

September 23, 2022

Anthony DeLuca
CASC Engineering & Consulting
1470 E. Cooley Drive
Colton, CA 92324

Subject: Cultural and Paleontological Resources Assessment for Palmetto Way Industrial Building Project, City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California (DUKE Project Number C-0413)

Dear Mr. DeLuca:

At the request of the CASC Engineering & Consulting (CLIENT), Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC (DUKE CRM) has prepared a cultural and paleontological resources assessment for the Palmetto Way Industrial Building Project (Project), located in the City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California. The Project is 34 acres in size. The City of Hesperia is the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Project is located in the High Desert within APNs 0405-072-52, 53, 54, and 55 in Section 14, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, as shown on the USGS *Baldy Mesa, & Hesperia, Calif.* 7.5-minute quadrangle map (see Attachment 1 for Project Maps). The Project will construct a 498,500 square foot Industrial Warehouse Building with up to 25,000 square feet of office space. The proposed Project will include 76 loading dock doors, 182 truck/trailer parking spaces and 281 auto parking spaces on four (4) parcels. Maximum depth of excavation of approximately eight (8) to 10 feet.

This report includes the result of our research and field survey for cultural and paleontological resources.

Research

On May 18, 2022, DUKE CRM submitted a request for a records search by the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) for the Project. The SCCIC located at the California State University, Fullerton is part of the California Historical Resources Information System. However, due to a SCCIC backlog, the records search was performed by DUKE CRM staff archaeologist Morgan Bender on September 12, 2022. It included a review of all recorded cultural resources within a ½-mile radius of the Project, as well as a review of known cultural resource survey and excavation reports.

The records search identified three (3) cultural resources within ½ mile of the Project, none of which are located within the current Project area. Resource P-36-0021351 is the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)-eligible California Aqueduct located 670 feet from the southwest corner of the Project. Resource P-36-021288, located 2400 feet northeast of the Project area, is a mid-20th century trash deposit consisting primarily of cans; CRHR eligibility has not been determined. P-36-021366 is a mid-20th century trash scatter. CRHR eligibility has not been determined.

The SCCIC identified seven (7) cultural reports within ½ mile of the Project, three (3) of which overlap with the Project area (Table 1). No resources were identified within the Project area by any of these previous investigations.

Table 1. Reports within the Project Boundary

Report No.	Year	Report Title	Author(s)
SB-04975	2005	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Baldy Mesa Water District Arsenic Treatment Project, Cities of Victorville and Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California.	Matthew Wetherbee
SB-06859	2010	Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties: Town of Apple Valley and City of Hesperia Wastewater Reclamation Plants and Related Facilities Project, Victor Valley Area, San Bernardino County, California.	Tang, Bai “Tom”, Terri Jacquemain, Daniel Ballester, and Harry Quinn
SB-07494	2013	G.O. 131-D Victor-Aqueduct-Phelan 115kV Replacement Project.	Clark, Fatima V. and Dave Hanna

Additionally, an inquiry to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was submitted to ascertain the presence of known sacred sites, Native American cultural resources, and/or Native American human remains within the boundaries of the proposed Project. On June 21, 2022, the NAHC the Sacred Lands File indicated Native American cultural resources have been identified within the general vicinity of the Project location (see Attachment 2).

DUKE CRM conducted a review of online historical aerial photographs and historical USGS quad maps utilizing University of California, Santa Barbara FrameFinder, historicaerials.com, and USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer. The Hesperia 1:62,500 scale map from 1902 does not show any trails, roads, buildings or structures within the Project area. By 1942, a few trails are located in the vicinity of the Project area but not within its boundaries (Hesperia 1:62,500 1942). The predecessor to U.S. 395/I-15 has been constructed by 1942, as are several power transmission lines. A basic network of roads is visible on the 1956 Baldy Mesa 1:24,000 quadrangle; they are a mix of maintained and unmaintained dirt roads. Additional roads were noted on the 1968 Baldy Mesa & Hesperia 1:24,000 maps, but the Project area remains undeveloped. The California Aqueduct is illustrated on the 1980 Baldy Mesa & Hesperia 1:24,000 maps to the south and west of the Project area.

Aerial imagery analysis verifies the map analysis (UCSB Framefinder 2022, HistoricAerials.com 2022). A 1952 aerial image illustrates minor road developments connecting sparsely distributed homesteads with the predecessor of U.S. 395/I-15 as a two-lane road. By 1968, the highway is well developed with off- and on-ramps. The road network around the Project area is well developed by 1986. The property to the south of the Project area is developed between 1995 and 2002. No development of the Project area is noted through 2018.

The geology in the vicinity of the Project has been mapped by Dibblee and Minch (2008). A review of this map indicates the proposed Project is located on primarily alluvial gravel from the Pleistocene period (*Qa*).

DUKE CRM requested that the Western Science Center (WSC) perform a paleontological records search for known fossil localities within, and in the vicinity of, the Project. On May 27, 2022, the WSC found that there have been no paleontological resources discovered within the Project area or within a one (1) mile search radius. But significant fossils have been discovered in similar sediments in other areas of southern California. The WSC recommends a paleontological mitigation program. The WSC classifies these deposits as having high paleontological sensitivity.

Field Survey

Morgan Bender, M.A., RPA, Archaeologist and Zachary Duke, Archaeological Technician conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project on July 27, 2022. The survey area included all 34 acres in the area of the proposed Project with the exception of fenced 2.3 acre existing facility in the northwest corner. Transects

were spaced no more than 15 meters apart. The surface visibility was good, ranging from 90-100 percent. The area has little to no vegetation and scattered debris with a mean elevation of approximately 3,450 feet above mean sea level. A motocross track has been established on the eastern half of the Project area. See photographs in Attachment B. No cultural or paleontological resources were observed as a result of the field survey.

Conclusions

DUKE CRM assessed the proposed Project for impacts to cultural and paleontological resources according to CEQA. As a result of negative findings during the SCCIC records search and field survey, our assessment is that the Project has a low potential to impact cultural resources. Therefore, no further action is recommended with regards to cultural resources.

The Project is located on Pleistocene age (*Qa*) sediments. The Project is considered to have a high potential to impact paleontological resources. The WSC documents numerous fossil localities within similar deposits, but none noted within one (1) mile of the Project area. Research indicates that there is a high sensitivity for paleontological resources in the old alluvial deposits that underlie the Project. Therefore, significant and unique paleontological resources may be impacted by the project during earth disturbing activities in this area. These impacts would be considered potentially significant. In order to reduce the potential for impacts to paleontological resources to a level that is less than significant under CEQA, paleontological monitoring is recommended where ground disturbance exceeds four (4) feet below surface within the Project.

Paleontological Monitoring

A paleontological monitor shall be present during ground disturbing activities below four (4) feet in depth within the Project. The monitor shall work under the direct supervision of a qualified paleontologist (B.S./B.A. in geology, or related discipline with an emphasis in paleontology and demonstrated competence in paleontological research, fieldwork, reporting, and curation).

1. The qualified paleontologist shall be on-site at the pre-construction meeting to discuss monitoring protocols.
2. The paleontological monitor shall be present full-time during ground disturbance below 4 feet in depth within the Project, including but not limited to grading, trenching, utilities, and off-site easements. If, after excavation begins, the qualified paleontologist determines that the sediments are not likely to produce fossil resources, monitoring efforts shall be reduced.
3. The monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect grading efforts if paleontological resources are discovered.
4. In the event of a paleontological discovery the monitor shall flag the area and notify the construction crew immediately. No further disturbance in the flagged area shall occur until the qualified paleontologist has cleared the area.
5. In consultation with the qualified paleontologist, the monitor shall quickly assess the nature and significance of the find. If the specimen is not significant it shall be quickly mapped, documented, removed, and the area cleared.
6. If the discovery is significant the qualified paleontologist shall notify the CLIENT and CITY immediately.
7. In consultation with the CLIENT and CITY the qualified paleontologist shall develop a plan of mitigation which will likely include full-time monitoring, salvage excavation, scientific removal of the find, removal of sediment from around the specimen (in the laboratory), research to identify and categorize the find, curation of the find in a local qualified repository, and preparation of a report summarizing the find.

If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. If human remains are encountered, State 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. The

County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Thank you for contacting DUKECRM on this interesting project. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (714) 345-9883, or by e-mail at BrianGlenn@dukecrm.com.

Sincerely,

DUKE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC



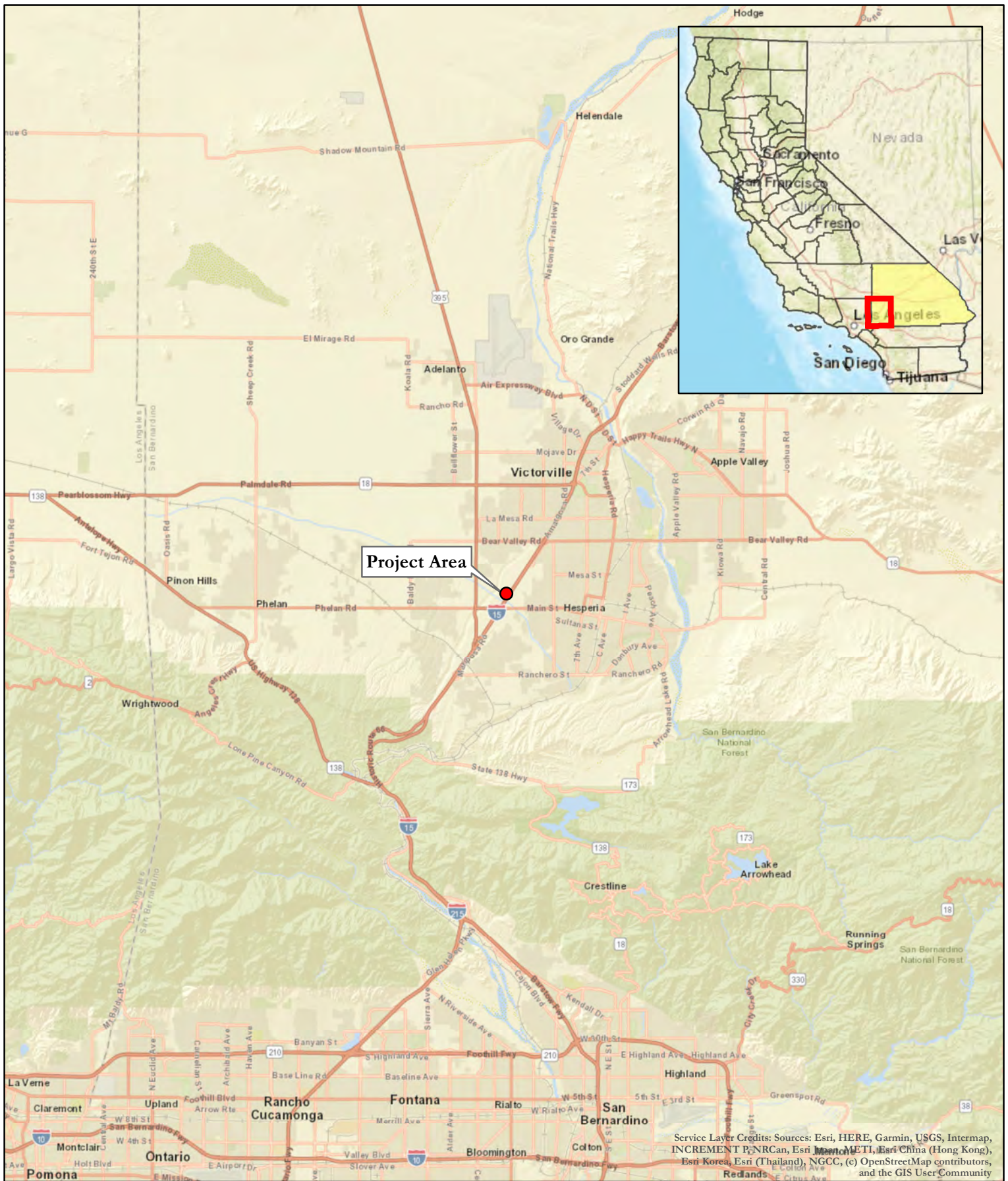
Brian Glenn, M.A., RPA
Archaeologist

Attachments

- 1: Project Maps
- 2: Native American Heritage Commission Letter
- 3: Project Photographs

ATTACHMENT 1

PROJECT MAPS

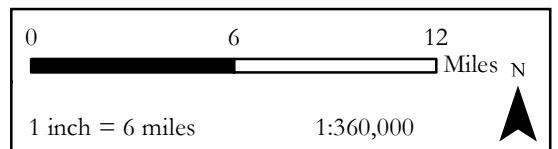


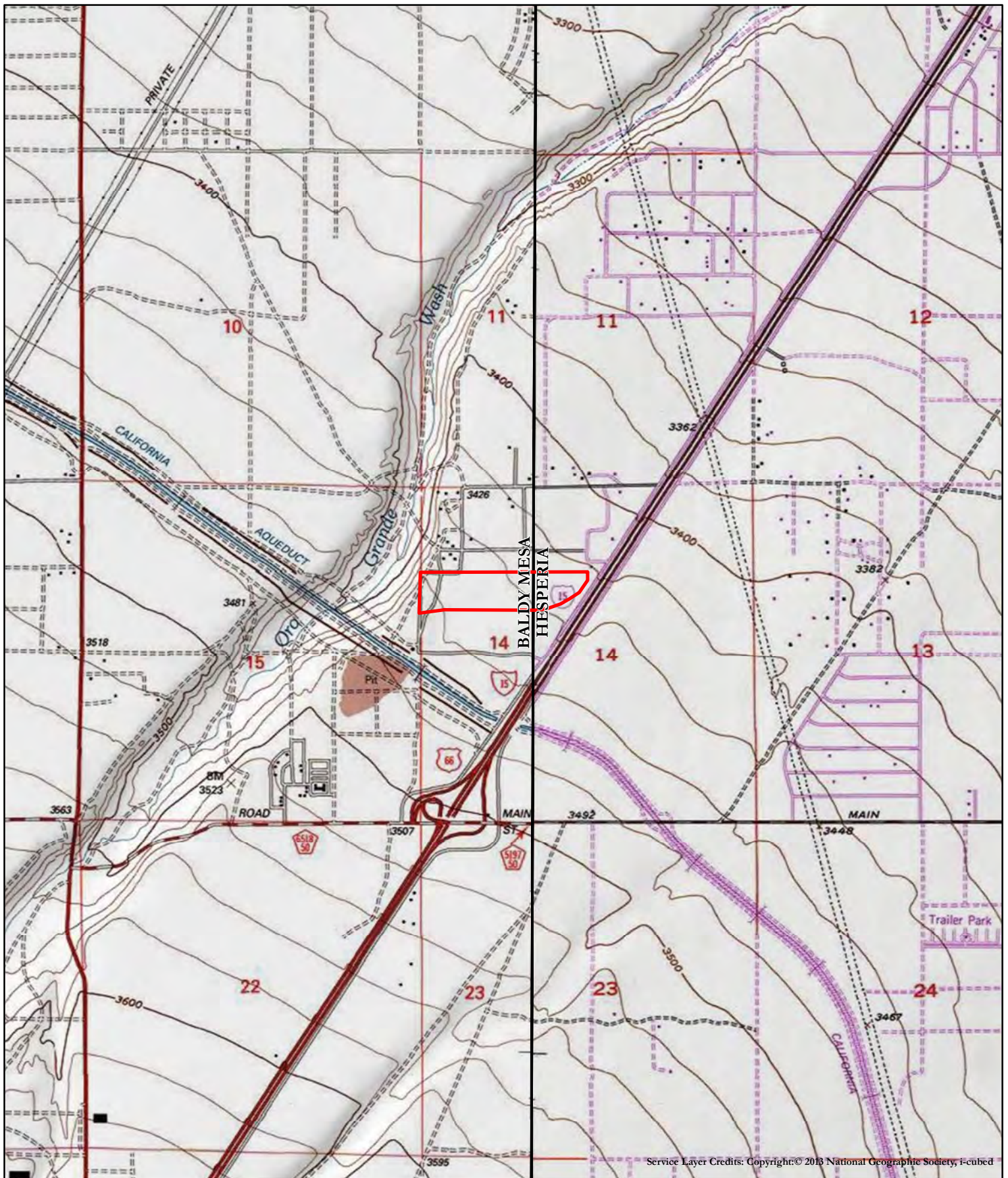
Map 1 - Project Vicinity
 Palmetto Way Industrial Bldg, C-0413



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● Project Area





Map 2 - Project Location
 Palmetto Way Industrial Bldg, C-0413



DUKE
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Baldy Mesa & Hesperia, Calif USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle
 T4N, R5W, Section 14
 Date of Map: 1956 / Photorevised: 1980

■ Project Area
 USGS 7.5' Quads

0 0.25 0.5 Miles
 0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers
 1 inch = 2,000 feet 1:24,000

N



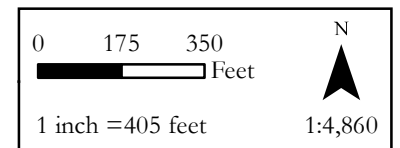


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Map 3 - Project Aerial Photo
Palmetto Way Industrial Bldg, C-0413



Project Area



ATTACHMENT 2

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE
COMMISSION LETTER**

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

June 21, 2022

Brian Glenn
DUKECRMVia Email to: brianglenn@dukecrm.com

Re: Palmetto Way Industrial (C-0413) Project, San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Glenn:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information submitted for the above referenced project. The results were positive. Please contact the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians on the attached list for information. Please note that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the SLF, nor are they required to do so. A SLF search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with a project's geographic area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites, such as the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) archaeological Information Center for the presence of recorded archaeological 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. Please contact all of those listed; if they cannot supply information, they may 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 the NAHC. 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.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
*Luiseño*VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
*Chumash*PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
*Karuk*SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
*Miwok*COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
*Paiute/White Mountain Apache*COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
*Ohlone-Costanoan*COMMISSIONER
Buffy McQuillen
*Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki*COMMISSIONER
Wayne Nelson
*Luiseño*COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
*Kumeyaay*EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
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nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
6/21/2022**

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

Sierra Pencille, Chairperson
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Havasupai Lake, CA, 92363
Phone: (760) 858 - 4219
Fax: (760) 858-5400
chairman@cit-nsn.gov

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Donna Yocum, Chairperson
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Phone: (503) 539 - 0933 Tataviam
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Morongo Band of Mission Indians

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Phone: (951) 755 - 5259
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abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

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26569 Community Center Drive Serrano
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Morongo Band of Mission Indians

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Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (253) 370 - 0167
serranonation1@gmail.com

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Jill McCormick, Historic
Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 1899 Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
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historicpreservation@quechantribe.com

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians

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serranonation1@gmail.com

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation

Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman
Kw'its'an Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1899 Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (928) 750 - 2516
scottmanfred@yahoo.com

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

Darrell Mike, Chairperson
46-200 Harrison Place Chemehuevi
Coachella, CA, 92236
Phone: (760) 863 - 2444
Fax: (760) 863-2449
29chairman@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Palmetto Way Industrial (C-0413) Project, San Bernardino County.

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
6/21/2022**

***Twenty-Nine Palms Band of
Mission Indians***

Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Historic
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amadrigal@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov

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ATTACHMENT 3

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Site overview. View to northeast.



Site overview. View to southeast.



Site overview. View to east.



Site overview. View to west.



Ground visibility. Plan view.



Scattered modern debris. View to southeast.



Building located on the Project area. View to north.



Small faunal bone. Plan view.