

Appendix C

Cultural Resources Study



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September 27, 2024
Project No: 24-16590

Kane Sawtelle
Merlone Geier Partners
6180 Laurel Canyon Boulevard #170
North Hollywood, California 91606
Via email: ksawtelle@merlonegeier.com

**Subject: Cultural Resources Assessment for the 3600 Peck Road Project
El Monte, Los Angeles County, California**

Dear Mr. Sawtelle:

This letter report presents the findings of a cultural resources assessment completed in support of the 3600 Peck Road Project (project or proposed project) located in the City of El Monte, Los Angeles County, California. Merlone Geier Partners retained Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) to support the proposed project's compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This letter report documents the results of the tasks performed by Rincon, specifically a California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search, archival and background research, including reviews of historical maps and aerial photographs and previously prepared geotechnical reports that address the proposed project site. Additionally, this assessment includes an analysis of the sensitivity of the proposed project site to contain archaeological resources followed by management recommendations. All work was completed in accordance with CEQA Section 15064.5 for historical resources and Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 for archaeological resources, as well as applicable local guidelines and regulations for the City of El Monte (City). The City is the lead agency under CEQA.

Project Site Location and Description

The proposed project site is located at 3600 Peck Road and encompasses portions of Section 22 of Township 1 South, Range 11 West on the *El Monte, California* United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Attachment 1, Figure 1). Specifically, the proposed project site is 15.79 acres and encompasses three parcels (Assessor Identification Numbers 8567-015-055, 8567-015-061, and 8567-015-062 and is bound to the north by Sitka Street, to the west by Peck Road, to the south by Stewart Street and commercial buildings and paved parking lots, and to the east by commercial buildings and paved parking lots (Attachment 1, Figure 2).

The proposed project consists of the redevelopment of an existing commercial center totaling 178,242 square feet (SF) and involves demolition of the following three existing commercial buildings: Denny's (6,000 SF), Big 5 Sporting Goods (7,800 SF), and China Buffet (11,047 SF); none of these existing buildings proposed for demolition are over 45 years of age. The proposed project also involves the construction of three new commercial buildings for the following businesses: a Starbucks (2,400 SF), an In-N-Out (3,886 SF), and a Raising Cane's (3,612 SF). These proposed coffee/fast-food restaurants will each provide a drive-thru facility. The proposed project will reduce the total size of the commercial center to 163,293 SF. Ground disturbing activities associated with the demolition and construction of the commercial buildings is anticipated to occur at depths between 3 and 8 feet below current grade. No off-site improvements are currently proposed.



Summary of Natural and Environmental Setting

The proposed project site is relatively flat with elevation ranging between 285 and 295 feet above mean sea level, and gently slopes to the southwest (Google 2024a). The nearest water sources to the proposed project site include the channelized Rio Hondo, a tributary of the Los Angeles River, located approximately 1 mile northwest, and the San Gabriel River channel located approximately 1 mile to the east. The Pacific Ocean is located over 25 miles to the southwest. As previously noted, the proposed project site is fully developed within an existing commercial center consisting of buildings and paved parking lots and landscaping, including ornamental trees, consistent with urban settings.

The proposed project site is situated within the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province (California Geological Survey 2015). This geomorphic province is characterized by northwest trending mountain ranges and valleys that extend from the northern tip of the Baja Peninsula to the Transverse Ranges. More specifically, the proposed project site is located within San Gabriel Valley and is bounded by the following notable landform features: San Gabriel Mountains to the north, the San Jose Hills to the south and east, the Puente Hills and Chino Hills located further south and east, and the Verdugo Mountains to the west. Sediments within the proposed project site consist of alluvium, which emanates from the San Gabriel Mountains (Salem Engineering Group, Inc. 2023). The proposed project site retains none of its natural setting or topography.

Methods

Background and Archival Research

Rincon completed background and archival research in support of this assessment in September 2024. A variety of primary and secondary source materials were consulted. Sources included, but were not limited to, historical maps, aerial photographs, and previous geotechnical reports that address the proposed project site. The following sources were utilized to contextualize previous development and land use within the proposed project site to determine previous ground disturbances, including the depths and nature of those previous disturbances, to help inform on the archaeological sensitivity of the proposed project site, in addition to those noted in the References section of this report:

- Historical topographic maps and aerial photographs accessed via NETR Online
- Historical aerial photographs accessed via University of California, Santa Barbara Library FrameFinder
- Digital Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps accessed through the Los Angeles County Public Library (Sanborn Map Company [Sanborn])
- USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer
- Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Proposed Starbucks Peck Road & Alloway Street, El Monte, California prepared in February 2023 (Salem Engineering Group, Inc. 2023)
- Geotechnical Engineering Investigation, Proposed In-N-Out Burger Restaurant 3600 Peck Road, El Monte, California prepared in July 2023 (Krazan & Associates, Inc. 2023)
- Geotechnical Engineering Report Raising Cane's Restaurant (RC-1095) – El Monte South of Peck Road and Sitka Street Intersection, El Monte, Los Angeles County, California prepared in October 2023 (Terracon 2023)



California Historical Resources Information System Records Search

On September 18, 2024, Rincon conducted a search of the CHRIS at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), located on the campus of the California State University, Fullerton (Attachment 2). The SCCIC is the official state repository for cultural resources records and reports for Los Angeles County. The purpose of the records search was to identify previously recorded cultural resources, as well as cultural resources studies, that have been previously conducted within the proposed project site and a 0.5-mile radius surrounding it to determine whether implementation of the proposed project would have the potential to impact any known cultural resources. Rincon also reviewed the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), the California Historical Landmarks list, and the Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD). Additionally, Rincon reviewed the Archaeological Determination of Eligibility (ADOE) list.

Field Survey

As previously noted, there are no buildings within the proposed project site that are over 45 years of age. Therefore, a built environment survey was not conducted. Additionally, the proposed project site is currently developed with buildings and paved parking lots and as such, an archaeological pedestrian survey was not conducted.

Findings

Known Cultural Resources Studies

The CHRIS records search identified five (5) cultural resources studies that have been previously conducted within 0.5-mile of the proposed project site between the years 1976 and 2010. Of these studies, one study (LA-06318) overlaps less than 5 percent of the project site and less than 20 percent of the overall 0.5-mile records search area has been previously studied. The proposed project site has not been subject to previous archaeological investigations or surveys.

The overlapping study is briefly summarized below to help inform the assessment of the cultural sensitivity of the proposed project site and the potential to encounter intact subsurface archaeological resources during project implementation. A bibliography of all five (5) studies identified within the 0.5-mile search radius is provided in Attachment 2 of this report.

Study LA-06318

Study LA-06318, *Cultural Resource Assessment Cingular Wireless Facility No. Vy 120-02 Los Angeles County, California*, was prepared by Curt Duke from LSA Associates, Inc. for Cingular Wireless in January 2002 and consists of a records search and literature review (Duke 2002). The purpose of the assessment was to identify historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA for a proposed telecommunications facility. The entire study area was developed and paved at the time the study was prepared. The 2022 study encompasses less than 5 percent of the present project site, specifically, the eastern portion. No historic properties (archaeological or built environment resources) were identified within the present proposed project site as a result of the 2002 study and no recommendations for cultural resources were included.



Known Cultural Resources

The CHRIS records search identified four previously recorded cultural resources within 0.5-mile of the proposed project site (Table 1). These resources include: a historic-period archaeological site consisting of the remnants of a concrete-lined pedestrian tunnel dating to the first half of the 20th century (P-19-004730); a built environment resource consisting of the Southern Pacific Railroad (P-19-186112); a built environment resource consisting the El Monte High School shop building (P-19-188158); and a built environment resource consisting of the Southern California Edison Rio Hondo-Amador-Jose-Mesa-Narrows 66kV Transmission Line (P-19-190504). None of these resources are within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project site; however, one resource (P-19-190504) is located on the west side of Peck Road. P-19-190504 has been previously recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP/CRHR. A bibliography of all four cultural resources identified within the 0.5-mile search radius is provided in Attachment 2 of this report.

Table 1 Cultural Resources within 0.5-mile of Proposed Project Site

Primary Number	Resource Type	Description	Year(s) Recorded	Eligibility Status	Relationship to Project Site
P-19-004730	Archaeological	Historic-period site: remnants of a concrete-lined pedestrian tunnel dating the first half of the 20 th century	2016	Recommended ineligible for NRHP/CRHR	Outside
P-19-186112	Built	Southern Pacific Railroad	1999; 2002; 2009; 2012; 2018; 2019	Various segments recommended eligible/ineligible for NRHP/CRHR	Outside
P-19-188158	Built	El Monte High School shop building	1999; 2007	Recommended eligible for NRHP; unevaluated for CRHR	Outside
P-19-190504	Built	Southern California Edison Rio Hondo-Amador-Jose-Mesa-Narrows 66kV Transmission Line	2010; 2018	Recommended ineligible for NRHP/CRHR	Adjacent

Source: CHRIS SCCIC

Historical Map and Aerial Imagery Review

Rincon consulted historical topographic maps and aerial photographs through online sources to understand the developmental history of the proposed project site. Historical topographic maps reviewed include the following: 1894, 1900, 1904, 1908, and 1915 *Los Angeles, CA* 15-minute quadrangles; 1896, 1898, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1910, 1913, 1920, 1927, 1931, and 1940 *Pasadena, CA* 15-minute quadrangles; and 1923, 1926, 1932, 1948, 1953, 1963, 1966, 1968, 1975, 1982, 1985, and 1994 *El Monte, CA* 7.5-minute quadrangles (USGS 2024a). Historical aerial photographs were available for the following years: 1938, 1948, 1952, 1954, 1964, 1972, 1980, 1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 (NETR Online 2024; UCSB 2024). Sanborn maps covering the



proposed project site were not available. Observations are provided in Table and summarized following the table.

Table 3 Developmental History of the Proposed Project Site

Year	Description
1894; 1896; 1898; 1900; 1904; 1907; 1908; 1910; 1913; 1915; 1920	These map years show the following: the proposed project site is generally bordered by light duty roads to the north, west, and east and the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) is depicted south. There are two structures within the proposed project site, along the western boundary. There are no waterways adjacent to or intersecting the proposed project site. The San Gabriel River and the “Lexington Wash” are located to the west and east, and outside of the proposed project site. There are no mapped topographic features within the proposed project site.
1923; 1926	These map years depict an increase in development within the proposed project site with structures depicted along the western and southern portions. The Pacific Electric Railway is depicted near the footprint of the present-day Ramona Boulevard, northwest and outside of the proposed project site.
1927; 1931	These map years depict what is shown in the 1894-1920 maps.
1932	This map year depicts what is shown in the 1923-1926 maps.
1940	This map year depicts what is shown in the 1894-1920 maps.
1948	This map year shows a substantial increase in development within the proposed project site with numerous structures along the northern, western, and southern perimeter and an overall increase in development in the project vicinity.
1953; 1955	These map years show a church that may be within or adjacent to the northwestern corner of the proposed project site.
1963	This map year depicts what is shown in the 1953-1955 maps.
1966; 1968; 1975	These map years show significant development within the proposed project site and depicts the El Monte Shopping Center for the first time. The church at the northwest corner is still shown. However, none of the extant buildings within the proposed project site that are proposed for demolition are depicted.
1982; 1985; 1994	These map years depict what is shown in the 1966-1975 maps.
1938	This aerial photograph shows the proposed project site consisting of rural residences, scattered trees, and vacant land.
1948; 1952	These aerial photographs shows an increase in residential development within the proposed project site.
1954	This aerial photograph shows that some of the residential properties are vacant and possibly graded.
1964	This aerial photograph shows substantial ground disturbance has occurred within the southern two-thirds of the proposed project site as all previous residential buildings and trees have been removed and replaced with paved parking lots, large commercial buildings, and roadways for the present-day commercial center. The residential buildings and trees along the northern one-third of the proposed project site remain relatively the same.
1972; 1980	These aerial photographs show substantial ground disturbance has occurred within the northwestern corner of the proposed project site as all previous residential buildings and trees have been removed and appears to be undergoing active construction.
1987	This aerial photograph shows substantial ground disturbance that has occurred within the northern one-third of the proposed project site as all previous residential buildings and trees have been removed and ground surface graded. There is a square shaped structure within the northeastern corner of the proposed project site, similar in size and layout with the present-day development in that location.
1988	The northwest corner of the proposed project site is shown as a paved parking lot with a grassy lawn space at the northwestern most corner.



Year	Description
1992	The buildings representing the extant Denny’s, Big 5 Sporting Goods, and China Buffet are shown for the first time and all appear to be generally consistent with their present-day size, location, and layout.
1993-2005	These aerials do not capture any notable changes to the proposed project site.
2009	This aerial captures a new large rectangular commercial building within the southwest quadrant of the proposed project site. Overall, all development as captured in this photograph year appears to be generally consistent with present-day site conditions of the proposed project site.
2012- 2022	These aerials do not capture any notable changes to the proposed project site.

A review of historical topographic maps and aerial images reveals the proposed project site was generally vacant and undeveloped, with exception to the two structures along the western portion as depicted in 1894. By 1923, there is an increase in development within the proposed project site along the western and southern portions. A 1938 aerial photograph shows the proposed project site consisting of rural residences, scattered trees, and vacant land. By 1948, there is an increase in development along the northern, western, and southern portions of the proposed project site. In 1953, a church is depicted in topographic maps at the northwestern most corner of the proposed project site. By 1954, some of the residential buildings have been removed and lots have been graded. Substantial ground disturbance to the proposed project site is captured in the 1964 aerial. The present-day El Monte Shopping Center is depicted for the first time in the historical maps in 1966. A continuation of ground disturbance within the proposed project site is captured in early 1970s through to the late 1980s. By 1992, the extant Denny’s, Big 5 Sporting Goods, and China Buffet business are shown for the first time, consistent with present-day site conditions. Additional disturbance to the proposed project site is shown in 2009 and by this year, the overall proposed project site is shown to be generally consistent with present-day site conditions.

Geoarchaeological Review

The following section assesses the potential for subsurface archaeological resources to be present within the proposed project site. Sources consulted as part of this assessment include CHRIS data, historical maps and aerial photographs, geologic maps, soil survey maps, and a previously prepared geotechnical reports that address the proposed project site and vicinity.

Soil Map Review

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey (USDA 2024a), the proposed project site consists of two soil types: Urban land-Biscailuz-Pico complex with 0 to 2 percent slopes and accounts for approximately 80 percent of the overall proposed project site; and the remaining 20 percent of the proposed project site contains Urban land-Pico-Metz complex with 0 to 2 percent slopes.

Urban land is the primary soil type within the proposed project site and generally refers to soils in areas of high population density in a largely built environment and can include human-transported or human-altered materials, minimally altered materials, or intact native soils (USDA 2019). Urban lands may also include artificial fill materials transported for nearby areas or previously excavated materials from the proposed project site itself. Due to these soils being transported and altered, urban land soil patterns are unique for each city, including El Monte (USDA 2019).



A horizons¹ or top soil, within an archaeological context, refers to a soil stratigraphy that is capable of supporting the land use by people. Buried soil horizons can be used as a marker to determine the potential for encountering archaeological resources. The number of soils identified, and their soil profile or matrix can provide an understanding for the period of land use and the change in landscape overtime, which can give insight into the potential for subsurface archaeological materials to be present and the integrity of these resources within the context they are found. As indicated by Waters (1992), A horizons form on stable landforms not subject to intensive depositional or erosional processes, whereas B horizons represent the leaching of fine particles from the topsoil into the underlying sedimentary or alluvial parent material (C horizon), creating a distinct horizon. Given that A horizons form on stable landforms, they are the primary horizons wherein archaeological materials would be typically deposited. There are different classes of A horizons, including Ap horizons, which are A horizons that have been disturbed by agricultural activities such as plowing, and Ab horizons, which are A horizons that have been buried by depositional processes. Archaeological resources encountered within Ap horizons represent a disturbed context wherein archaeological materials have been displaced by plowing and discing. Because Ab horizons are buried A horizons, they have the greatest likelihood to contain intact subsurface archaeological deposits.

The soil series identified within the Urban land-Biscailuz-Pico complex includes the Urban land, loamy fan (45 percent), Biscailuz (30 percent), Pico (15 percent), Metz (5 percent), Pachic Calcixerolls (3 percent), and Cropley (2 percent). The soil series identified within the Urban land-Pico-Metz complex includes the Urban land, loamy fan (45 percent), Pico (30 percent), Metz (15 percent), Hueneme (5 percent), and Xerothents (5 percent). The soils series with soil data indicates that the following soils series contain A horizons: Biscailuz, Cropley, Hueneme, Pico, and Metz series and extend from the surface to depths between 11 and 17 inches below ground surface (bgs) and are found on numerous landforms, including floodplains, lowlands, alluvial fans, nearly alluvial plans, and basins. Their A horizon soils are characterized as loam, loamy fine sand and light sandy loam, sandy loam, fine sandy loam, and broken face clay (USDA 2024b, 2024c, 2024d, 2024e, and 2024f). The soils present within the current proposed project site contain soils that have been disturbed by agricultural activities (Ap horizons) from surface to depths between 4 and 12.5 inches bgs; however, the proposed project site does not contain subsurface topsoil (Ab horizon), suggesting that the subsurface conditions do not contain archaeological deposits buried by natural processes.

Geologic Map Review

A review of the USGS mineral resources (USGS 2024b) online spatial data for geology indicates that native soils within the proposed project site are comprised of Quaternary alluvium and marine deposits from the Pleistocene to Holocene epochs. Late Pleistocene-era and Holocene age alluvial formations do have the potential to support the presence of buried archaeological resources as these soils are contemporaneous with the documented period of prehistoric human habitation of the area and have potential to preserve cultural material in context, depending on the area-specific topographical setting.

Additionally, the presence of natural resources such as water, would have provided for an environment that indigenous and historic-period occupants of the area would have found hospitable for habitation and other activities. Notable topographical features in the vicinity of the proposed project site include the Rio Hondo, a tributary of the Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel River channel, both located approximately 1 mile to the northwest and east, respectively. There are no substantial topographic features or water sources, within or adjacent to the proposed project site.

¹ Horizon: A soil horizon is a layer approximately parallel to the surface of the soil, distinguishable from adjacent layers by a distinctive set of properties produced by the soil-forming processes (Hartemink et al. 2020).



Summaries of Previously Prepared Geotechnical Reports

The geotechnical report, *Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Proposed Starbucks Peck Road & Alloway Street, El Monte, California* (Salem Engineering Group, Inc. 2023), addresses a portion of the overall proposed project site, specifically for the proposed location of the new Starbucks building (extant Denny's restaurant) at the southeast intersection of Peck Road and Alloway Street. The report details the results of four (4), 6 $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-diameter hollow stem auger borings (B-1 through B-4) to address subsurface conditions. These borings were placed at accessible locations throughout subject property within the proposed project site (see Attachment 1, Figure 3) and were completed February 10, 2023. According to the geotechnical report, the subsurface exploratory investigations encountered asphalt concrete, aggregate base, fill soils, and native soils consisting of alluvium. The report noted that deeper fill soils may be present within the subject property, between the boring locations. The report noted that in general, up to 7 feet of fill was encountered and was underlain by alluvium (native soils) to the maximum depths explored (between 5 and 51.5 feet bgs).

The geotechnical report, *Geotechnical Engineering Investigation, Proposed In-N-Out Burger Restaurant 3600 Peck Road, El Monte, California* (Krazan & Associates, Inc. 2023), addresses a portion of the overall proposed project site, specifically for the proposed location of the new In-N-Out restaurant (extant Big 5 Sporting Goods store) at the northeast intersection of Peck Road and Alloway Street. The report details the results of six (6), 8-inch-diameter hollow stem auger borings (B1 through B6) to address subsurface conditions. These borings were placed at accessible locations throughout subject property within the proposed project site (see Attachment 1, Figure 4) and were completed June 5, 2023. According to the geotechnical report, the subsurface exploratory investigations encountered asphalt pavement, aggregate base, fill soils, and native soils consisting of alluvium. The report noted that thicker fill may be present at the site subject property in areas not investigated. The report noted that in general, approximately 3 to 4 inches of asphalt pavement underlain by approximately 6 to 7 inches of discernable aggregate base material was encountered and was underlain by approximately 3 to 6 feet of fill material. Underlying the fill material was alluvium (native soils), which were encountered to the maximum depths explored (between 10 and 50 feet bgs).

The geotechnical report, *Geotechnical Engineering Report Raising Cane's Restaurant (RC-1095) - El Monte South of Peck Road and Sitka Street Intersection, El Monte, Los Angeles County, California* (Terracon 2023), addresses a portion of the overall proposed project site, specifically for the proposed location of the new Raising Cane's restaurant (extant China buffet restaurant) at the southeast intersection of Peck Road and Sitka Street. The report details the results of eight (8), truck-mounted drill rig hollow stem auger borings of unknown diameter and percolation tests (B-1 through B-6 and P-1 and P-2) to address subsurface conditions. These borings were placed at accessible locations throughout subject property within the proposed project site (see Attachment 1, Figure 5) and were completed October 4, 2023. According to the geotechnical report, the subsurface exploratory investigations encountered asphalt concrete, aggregate base, undocumented fill soils, and native soils consisting of alluvium. However, it is important to note that the boring logs associated with the subsurface investigations performed do not differentiate between undocumented fill and native soils as "the contact between fill soils and the underlying native can be difficult to ascertain" and as such, the report noted that the thickness of the undocumented fill is about 3 feet and overlies alluvium, which was encountered to the maximum depths explored of approximately 50.5 feet bgs.

Archaeological Sensitivity Analysis

The following section summarizes the results of all background research as they pertain to archaeological resources to assess the archaeological sensitivity and the potential to encounter yet



identified or previously unknown intact subsurface prehistoric and/or historic-period archaeological resources during project implementation.

The results of the CHRIS records search and background research did not identify any known archaeological resources within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project site. However, there is no record that the proposed project site was not subject to archaeological survey or investigation prior to past or current development.

Although the proposed project site is underlain by Quaternary alluvium and marine deposits from the Pleistocene to Holocene epochs, the proposed project site has been substantially disturbed as observed through historical maps and aerial/satellite imagery. Additionally, while the soil map review identified Ap horizon, no subsurface topsoil (Ab horizon) were identified within the soils present within the proposed project site to suggest the presence of intact subsurface archaeological deposits.

Substantial ground disturbance within portions of the proposed project site has been documented in the geotechnical reports reviewed and artificial fill soils were encountered from surface to depths between 3 and 7 feet bgs during subsurface exploratory investigations of the proposed project site. The current proposed project design involves ground disturbance between 3 and 8 feet below the current grade.

Given the level of past disturbance to the proposed project site and vicinity, which has likely resulted in substantial modification of subsurface soils, coupled with the findings of this study, the proposed project site is considered to have a low potential to support the presence of intact subsurface archaeological resources to the proposed maximum depths of disturbance.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The impact analysis included here is organized based on the cultural resources thresholds included in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G: Environmental Checklist Form:

- a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?
- b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?
- c. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Threshold A broadly refers to historical resources. To more clearly differentiate between archaeological and built environment resources, we have chosen to limit analysis under Threshold A to built environment resources. Archaeological resources, including those that may be considered historical resources pursuant to Section 15064.5 and those that may be considered unique archaeological resources pursuant to Section 21083.2, are considered under Threshold B.

Historical Built Environment Resources

The project as currently proposed does not involve the demolition of any buildings that are over 45 years of age. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a substantial adverse change to historical resources as defined in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5(b). Rincon recommends a finding of **no impact** to historical built environment resources under CEQA.



Historical and Unique Archaeological Resources

No prehistoric or historic-period archaeological resources were identified within the proposed project site as a result of the Rincon's background research, including the CHRIS records search. In consideration of these factors, the potential to find unknown or yet identified archaeological resources within the proposed project site is considered low. However, it is still possible for intact archaeological deposits to be encountered subsurface within undisturbed native alluvial soils to the maximum depths of proposed disturbance. Such resources could qualify as either historical resources or unique archaeological resources under CEQA. In the event that previously unknown archaeological resources are encountered during project implementation, impacts to these resources could be significant under CEQA. Therefore, Rincon recommends implementation of the following as project design features: a Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, retention of an on-call archaeologist to address inadvertent discoveries, and inadvertent discovery procedures, to facilitate appropriate treatment of any inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources. Implementation of these recommended project design features along with adherence to existing regulations for the inadvertent discovery of human remains, would reduce potential project impacts to archaeological resource qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources, and human remains **to less than significant** under CEQA.

Recommendations

Although no known historical resources or unique archaeological resources were identified within or adjacent to the proposed project site and the archaeological sensitivity is low, the following recommendations have been developed to reduce any potential project-related impacts to archaeological resources that are inadvertently encountered are appropriately treated pursuant to CEQA regulations.

Workers Environmental Awareness Program Training

All on-site personnel should be briefed regarding unanticipated discoveries prior to the start of construction activities. A basic presentation should be prepared and presented by a Qualified Archaeologist or other designated archaeologist working under the direction of the Qualified Archaeologist to inform all on-site personnel working on the project about the archaeological sensitivity of the area. The purpose of the WEAP training is to provide specific details on the kinds of archaeological materials that may be identified during construction of the project and explain the importance of and legal basis for the protection of significant archaeological resources. All on-site personnel should also be instructed in the proper procedures to follow in the event that archaeological resources or human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities. These procedures include stopping or redirection of work, contacting the on-call archaeologist immediately, and if appropriate, a Native American representative, and establishing an appropriate temporary avoidance buffer. The necessity of training attendance should be stated on all construction plans and the lead CEQA agency should maintain records demonstrating that all on-site personnel have participated in WEAP training.

Retention of a Qualified Archaeologist

Prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities, the Applicant and/or subsequent responsible parties should retain an on-call archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (National Park Service 2020) (Qualified Archaeologist) to respond to and address any inadvertent discoveries identified for the duration of construction activities. The Qualified



Archaeologist should possess experience and familiarity with historic-period and prehistoric archaeological resources in the region.

Inadvertent Discovery of Archaeological Resources

In the event that previously unknown archaeological resources are inadvertently encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in a 50-foot radius of the find should be halted and redirected, and the Qualified Archaeologist should be contacted immediately. The Qualified Archaeologist or other designated archaeologist working under the direction of the Qualified Archaeologist, should provide recommendations regarding the resource's potential significance and potential treatment in coordination with the City. If the resource is determined by the Qualified Archaeologist to be indigenous in origin, then a Native American representative should also be contacted to participate in the evaluation of the resource. If the Qualified Archaeologist and/or Native American representative determines it to be appropriate, archaeological testing for CRHR eligibility should be completed. If the resource proves to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources and significant impacts to the resource cannot be avoided via Project redesign, the Qualified Archaeologist should prepare a data recovery plan tailored to the physical nature and characteristics of the resource, per the requirements of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C). The data recovery plan should identify data recovery excavation methods, measurable objectives, and data thresholds to reduce any significant impacts to cultural resources related to the resource. Pursuant to the data recovery plan, the Qualified Archaeologist and Native American representative, as appropriate, should recover and document the scientifically consequential information that justifies the resource's significance. The City should review and approve the treatment plan and archaeological testing as appropriate, and the resulting documentation should be submitted to the regional repository of the CHRIS, per CCR Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C).

Human Remains

No prehistoric or historic-period burials, within or outside formal cemeteries, were identified within the project site as a result of the CHRIS records search or other background research. In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during ground disturbing activities, they would be treated consistent with State and local regulations including California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, PRC Section 5097.98, and the CCR Section 15064.5(e). In accordance with these regulations, if human remains are found, the County Coroner must be immediately notified of the discovery. No further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are, or believed to be Native American origin, the County Coroner is required to notify the Native American Heritage Commission that shall notify those persons believed to be the most likely descendent (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours from being granted site access to make recommendations for the disposition of the remains. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the landowner shall reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from subsequent disturbance. With adherence to existing regulations, Rincon recommends a finding of **less than significant** impact to human remains under CEQA.

Should you have any questions concerning this study, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 213-218-6335 or lkry@rinconconsultants.com.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.



Linda Kry, BA, Registered Archaeologist
Senior Archaeologist/Supervising Cultural
Resources Manager

Candace Ehringer, MA,
Registered Professional Archaeologist
Cultural Resources Senior Principal

Attachments

Attachment 1 Figures

Attachment 2 California Historical Resources Information System Search Results



References

California Geological Survey

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https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/H/HUENEME.html (accessed September 2024).
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https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/P/PICO.html (accessed September 2024).
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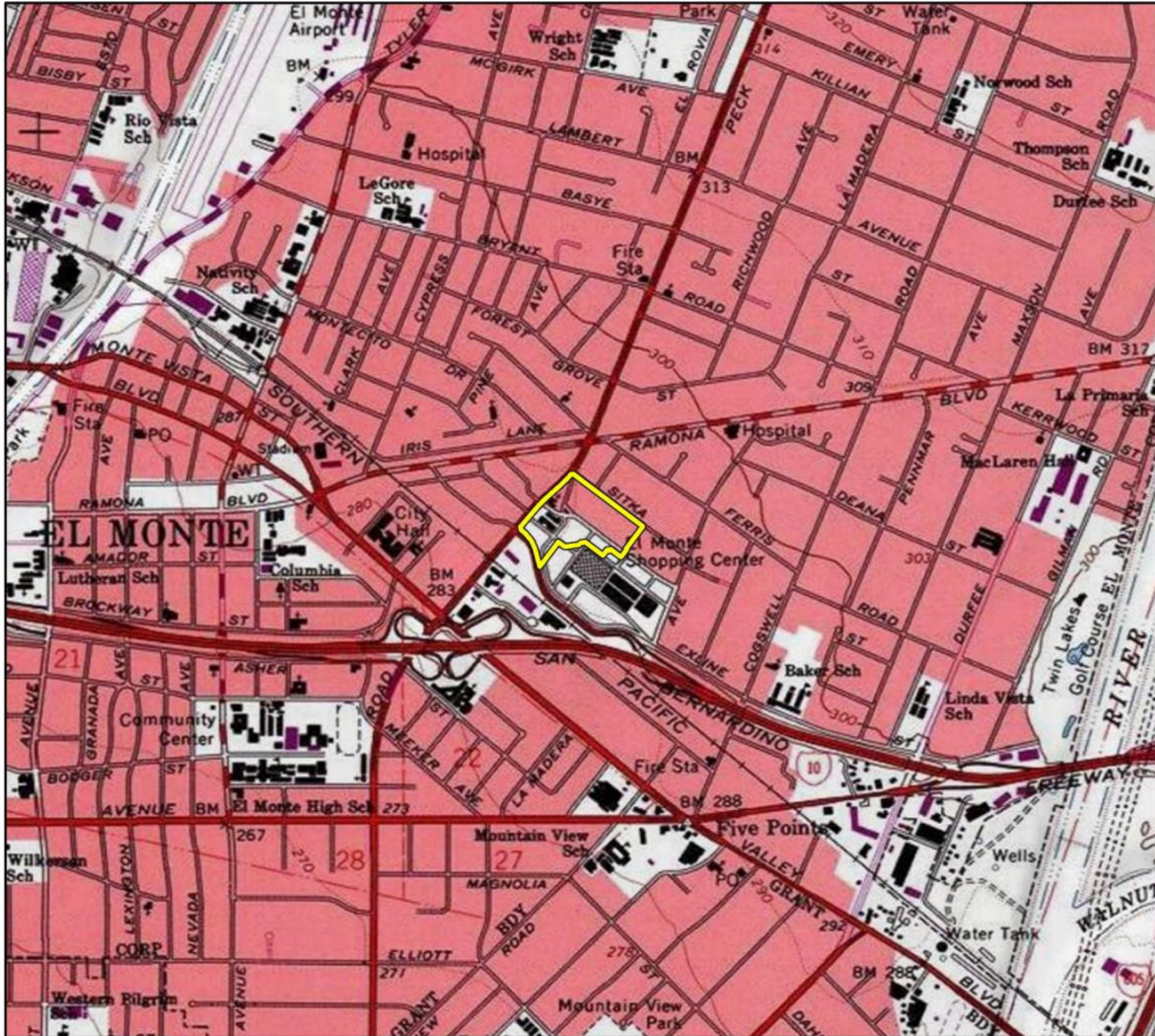
Waters, Michael R.

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Attachment 1

Figures

Figure 1 Project Location Map



Basemap provided by National Geographic Society, Esri and their licensors © 2024. El Monte Quadrangle. T01S R11W S22. The topographic representation depicted in this map may not portray all of the features currently found in the vicinity today and/or features depicted in this map may have changed since the original topographic map was assembled.

24-16590 CR
 CRFig 1 Proj Locn Map

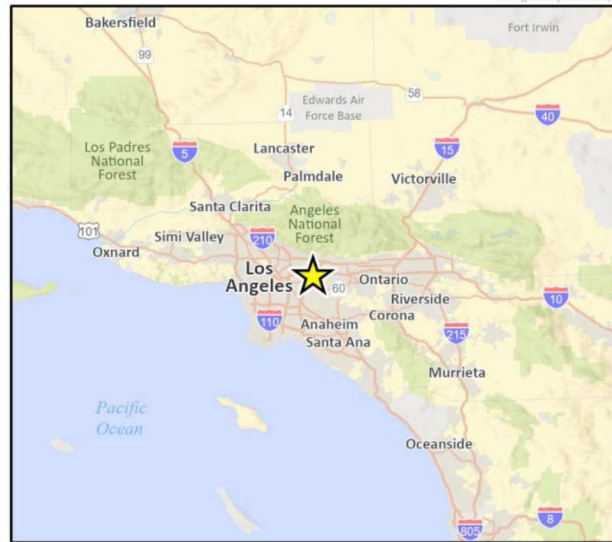
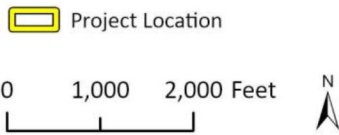
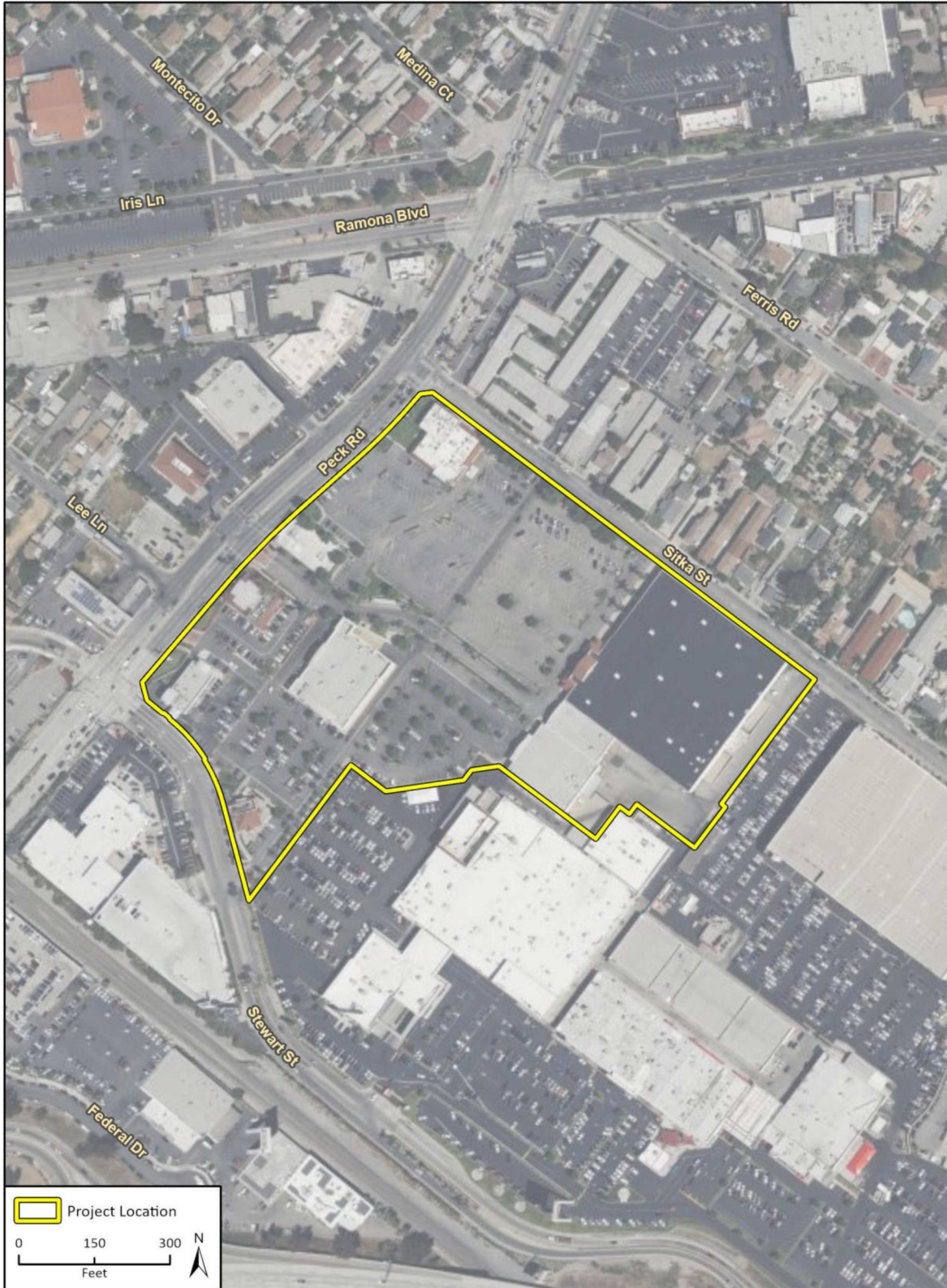


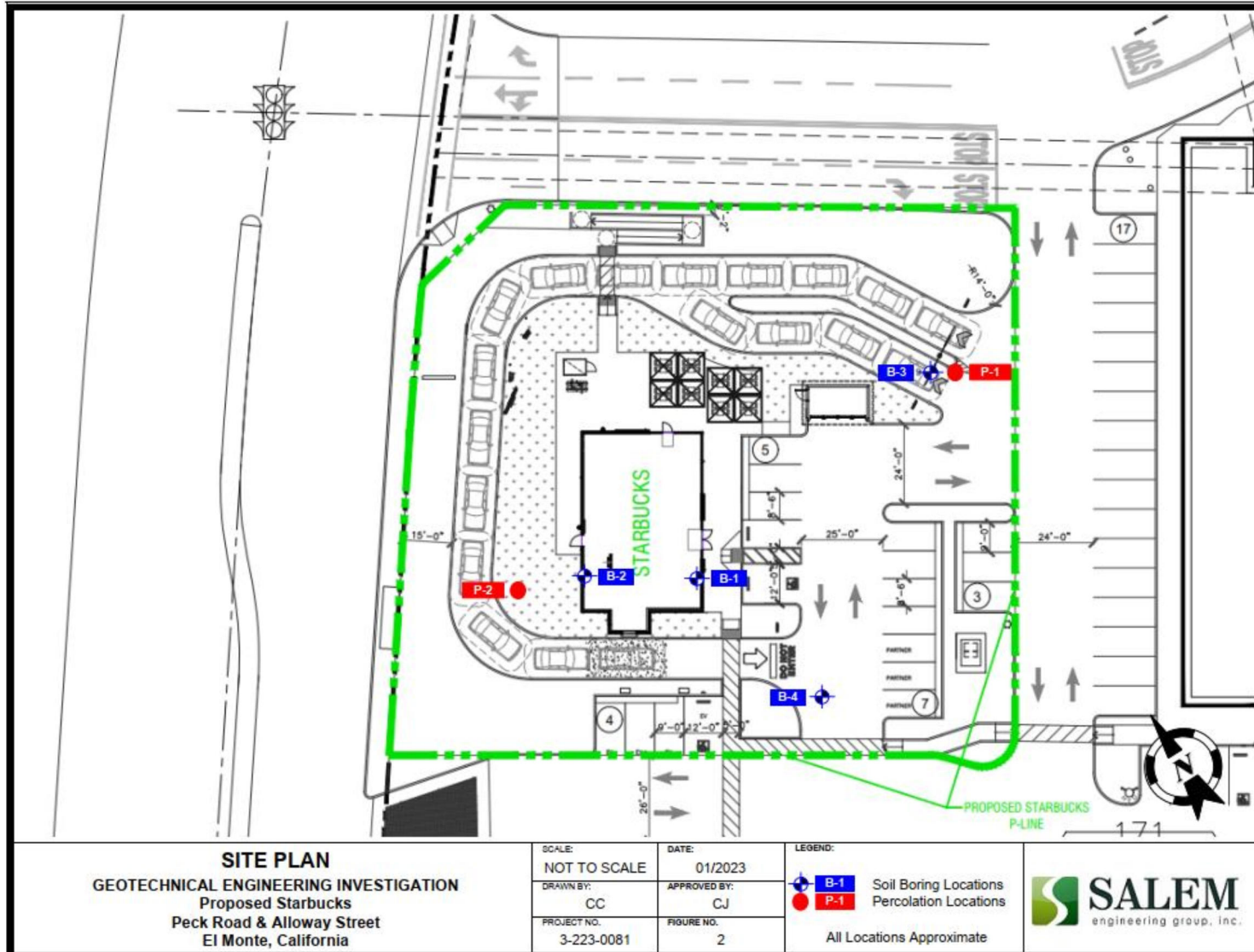
Figure 2 Project Site Map



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2024.

24-16590 CR
CRFig 2 Project Site

Figure 3 Subsurface Exploratory Investigation Locations

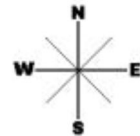


Source: Salem Engineering Group, Inc. 2023, Site Plan, Figure 2

Figure 4 Subsurface Exploratory Investigation Locations



- APPROXIMATE BORING LOCATION
- ▲ APPROXIMATE R-VALUE LOCATION
- APPROXIMATE INFILTRATION TEST LOCATION



SITE MAP PROPOSED IN-N-OUT BURGER RESTAURANT 3600 PECK ROAD EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA	Scale:	Date:
	NTS	Jul., 2022
	Drawn by:	Approved by:
OS	JP	
Project No.	Figure No.	
112-23055	1	



Source: Krazan Geotechnical Engineering 2023, Site Map, Figure 1

Figure 5 Subsurface Exploratory Investigation Locations



Source: Terracon 2023, Exploration Plan

Attachment 2

California Historical Resources Information System Records Search Results

Report List

24-16590 3600 Peck Road

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
LA-00208		1976	Horne, Wiley	Letter Report of Archaeological Survey for a Los Angeles County Sanitation Dist. Project Engineer Report for Tyler Avenue Relief Trunk Sewer Section 2	University of California, Los Angeles Archaeological Survey	
LA-02871		1993	Wlodarski, Robert J. and Dan Larson	Department of Transportation Negative Archaeological Survey Report DPD-EP-25 (revised 2/83) Interstate 10 (I-10) Between Baldwin Avenue in City of El Monte on the West and the Interchange Between I-10 and I-605	Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research, Team	
LA-04835		1999	Ashkar, Shahira	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for Williams Communications, Inc. Proposed Fiber Optic Cable System Installation Project, Los Angeles to Riverside, Los Angeles and Riverside Counties	Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.	19-186109, 19-186112, 19-187090
LA-05468		2000	Duke, Curt	Cultural Resource Assessment for At&t Fixed Wireless Services Facility Number La_340_a, County of Los Angeles, California	LSA Associates, Inc.	
LA-06318		2002	Duke, Curt	Cultural Resource Assessment Cingular Wireless Facility No. Vy 120-02 Los Angeles County, California	LSA Associates, Inc.	
LA-06323		2000	Crippen, Donna	Historical Value of Residence Located at 11423 Medina Court in El Monte, California	Unknown	
LA-10641		2010	Tang, Bai "Tom"	Preliminary Historical/Archaeological Resources Study, San Bernadino Line Positive Train Control Project, Southern California Regional Rail Authority, Counties of Los Angeles and San Bernadino	CRM Tech	

Resource List

24-16590 3600 Peck Road

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-19-004730	CA-LAN-004730H	Resource Name - CRM TECH 3130-1H	Site	Historic	AH16	2016 (Daniel Ballester, CRM Tech)	LA-13460
P-19-186112		Resource Name - Union Pacific RR, Southern Pacific R R Los Angeles Division; Other - C-Los Angeles-A-1; Other - MetroLink Riverside Line; Other - SPRR Los Angeles Division; Other - SPRR Sunset Line; Other - Map Reference #2-35	Structure	Historic	AH07; HP11; HP39	1999 (S. Ashkar, Jones & Stokes); 2002 (Rand F. Herbert, JPR Historical Consulting Services); 2009 (R. Ramirez and F. Smith, SWCA Environmental Consultants); 2009 (F. Smith and J. Steely, SWCA Environmental Consultants); 2012 (Alyssa Newcomb, SWCA Environmental Consultants); 2018 (Audrey von Ahrens, GPA); 2019 (Jenna Kachour, GPA)	LA-04835, LA- 05125, LA-05501, LA-05643, LA- 07528, LA-07834, LA-07943, LA- 07954, LA-08231, LA-08249, LA- 08298, LA-08517, LA-08635, LA- 08667, LA-08671, LA-08701, LA- 08703, LA-08744, LA-08821, LA- 08822, LA-08826, LA-08827, LA- 08911, LA-09156, LA-09199, LA- 09236, LA-09441, LA-09660, LA- 09795, LA-09880, LA-09894, LA- 10189, LA-10284, LA-10299, LA- 10323, LA-10340, LA-10394, LA- 10513, LA-10638, LA-10698, LA- 10911, LA-10997, LA-10998, LA- 11048, LA-11180, LA-11253, LA- 11537, LA-11775, LA-11821, LA- 11988, LA-11989, LA-12133, LA- 12211, LA-12212, LA-12349, LA- 12499, LA-12526, LA-12552, LA- 12558, LA-12697, LA-12928, LA- 13458, VN-03153

Resource List

24-16590 3600 Peck Road

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-19-188158		Resource Name - El Monte High School, Shop Bldg; Resource Name - El Monte Union High School District Warehouse/vehicle Shops	Building	Historic	HP06; HP08; HP15	1999 (Hebert/Larson, JRP Historical Consulting); 2007 (C. Fisher)	
P-19-190504		Resource Name - SCE Rio Hondo-Amador-Jose-Mesa-Narrows 66kV Transmission Line	Structure	Historic	HP09; HP11	2010 (Wendy L. Tinsley Becker, Urbana Preservation & Planning); 2018 (Audrey von Ahrens, GPA)	LA-12552, LA-13259