety, require the architectural details and design elements of historic structures to be preserved during renovations and remodels as much as feasible.
- 8.11.4 Require that any human remains discovered during implementation of public and private projects within the City be treated with respect and dignity and fully comply with the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, California Public Resources Code Amended Statutes 1982 Chapter 1492, California Public Resources Code Statutes 2006, Chapter 863, Section 1, CA Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 , Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, Public Resources Code Section 5097.94, SB 447 (Chapter 404, Statutes of 1987) and other appropriate laws.
- 8.11.6 Consider the establishment of an arts and culture district that encourages venues for the arts and entertainment, protects historical buildings and cultural resources, and enhances the City image.

## Open Space and Conservation Implementation Programs

- C20: Cultural Resource Sensitivity Map. Develop a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Map based upon field and literature surveys identifying the locations of known cultural resources and areas of archaeological sensitivity within the City and its Sphere of Influence.

## Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project's overall area is associated with the San Gorgonio Pass, a relatively narrow valley located between the San Bernardino Mountains (north) and the San Jacinto Mountains (south). As a portion of the southern extent of the Mojave Desert and the western extent of the Colorado Desert, this area is characterized by the presence of decomposing granite derived from the nearby hillsides and windborne or water-borne alluvial deposits. Native vegetation in the area is generally limited to desert sage scrub, but riparian zones can be found along washes and intermittent streams.

The general area of the San Gorgonio Pass is characterized as having exposures of some Mesozoic-age granitic and metasedimentary rocks and Quaternary Alluvium (middle and late Pleistocene) that are unlikely to contain significant vertebrate fossils, at least in the uppermost layers. However, based on the review of the geologic map of the *Beaumont 7.5'* Quadrangle, the Project site is situated atop sedimentary units that represent "old" alluvial fan deposits, from middle to late Pleistocene (Morton and Miller 2006).

In southern California, the middle to late Pleistocene is generally associated with a pre-human presence, although recent research suggests early human exploration of North America earlier in the Late Pleistocene than previously documented. Fossil specimens are also associated with the Pleistocene, particularly in areas where deposits are referred to as "older Alluvium" (Morton and Miller 2006). The Holocene is considered to be the most recent geologic period and one that is directly associated with human activity. The Holocene is also generally associated with "younger Alluvium" and not fossil-bearing, except in instances where fossils have been redeposited.

## Cultural Setting

### Prehistoric Overview

During the twentieth century, many archaeologists developed chronological sequences to explain prehistoric cultural changes within all or portions of southern California (Moratto 1984; Jones and Klar 2007). A prehistoric chronology was devised for the southern California coastal region based on early studies and focused on data synthesis that included four horizons: Early Man, Milling Stone, Intermediate, and Late Prehistoric (Wallace 1955, 1978). Though initially lacking the chronological precision of absolute dates (Moratto 1984:159), Wallace's 1955 synthesis has been modified and improved using thousands of radiocarbon dates obtained by southern California researchers over recent decades (Byrd and Raab 2007:217; Koerper and Drover 1983; Koerper et al. 2003). The prehistoric chronological sequence for southern



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California presented below is a composite based on Wallace (1955) and Warren (1968) as well as later studies, including Koerper and Drover (1983).

## Ethnographic Overview

Various regional syntheses have been utilized in archaeological literature for southern California. The following framework derives information from local studies to provide a useful overview for the Project site. The project area is geographically associated with both the Serrano and Cahuilla of southern California (Kroeber 1925:615-619 and 692-708). Though near the territorial boundary separating these two populations, the area is more generally considered part of the “Pass Cahuilla” territory, a reference to the San Gorgonio Pass (Strong 1929:88- 143). Cahuilla culture has been described by several scholars, but most thoroughly by Bean (1972 and 1978). The “Pass Cahuilla” are one of the three main Cahuilla populations associated with western Riverside County as well as Desert Cahuilla and Mountain Cahuilla.

## Cahuilla

The Cahuilla were hunter-gatherers of Shoshonean heritage who lived in small villages of 100 to 200 persons and who were organized into clans and lineages owning village areas and associate gathering tracts (James 1969; Kroeber 1976; Bean 1978; and Emanuels 1991). The Cahuilla produced skillfully manufactured pottery (believed to have been introduced by Colorado River tribes) and basketry. They constructed brush dwellings and ritual structures; conducted trade between the eastern desert and coastal populations, enjoyed games, music, and a rich ceremonial life. The Cahuilla had relatively extensive exchanges and interactions with neighboring populations and maintained a wide range of cultural traditions represented in the material remains recovered in archaeological sites throughout the area. Population estimates for the pre-contact Cahuilla range from 2600 to 10,000 individuals. These individuals maintained extensive networks for trade, including contacts along the Colorado River and the Pacific Coast. Trails, small campsites, and other limited-use areas have been recorded throughout the area and attest to the widespread use of the Valley and Pass. Additional evidence of long-term occupation has been identified along the various shorelines of prehistoric Lake Cahuilla. Trade routes (e.g. the Coco-Maricopa Trail) and encampments between known freshwater sites have been identified through archaeological evidence and some have been recorded in historic records or on historic period maps.

Wilke (1986:9) also emphasized that the Cahuilla did not rely heavily on stone tools but manufactured numerous tools and utility items of wood (even projectile points, at times) and ceramic goods. Nets and traps were also used in hunting and fishing. Ceramics, mainly Tizon Brown and Salton Buff wares, have been found throughout the area, represented by a wide variety of vessel types. Basketry was used, but few examples have survived. Likewise, few examples of wooden implements have survived. Recent archaeological investigations have suggested some Cahuilla practiced limited agriculture (Wilke 1986:9).

The Cahuilla are also associated with a relatively complex social organization based on lineages and clans. Individual clans occupied village sites and exploited specific clan-related territories. Interactions between clans provided exchange in the form of trade, marriages, and ceremonial contacts (e.g., funerary practices). The Cahuilla practiced cremation and often burned the residences of the deceased. Extensive grave goods have also been identified and associated with the cremation practices. New residences were built some distance from the burned residence and the families reestablished themselves at the new locale. Analysis of ethnographic and archaeological data has resulted in the development of various chronologies for the Cahuilla (Wallace 1962; Warren and Ore 1978; Weide et al. 1976; Hall and Barker 1975; and Gallegos et al. 1979). Jertberg (1982:5-7) synthesized this data and proposed the following chronology for comparative purposes:

- 10,000 - 6,000 B.C.: The Lake Mojave/San Dieguito Complex and/or Western Lithic Co-Tradition). Generally characterized by the presence of projectile points, large knives, scrapers, chopping tools, and scraper planes (Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Campbell et al. 1937; Rogers 1939; Davis et al. 1969). Items associated with vegetal food processing and hunting.



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- 6,000 B.C. - A.D. 500: Archaic or Pinto Armagosa periods (Wallace 1962: Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Weide et al. 1976). This period is characterized by diagnostic projectile points, leaf shaped blades, choppers, and scraper planes. Some sites exhibit a small assemblage of milling stones. A shift in climate and vegetation leads to a shift in exploitation with an emphasis on vegetal resources.
- A.D. 500 to Contact: (unnamed). Characterized by the presence of the bow and arrow projectile points (as opposed to dart points), ceramics, and cremations. Milling tools increased, including mortars and pestles. There is evidence of limited agriculture and the appearance of Shoshonean-speakers displacing local Hokan-speaking populations (Wallace 1962:176). Sites are associated with the presence of Lake Cahuilla and the exploitation of resources directly associated with freshwater sources. This unnamed period is more directly associated with the presence of Native Americans in the Indio/La Quinta area and surrounding Cahuilla territories.

Initial contact with the Cahuilla occurred in the early 1800s (ca. 1823) with the Jose Romero Expedition through the Colorado Desert (Bean and Mason 1962). This expedition noted some agricultural activities conducted by the Cahuilla including corn, beans, and squash. Wilke and Lawton (1975) suggest the presence of agriculture was a trait derived from contact with populations in Mexico (or the Greater Southwest).

## Historic Overview

Post-European contact history for the state of California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), the Mexican Period (1822–1848), and the American Period (1848–present). Briefly, and in very general terms, the Spanish Period encompassed the earliest historic-period explorations of the West, bringing colonization, missionization, and proselytization across the western frontier, established a few major centers such as Los Angeles and Monterey and a line of missions and presidios with attendant satellite communities, along with minor prospecting, and a foundational economic structure based on the rancho system. The Mexican Period initiated with a continuation of the same structures; however, commensurate with the political changes that led to the establishment of the Mexican state the missions and presidios were secularized, the lands parceled, and Indian laborers released. Increased global trade introduced both foreign and American actors into the Mexican economic and political sphere, both coincidentally, and purposefully, smoothing the transition to the American Period. The American Period was ushered in with a momentous influx of people seeking fortune in the Sierra foothills where gold was “discovered” in 1848. By the early 1850s people from all over the globe had made their way to California. Expansive industries were required to supply the early mining operations, such as forestry products, and food networks to supply grains, poultry, cattle, and water systems, which intensified the early Mexican Period structures of ranches and supply chains, as well as the development and expansion of port cities to supply hard goods and clothes, animals, and people that moved across vastly improved trail and road networks. California cycled through boom and bust for several decades until World War I when the Department of the Navy began porting warships along the west coast. Subsequently, California has grown, and contracted, predominantly around military policy along the west coast, and the Pacific Ocean. Following the industrial expansion related to World War II and the Cold War, technology and systems associated have come to fore as economic drivers.

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The origin of the City of Beaumont has been reported by Gunther (1984), who describes that it began modestly in 1866 as a mail stop called “Summit Station,” the highest point on the passenger stage route through San Gorgonio Pass. The Summit Station mail stop became a railroad telegraph office for the Southern Pacific Company in 1876. The telegraph office name was changed to “San Gorgonio” in 1884 to coincide with the newly named town site that was established by George C. Egan in 1884. The Southern California Investment Company purchased Egan’s town site in 1886 and headed by H.C. Sigler from Beaumont, Texas, renamed the station “Beaumont” (“beautiful mountain” in French). The Beaumont town site was officially surveyed in 1886 by John Goldworthy and filed in San Bernardino County on March 15, 1887. When the county of Riverside was established in 1893, from portions of San Bernardino and San Diego counties, Beaumont was included within the Riverside County boundaries and, as a result, records prior to 1893 would





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be in the San Bernardino County Archives and records following 1893 would be in the Riverside County Archives. The City of Beaumont was later incorporated on November 18, 1912.

## Methods of Review

Chambers Group could not request a record search from the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), due to the recent closure of the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at California State University, Riverside. Due to this unforeseen closure and because the Office of Historic Preservation has not yet completed the transition of the EIC records to another information center, new records searches for Riverside County are not available and may not be available for many months. In the effort to supplement this study with relevant records search data, Chambers Group utilized records search data, and cultural resources sensitivity mapping developed therein, from the supporting cultural resources assessment conducted in support of the City of Beaumont General Plan Update (Thomas and Mirro 2018). This same records search data was subsequently referenced in a cultural resources assessment prepared by Dudek in 2021 for a proposed Project, which was subsequently accepted in 2021 (Dudek 2021). The previous records searches in support of the General Plan Update were obtained from the EIC in April and July 2017 and encompassed all properties within the City of Beaumont city limits, including the current Project site.

Additional records searches were requested in support of this study. These included a sacred lands file (SLF) records search request from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and a paleontological records search request from the Western Science Center (WSC), both submitted on July 12, 2024. The NAHC SLF was requested to ascertain if any sacred lands, TCRs, or other contexts important to Native American tribal groups in the region are present within the Project site or study area. The WSC records search was requested to identify any potential fossil localities documented in the Project site and any known geologic mapping and related paleontological sensitivity in the Project site and study area. Because the WSC has not yet responded with the requested records search results, the paleontological resources assessment prepared to support the City's General Plan Update (Clifford 2017), and the records search results and sensitivity mapping therein, were utilized for the current study.

This review also included background research of publicly available sources including, but not limited to, the NRHP, CRHR listings, California State Historic Property Data Files, California State Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, historic aerial imagery accessed via Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Online, Historic USGS topographic maps, Built Environment Resource Directory (BERD), and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) State and Local Bridge Surveys.

## Project Personnel

Chambers Group Cultural Resources Department Lead Lucas Tutschulte managed the Project and co-authored the report. Chambers Group cultural resources specialist Kellie Kandybowicz conducted the background research and supported with preparation of the report. Richard Shultz, MA, RPA, served as Principal Investigator for cultural resources and implemented quality control for the report.

## Cultural Resources Reports within the Study Area

Results of the 2017 cultural resources records search indicate that eight previous cultural resources studies have been conducted within one-half mile of the Project site (Thomas and Mirro 2018). The studies were conducted between 1989 through 2015. Notably, the 1989 Cultural Resources Literature Review for the 1,162 Acre *Deutsch Specific Plan Project* (RI-03421) partially intersects with the Project site. That study confirms that the Project site has been included in a previous assessment for the presence of cultural resources and indicates that no cultural resources have been reported as present at the Project site. Table 1 provides a list of the previous cultural resources studies conducted within one-half-mile of the current Project site.



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**Table 1: Previous Cultural Resources Studies within the One-Half-Mile Study Area**

RI-02210	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
RI-02917	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
<b>RI-03421</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>Brown, Joan and Juanita Smith</b>	<b>Cultural Resources Literature Review for the 1,162 Acre Deutsch Specific Plan Project, Located in the City of Beaumont, Riverside County, California</b>	<b>Yes</b>
RI-07288	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
RI-08409	2004	William T. Eckhardt, Kristen E. Walker, and Richard L. Carrico	Draft Cultural Resources Inventory of the Proposed Vista to Devers Transmission Line, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California.	No
RI-09167	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
RI-09460	2015	Bai 'Tom' Tang and Michael Hogan	Phase I Historical/Archaeological Resource Survey Seasons at Beaumont Project City of Beaumont Riverside, California	No
RI-09570	N/A	N/A	N/A	No

## Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within the Study Area

The 2017 CHRIS records search results for the City of Beaumont General Plan Update indicate that 293 cultural resources have been previously recorded within the Plan area (Thomas and Mirro 2018). As stated by Thomas and Mirro:

the majority of these are built-environment resources consisting in large part of single-family residences but also including commercial properties, civic buildings, transmission lines, flood control structures, roadways, and at least one trail. The remaining resources are composed of 52 prehistoric archaeological sites including lithic and ceramic scatters, milling features, rock art, and isolated flakes and ground stone artifacts; 35 historical archaeological sites including refuse scatters, structural remains, wells, a rocket test site, and isolated glass fragments and other refuse; and 5 sites containing both historical and prehistoric artifacts including lithic and ceramic scatters with historical refuse, habitation sites with rock art and historical refuse, and milling features sites with historical refuse (Thomas and Mirro 2018:29-30).

Of the resources identified within the Plan area, one intersects with the current Project site. P-33-015035 was recorded as the Devers-San Bernardino 220kV Transmission Line, which was constructed in 1945 by SCE. The Devers-San Bernardino Transmission Line crosses through the southern part of the Project site.

## Background Research

The *Cultural Resource Assessment for the City of Beaumont General Plan Update, City of Beaumont, Riverside County, California* (Thomas and Mirro 2018) was utilized for the current study and provides results of a cultural resources investigation prepared in support of the City's 2040 General Plan Update Final Environmental Impact Report. The study included a CHRIS records search conducted in 2017, coordination with Native American tribal representatives, and a

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desktop analysis of archival, ethnographic, and environmental data. Results of the CHRIS search identified 293 previously recorded cultural resources within the Plan area, which encompasses the entire City of Beaumont. This study also included a cultural resources sensitivity map of the Plan area (Thomas and Mirro 2018). The sensitivity mapping indicates that the current Project site is within two areas of sensitivity for cultural resources; the northern half of the Project site is mapped as Low to Moderate Sensitivity and the southern half of the Project site is mapped as High Sensitivity for cultural resources (Attachment B).

The study provided general management recommendations for areas sensitivity within the General Plan Area that are reflected in the General Plan goals and policies pertaining to cultural and paleontological resources outlined above, which have been carried forth for the current Proposed Project.

Based on the review of available topographical maps, historic photographs, and aerial imagery, Chambers Group archaeologists observed that the current alignment of Cherry Avenue was constructed as a paved roadway in the mid-1960s as residential development in the vicinity grew. Cherry Avenue runs in a north-south oriented direction along the western half of the Project site. The geo-mat-lined existing Cherry Channel runs parallel to that section of Cherry Avenue on the east side of the Project site. The area to the east of the section of Cherry Avenue between Cougar Way to the north and Oak Valley Parkway to the south remained largely undeveloped land until between 2005 and 2009 when development began on the southern end of the segment of Cherry Avenue in which the Project site is now located. However, as shown on the 1952 topographical map, a residence is mapped at the northeast corner of Cherry Avenue and Oak Valley Parkey, immediately adjacent to the Project site. Residential development west of that segment of Cherry Avenue began in the 1950s (NETRonline 2024).

As a result of the archival research, no previously recorded resources, or any other listed or potentially significant properties, were identified within the Project site.

## Paleontological Resources

On July 12, 2024, Chambers Group submitted a paleontological records search request to the WSC. As of the date of this report, after multiple follow-up email requests and phone calls, Chambers Group has not received the results of that request.

As mentioned in the environmental setting section, the general area of the San Gorgonio Pass is characterized as having exposures of some Mesozoic age granitic and metasedimentary rocks and Quaternary Alluvium (middle and late Pleistocene) that are unlikely to contain significant vertebrate fossils, at least in the uppermost layers. However, based on the review of the geologic map, the Project site is situated atop sedimentary units that represent “old” alluvial fan deposits (Qof), from middle to late Pleistocene (Morton and Miller 2006).

Similarly to the cultural resources detailed above, the *Paleontological Resource Assessment for the City of Beaumont General Plan Update, City of Beaumont, Riverside County, California* (Clifford 2017) was utilized for the current study. That study provides results of a paleontological resources investigation prepared in support of the City’s 2040 General Plan Update Final Environmental Impact Report. The study included a paleontological records search conducted in 2017 by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLA). Results of the paleontological records search identified 17 previously documented fossil localities within the Plan area, which encompasses the entire City of Beaumont. This study also included a paleontological sensitivity map of the Plan area (Clifford 2017). The sensitivity mapping indicates that the current Project site is mapped within an area of High Sensitivity for paleontological resources (Attachment B).

The study provided general management recommendations for areas of high sensitivity within the General Plan Area that are reflected in the General Plan goals and policies pertaining to cultural and paleontological resources outlined above, which have been carried forth for the current Proposed Project.

## Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File Search

On July 12, 2024, Chambers Group requested an SLF search from the NAHC.



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On July 30, 2024, Chambers Group received a response from the NAHC stating that the SLF records search was **negative** within the Project site and the surrounding study area.

The NAHC provided a list of 27 Native American tribal contacts that may have knowledge of cultural resources near the Project site. The 12 Native American tribes identified by the NAHC include Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation, Ramona Band of Cahuilla, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, Serrano Nation of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. The response from the NAHC and the list of tribal contacts has already been provided directly to the City and is included in Attachment A.

## AB 52 Consultation

As Lead Agency, the City of Beaumont is responsible for AB 52 outreach for the Project. As of the date of this report, the initial outreach for AB 52 has not yet been engaged. All details and any results of requested AB 52 consultation will be captured in the appropriate section of the Project Environmental document.

## Discussion

Chambers Group conducted a cultural resources records search and literature review for the Project site and surrounding study area in September and October 2024. Chambers Group found no evidence of archaeological or paleontological resources within the Project site. This finding is based primarily on the records search data available to review that were prepared in support of the City's General Plan Update (Thomas and Mirro 2018; Clifford 2017). Background research into the paleontological sensitivity of the area indicates that shallow deposits of fossil-bearing deposits have the potential to be impacted by the Project. Similarly, while no evidence of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources were mapped within the Project site, the Native American community has identified the area of San Gorgonio Pass as sensitive for TCRs and related contexts important to Native American Tribes in the region. Additionally, the area is associated with the early Beaumont development and as such, has the potential to yield historic-period archaeological materials, likely in a shallow context. This conclusion is further supported by the results of the cultural resources assessment and sensitivity mapping prepared for the General Plan Update (Thomas and Mirro 2018). The subsurface context within the Project site is considered sensitive for buried resources, both archaeological and paleontological. Finally, P-33-015035 (the 1945 Devers-San Bernardino Transmission Line) was found to cross over the southern part of the Project site. The Project is an existing water control feature that will be modified in-place, which, as a result, would not have any direct, or indirect, impact on the transmission line.

Given the nature of the Proposed Project, and that the associated ground disturbance is all proposed within the existing footprint of the channel, there is potential that the sediments underlying the channel have been previously disturbed. The dynamic nature of the active drainage channel was also considered an ongoing disturbance to the Project site and the potential for in situ cultural resources within the channel alignment is diminished on the surface. However, the current Project proposes to over excavate to depths that may go beyond previous disturbance related to the initial development of the channel. As such, there is potential that intact native sediments, that have higher potential for intact buried resources in the region, will be encountered during the Project.

## Recommendations

Based on the available records search data and background research, Chambers Group archaeologists found that the Proposed Project site is previously disturbed, fully developed, and is currently occupied by the extant segment of Cherry Avenue and the to-be replaced geo-mat-lined channel. Prior research conducted in support of the General Plan Update indicated a low to moderate and high level of sensitivity for buried resources in the Project site and surrounding vicinity, as noted in the cultural resources and paleontological sensitivity maps (Thomas and Mirro 2018; Clifford 2017). Furthermore, while the NAHC SLF search results were negative, the San Gorgonio Pass area is documented as sensitive for TCRs.



# Cultural Resources Study Results Letter Report for the City of Beaumont Cherry Channel Drainage Project

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Chambers Group recommends the following measures and related protocols, in accordance with the City's General Plan Update Goal 8.11 and related policies, to be further outlined and incorporated into a Cultural Resource Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the associated Project construction activity. If any cultural resources are identified, they would need to be evaluated for eligibility for the CRHR by a qualified archaeologist. Evaluation for archaeological sites consists of an archaeological testing program. Similarly, evaluation for paleontological resources will require evaluation by a qualified paleontologist. If determined eligible by the CEQA lead agency or the State Historic Preservation Office, mitigation, consisting of the appropriate treatment for archaeological sites or paleontological resources, and documentation for historical structures, would be required if avoidance is not feasible. Finally, because of the EIC closure and the reliance on previous records search data for this study, Chambers Group is recommending that the initial ground disturbance into potentially intact native soils (which may not have been previously disturbed by the initial development of the channel) be monitored for cultural resources.

Chambers Group recommends the following mitigation measures to be implemented as part of Project approval to ensure that potential impacts to cultural and paleontological resources are less than significant.

**MM CUL-1** The Applicant shall retain the services of a Qualified Archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior Standards, for the duration of ground-disturbing construction activity. All construction-related ground disturbing activity that includes cutting into native intact soils shall be monitored by a cultural resources specialist proficient in construction monitoring setting. The Qualified Archaeologist or cultural resources specialist working under the direction of the Qualified Archaeologist shall provide training to inform all construction personnel prior to construction activities about the proper procedures in the event of an archaeological discovery. The training shall be held in conjunction with the Project's initial on-site safety meeting and shall explain the importance and legal basis for the protection of significant archaeological resources.

In the event of an inadvertent discovery of potential archaeological resources (artifacts or features) during ground-disturbing activities, construction activities within a 50-foot radius of the discovery shall be halted while the Qualified Archaeologist assesses the find. If the resource is determined to be significant or unique through significance evaluation, and site avoidance is not possible, appropriate site-specific mitigation measures shall be established and undertaken. These might include an archaeological mitigation and monitoring plan, treatment, or data recovery programs. All monitoring or associated plans would be prepared and implemented under the direction of a qualified archaeologist. All required close-out reporting would be completed in accordance with the Office of Historic Preservation's Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR).

**MM PAL-1** The Applicant shall be required to obtain the services of a Qualified Paleontologist to remain on-call for the duration of the ground-disturbing construction activity. If requested by the City, a paleontological mitigation plan (PMP) outlining procedures for paleontological monitoring and/or data recovery shall be prepared for the Project and submitted to the City for review and approval. The development and implementation of the PMP shall include, but not be limited to, additional research and further assessment of paleontological sensitivity in the Project site, consultations with the Applicant's engineering geologist, as well as a requirement that the curation of all specimens recovered under any scenario shall be through an appropriate repository agreed upon by the City. The PMP shall also include developing a multilevel ranking system, or Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC), as a tool to demonstrate the potential yield of fossils within a given stratigraphic unit. The PMP shall outline the monitoring and salvage protocols to address paleontological resources encountered during Project-related ground-disturbing activities. As well as the appropriate recording, collection, processing, curation, and reporting protocols to appropriately address any monitoring conducted or resources discovered.



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**HUMAN REMAINS – LEGAL REQUIREMENTS** In the event that human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, then the Project would be subject to California Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA Section 15064.5, and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If human remains are found during ground-disturbing activities, State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner shall be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the County Coroner shall notify the NAHC, which shall notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Chambers Group is available to assist with any further support or document preparation related to Cultural Resources, including tribal consultation. Please contact the Cultural Resources staff at the contact information below if you have any questions or comments regarding this report.

Sincerely,

**CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kellie Kandybowicz".

**Kellie Kandybowicz**  
*Cultural Resources Specialist*  
kkandybowicz@chambersgroupinc.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Shultz".

**Richard Shultz, MA, RPA**  
*Cultural Resources Principal Investigator*  
rshultz@chambersgroupinc.com

**Attachments**

Attachment A: NAHC SLF Records Search Results

Attachment B: Project Sensitivity Mapping (Cultural & Paleontological)



# Cultural Resources Study Results Letter Report for the City of Beaumont Cherry Channel Drainage Project

City of Beaumont

# CHAMBERS GROUP

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# Cultural Resources Study Results Letter Report for the City of Beaumont Cherry Channel Drainage Project

City of Beaumont

# CHAMBERS GROUP

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for the City of Beaumont Cherry Channel  
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**CHAMBERS  
GROUP**

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**ATTACHMENT A – NAHC SLF RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS**

# Attachment A: NAHC SLF Records Search Results Letter



STATE OF CALIFORNIA Gavin Newsom Governor

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

July 30, 2024

Kellie Kandybowicz  
Chambers Group, Inc.

Via Email to: [kkandybowicz@chambersgroupinc.com](mailto:kkandybowicz@chambersgroupinc.com)

CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
**Buffy McQuillen**  
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Cahuilla

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**Bennae Calac**  
Pauma-Yuima Band of  
Luiseño Indians

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](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)

**Re: Cherry Channel Drainage Project, Riverside County**

To Whom It May Concern:

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](mailto:Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Andrew Green  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
Riverside County  
7/30/2024**

Tribe Name	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Email Address
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Lacy Padilla, Director of Historic Preservation/THPO	5401 Binah Shore Drive Palm Springs, CA, 92264	(760) 333-5222	ACOCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Operations,	24-001 Avenue 54 Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 398-4722	info@augustinetribe-nsn.gov
Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians	Boug Welmas, Chairperson	24-245 Indio Springs Parkway Indio, CA, 92203	(760) 342-2593	bstapp@cabazonindians-nsn.gov
Cahuilla Band of Indians	Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	52701 CA Highway 371 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-5549	anthonymad2002@gmail.com
Cahuilla Band of Indians	Erica Schenk, Chairperson	52701 CA Highway 371 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 590-0942	chair@cahuilla-nsn.gov
Cahuilla Band of Indians	Bobby Ray Esparza, Cultural Director	52701 CA Highway 371 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-5549	besparza@cahuilla-nsn.gov
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians	Ray Chapparosa, Chairperson	P.O. Box 189 Warner Springs, CA, 92086-0189	(760) 782-0711	
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Robert Martin, Chairperson	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5110	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Ann Brierty, THPO	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5259	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	Jordan Joaquin, President, Quechan Tribal Council	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(760) 919-3600	executivesecretary@quechantribe.com
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman - Kw'wats'an Cultural Committee	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 210-8739	culturalcommittee@quechantribe.com
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 261-0254	historicpreservation@quechantribe.com
Ramona Band of Cahuilla	Joseph Hamilton, Chairperson	P.O. Box 391670 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-4105	admin@ramona-nsn.gov
Ramona Band of Cahuilla	John Gomez, Environmental Coordinator	P. O. Box 391670 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-4105	jjgomez@ramona-nsn.gov
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	Alexandra McCleary, Senior Manager of Cultural Resources Management	26569 Community Center Drive Highland, CA, 92346	(909) 633-0054	alexandra.mccleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	Steven Estrada, Tribal Chairman	P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 659-2700	sestrada@santarosa-nsn.gov

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
Riverside County  
7/30/2024**

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	Vanessa Minott, Tribal Administrator	P.O. Box 351820 Anaheim, CA, 92539	(951) 659-2700	vmnott@santarosa-nsn.gov
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(909) 578-2598	serranonation1@gmail.com
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	Wayne Waker, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(253) 370-0167	serranonation1@gmail.com
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	Joseph Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663-5279	jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663-6261	jvaldez@soboba-nsn.gov
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 654-5544	ivivanco@soboba-nsn.com
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Mary Belardo, Cultural Committee Vice Chair	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 397-0300	belardom@gmail.com
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Alessia Reed, Cultural Committee Chairwoman	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 397-0300	isareed99@gmail.com
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Abraham Becerra, Cultural Coordinator	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 397-0300	abecerra@tmdci.org
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Thomas Torte, Chairperson	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 397-0300	thomas.torte@tmdci.org
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Gary Resvaloso, TM MLB	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 777-0365	grestmtm@gmail.com

**ATTACHMENT B –PROJECT SENSITIVITY MAPPING (CULTURAL AND  
PALEONTOLOGICAL)**



# Attachment B: Project Sensitivity Mapping (Cultural)

Cultural Resource Assessment – City of Beaumont General Plan Update

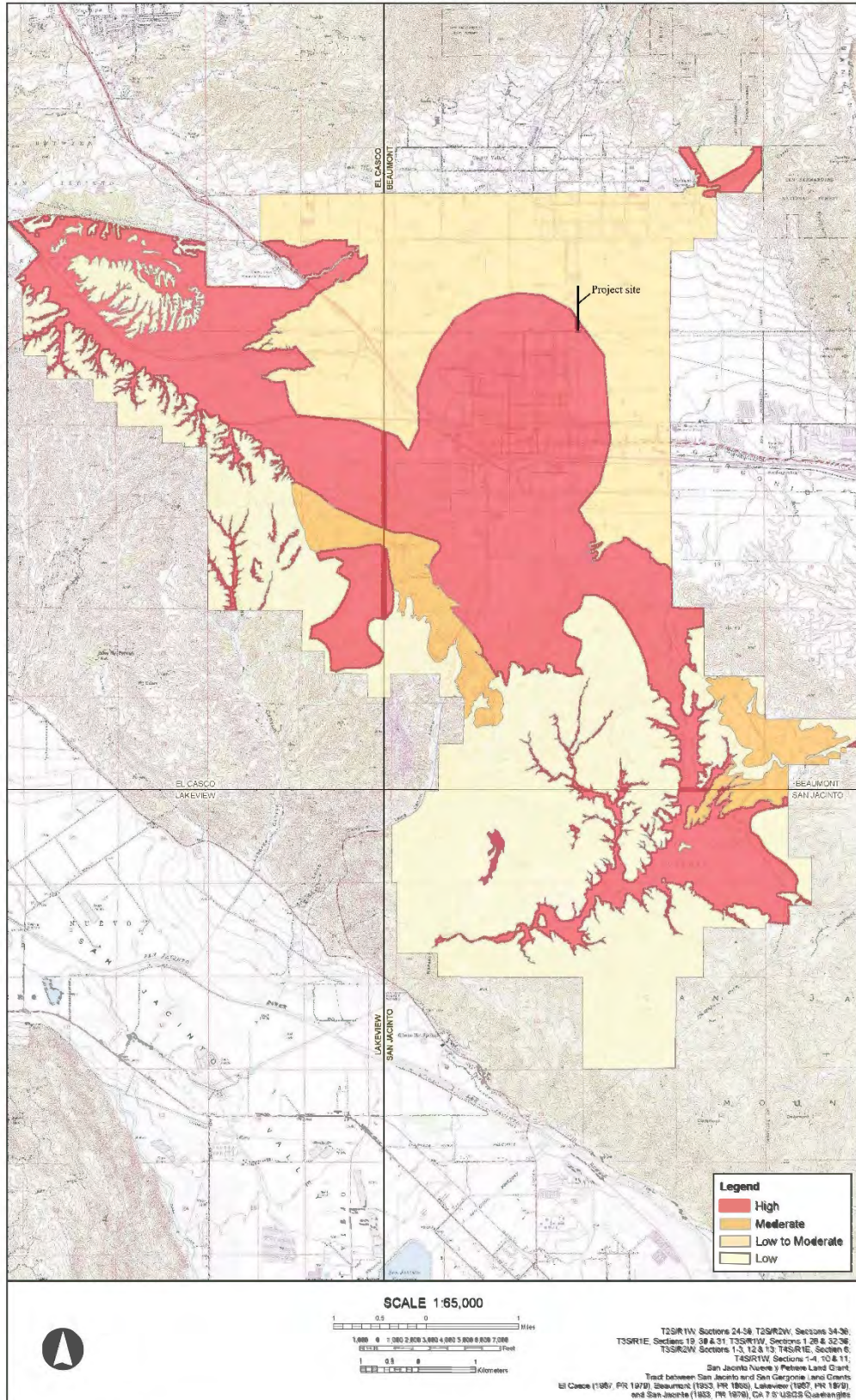
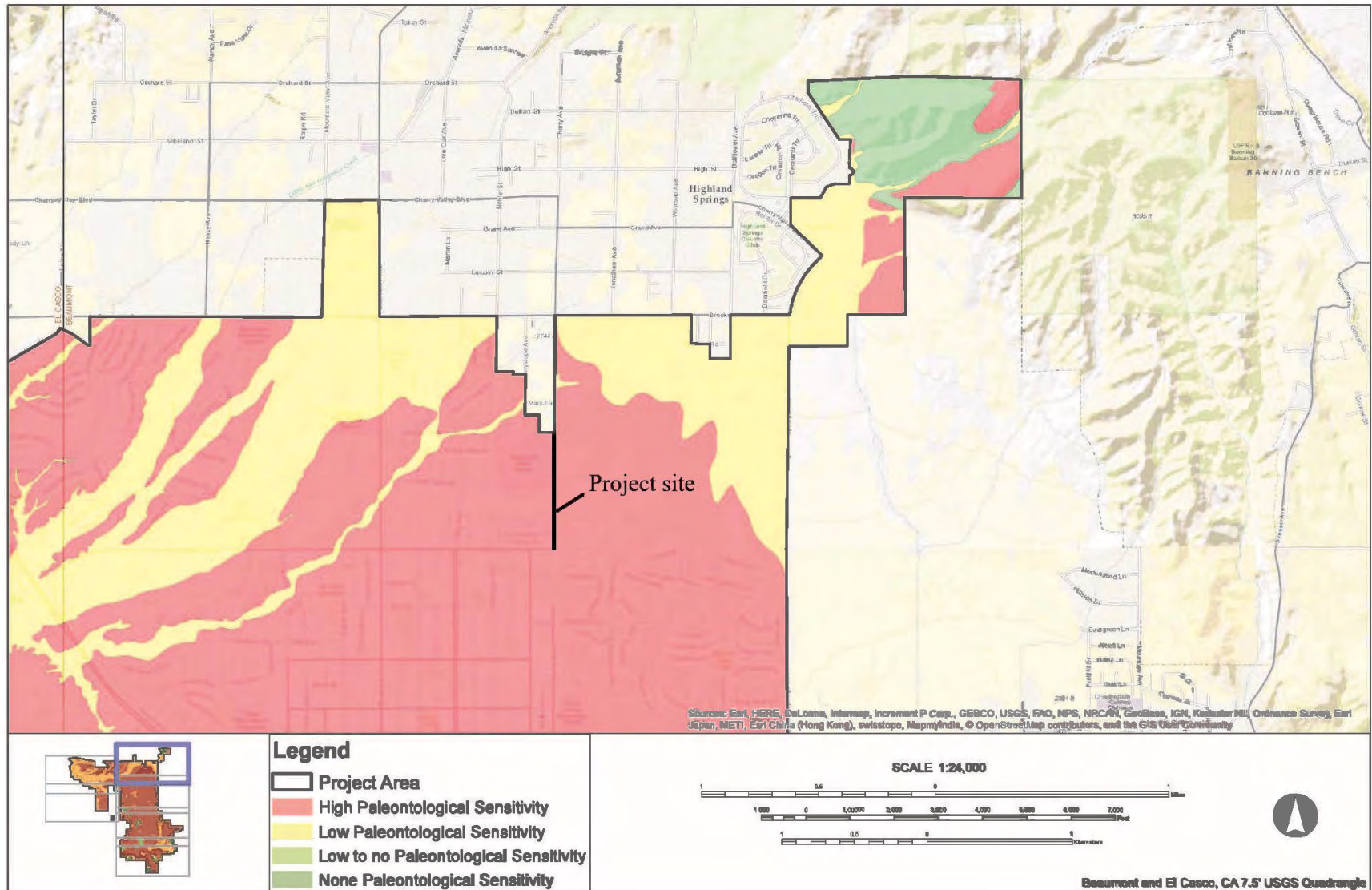


Figure 5-1 Project sensitivity map.

## Attachment B: Project Sensitivity Mapping (Paleontological)



Paleontological Sensitivity in the City of Beaumont General Plan Update Project Area.