

**APPENDIX E:  
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORT**

September 4, 2020

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*BluMax Santa Clarita, LLC  
2001 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 401  
Santa Monica, California 90403  
Contact: Mr. Adam Browning*

*Subject: Cultural Resources Inventory for the for the MetroWalk Development Project, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California*

Mr. Browning:

This report documents the results of a cultural resources inventory completed for the MetroWalk Project located in Santa Clarita, California for New Urban West Development. This inventory consisted of archival research, initiation of tribal outreach, and a pedestrian survey and was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

## Project Location and Present Use

The proposed Project is located within the Canyon Country community in the eastern portion of Santa Clarita, approximately 27 miles northwest of Downtown Los Angeles. The proposed Project site is located 0.30 miles east of the State Route (SR)-14 Freeway, approximately 1 mile south of the Angeles National Forest, approximately 2.35 miles north of the Santa Susana Mountains, and 28 miles northeast of the proposed Project site. Specifically, the proposed Project site is bound by Lost Canyon Road along the eastern boundary, the Southern Pacific Railroad along the southern and western boundary and undeveloped land along the northern boundary and encompasses one parcel, including Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 2840-004-009 (approximately 20.33 acres). The proposed Project site falls on public land survey system (PLSS) Section 22 of Township 4 North, Range 15 West, within Mint Canyon, CA 7.5-minute USGS Quadrangle (Appendix A: Figure 1). The proposed Project site is located within a low-density residential area and surrounding uses include single-family subdivisions. The proposed Project is directly south of the Vista Canyon Development, which is currently under construction. Currently the proposed Project site is undeveloped and characterized mainly by grasses and rocks (Appendix A: Figure 2).

## Project Description

Dudek understands that the proposed Project is located on a 20-acre parcel that is vacant under existing conditions. According to the City's planning documentation, the proposed project site is designated and

zoned for Business Park (BP) land uses. Dudek notes that the Project site is located immediately south of the Vista Canyon Specific Plan area, which is an annexation area proposed for residential and mixed-use transit oriented development, zoned Specific Plan (SP); immediately east of a residential development, which is zoned Urban Residential 5 (UR5); and, immediately north of the Fair Oaks Ranch/West Sand Canyon Annexation area residential development, which is zoned SP. Additionally, the eastern half of the proposed Project site is within the County-designated Santa Clara River Significant Ecological Area (SEA).

## Regulatory Context

Work for this Project was conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The regulatory framework as it pertains to cultural resources under CEQA is detailed below.

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

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 (14 CCR 15064.5[a]). The criteria for listing properties in the CRHR were developed in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The California Office of Historic Preservation regards "any physical evidence of human activities over 45 years old" as meriting recordation and evaluation (OHP 1995:2).

### *California Register of Historic Resources*

A cultural resource is considered "historically significant" under CEQA if the resource meets one or more of the criteria for listing on 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 Section 21083.2, then it should be treated in accordance with the provisions of that section. A unique archaeological 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
  - 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 Section 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 Section 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

*California Environmental Quality Act*

As described further, the following CEQA statutes (PRC Section 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.) are of relevance to the analysis of archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources:

- PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines “unique archaeological resource.”
- PRC Section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) defines “historical resources.” In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) defines the phrase “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource;” it also defines the circumstances when a project would materially impair the significance of a historical resource.
- PRC Section 21074(a) defines “tribal cultural resources.”
- PRC Section 5097.98 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) set forth standards and steps to be employed following the accidental discovery of human remains in any location other than a dedicated ceremony.
- PRC Sections 21083.2(b)–(c) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4 provide information regarding the mitigation framework for archaeological and historic resources, including examples of preservation-in-place mitigation measures. Preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to significant archaeological sites because it maintains the relationship between artifacts and the archaeological context, and may also help avoid conflict with religious or cultural values of groups associated with the archaeological site(s).

More specifically, under CEQA, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it may cause “a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource” (PRC Section 21084.1; 14 CCR 15064.5[b]). If a site is listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or included in a local register of historic resources, or identified as significant in a historical resources survey (meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1[q]), it is an “historical resource” and is presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of CEQA (PRC Section 21084.1; 14 CCR 15064.5[a]). The lead agency is not precluded from determining that a resource is a historical resource even if it does not fall within this presumption (PRC Section 21084.1; 14 CCR 15064.5[a]).

A “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource” reflecting a significant effect under CEQA means “physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired” (14 CCR 15064.5[b][1]; PRC Section 5020.1[q]). In turn, the significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project does any of the following:

- 1) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register; or
- 2) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or
- 3) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA (14 CCR 15064.5[b][2]).

Pursuant to these sections, the CEQA inquiry begins with evaluating whether a project site contains any “historical resources,” then evaluates whether that project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource such that the resource’s historical significance is materially impaired.

If it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that they cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (PRC Sections 21083.2[a]–[c]).

PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archaeological resource as 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:

- 1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- 2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- 3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC Section 21083.2[g]).

Impacts on nonunique archaeological resources are generally not considered a significant environmental impact (PRC Section 21083.2[a]; 14 CCR 15064.5[c][4]). However, if a nonunique archaeological resource qualifies as a tribal cultural resource (PRC Sections 21074[c] and 21083.2[h]), further consideration of significant impacts is required.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 assigns special importance to human remains and specifies procedures to be used when Native American remains are discovered. As described below, these procedures are detailed in PRC Section 5097.98.

*California State Assembly Bill 52*

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 of 2014 amended PRC Section 5097.94 and added PRC Sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 21084.3. AB 52 established that tribal cultural resources must be considered under CEQA and also provided for additional Native American consultation requirements for the lead agency. PRC Section 21074 describes a tribal cultural resource as a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place, or object that is considered of cultural value to a California Native American Tribe. A tribal cultural resource is either:

- On the CRHR or a local historic register;
- Eligible for the CRHR or a local historic register; or
- 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 Section 5024.1.

AB 52 formalizes the lead agency-tribal consultation process, requiring the lead agency to initiate consultation with California Native American groups that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area, including tribes that may not be federally recognized. Lead agencies are required to begin consultation prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report.

Section 1 (a)(9) of AB 52 establishes that “a substantial adverse change to a tribal cultural resource has a significant effect on the environment.” Effects on tribal cultural resources should be considered under CEQA. Section 6 of AB 52 adds Section 21080.3.2 to the PRC, which states that parties may propose mitigation measures “capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource.” Further, if a California Native American tribe requests consultation regarding project alternatives, mitigation measures, or significant effects to tribal cultural resources, the consultation shall include those topics (PRC Section 21080.3.2[a]). The environmental document and the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (where applicable) shall include any mitigation measures that are adopted (PRC Section 21082.3[a]).

*California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5*

California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods, regardless of their antiquity, and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains. California

Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that if human remains are discovered in any place other than a dedicated cemetery, no further disturbance or excavation of the site or nearby area reasonably suspected to contain human remains shall occur until the county coroner has examined the remains (Section 7050.5[b]). Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 also outlines the process to be followed in the event that remains are discovered. If the coroner determines or has reason to believe the remains are those of a Native American, the coroner must contact NAHC within 24 hours (Section 7050.5[c]). NAHC will notify the “most likely descendant.” With the permission of the landowner, the most likely descendant may inspect the site of discovery. The inspection must be completed within 48 hours of notification of the most likely descendant by NAHC. The most likely descendant may recommend means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and items associated with Native Americans.

## Background Research

### SCCIC Records Search

On May 22, 2019, Dudek completed a CHRIS records search at the SCCIC, located on the campus of California State University, Fullerton of the proposed Project site and a one (1.0)-mile (1,608 feet) record search area. This search included their collections of mapped prehistoric, historic, and built environment resources, Department of Parks and Recreation Site Records, technical reports, and ethnographic references. Additional consulted sources included historical maps of the study area, the NRHP, the CRHR, the California Historic Property Data File, the lists of California State Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and the Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility. The results of the records search are presented in Confidential Appendix B.

### Previously Conducted Cultural Resource Studies

The SCCIC records indicate that 30 cultural resources investigations has been conducted within 1.0-mile of the proposed Project site between 1980 and 2013. Of these 30 reports, three intersect or overlap the proposed Project site, including LA-05628, LA-10556, and LA-10560. Table 1, below, summarizes all three previous cultural resource studies followed by a brief summary of each study.

**Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations within 1.0-Mile of the Proposed Project Site**

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Author	Year	Proximity to Proposed Project Site
LA-00758	Cultural Resources Investigation RE: Property Located Near Sand Canyon and the Santa Clara River, Los Angeles County Submitted to Sand Canyon Properties, LTD. R.F. Vincent, Inc. - General Partner	Robinson, R. W.	1980	Outside

**Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations within 1.0-Mile of the Proposed Project Site**

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Author	Year	Proximity to Proposed Project Site
LA-00467	Cultural Resource Survey of a Near Sand Canyon, Upper Santa Clara River Valley, Los Angeles County, California.	McIntyre, Michael J. and Greenwood, Roberta S.	1979	Outside
LA-00500	Cultural Resources Investigation Prepared for Engineering Services Corporation	Robinson, R. W.	1978	Outside
LA-00502	Cultural Resources Investigation Prepared for Engineering Services Corporation	Robinson, R. W.	1977	Outside
LA-00877	Report on Preliminary Mitigation Efforts Associated With Archaeological Site No. LAN-1077 in North Los Angeles County, California	Robinson, R. W.	1980	Outside
LA-01084	Cultural Resources Investigation Re: Tentative Tract Map No. 39245 Submitted to Falconer and Sons, Inc.	Robinson, R. W.	1981	Outside
LA-01166	An Evaluation of the Potential Impacts to Cultural Resources Located on Portions of Tentative Tract 42254 Sand Canyon Road, Canyon Country, Los Angeles County, Ca	Wlodarski, Robert J.	1982	Outside
LA-01369	Cultural Resources Inventory for the 1984 and Part of 1985 California Metropolitan Project Area Public Lands Sale Program	Rector, Carol H.	1984	Outside
LA-01398	Archaeological Survey Report: Tract 43510 Located in Canyon Country, Unincorporated Los Angeles County, California	Van Horn, David M. and J. P. Murray	1984	Outside
LA-01466	Tosco Cogeneration Project Transmission Line: Archaeological Survey and Native American Contacts	Taylor, Thomas T.	1985	Outside
LA-02104	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Tentative Tract 47200, 220 Acres Near Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	Bissell, Ronald M.	1990	Outside
LA-02215	An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Lost Canyon Road Extension, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County	Alexander, Molly B.	1990	Outside
LA-02431	A Phase 1 Archaeological Study for Tentative Tract Number 50592, [lost Canyon Project] West of Sand Canyon Road and South of the Antelope Valley Freeway, Los Angeles County, California	Wlodarski, Robert J.	1991	Outside
LA-02996	Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Santa Clara River Horse and Bike Trail Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	Valentine-Maki, Mary	1993	Outside
LA-03837	An Archaeological Assessment of the Live Oak Springs Canyon Drain and Debris Basin Project, City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County	White, Robert S.	1997	Outside
LA-03840	A Phase I Archaeological Study: Santa Clarita Water Company Application 29898 for 13 Existing Well Site Locations, Los Angeles County, Ca.	Wlodarski, Robert J.	1996	Outside
LA-04008	Cultural Resources Investigation Pacific Pipeline Emidio Route	Unknown	1996	Outside
LA-05624	Cultural Resource Assessment / Evaluation for Nextel Communications Site CA-7565-a, 16404 Delone Street, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	McKenna, Jeanette A.	2002	Outside

**Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations within 1.0-Mile of the Proposed Project Site**

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Author	Year	Proximity to Proposed Project Site
LA-05628	Negative Archaeological Survey Report	Sylvia, Barbara	2002	Intersecting
LA-06942	The Lost Canyon Pedestrian Bridge and Sidewalk Project Located on the South Side of Los Canyon Road Between Sand Canyon Road and the Terminus of the Existing Asphalt Sidewalk	McKenna, Jeanette A.	2003	Outside
LA-07487	Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Visit Results for Cingular Telecommunications Facility Candidate NI-0025-01 (canyon Country Park), 17615 Soledad Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	Keasling, James M.	2005	Outside
LA-08958	Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company Saugus-north Oaks For Cable Project Los Angeles County, California (wo#8456-0639, Jo#6155)	Tsunoda, Koji and Moreno, A.	2007	Outside
LA-10220	Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Visit Results for T-Mobile USA Candidate SV11533B (DOT Weight Station (on the North-East Bound Side of Highway 14; Just West to the Over Pass over Canyon Park Blvd, Canyon Country, Los Angeles County, California	Bonner, Wayne H. and Arabesque Said	2010	Outside
LA-10556	RE: 2004 Los Angeles County Pole Replacement Project	Schmidt, James	2004	Overlapping
LA-10560	Final Confidential: Cultural Resources Study for the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Arundo and Tamarisk Removal Program Long-term implementation Plan, program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment, Los Angeles County, California	Hunt, Kevin and Richard D. Schultz	2005	Intersecting
LA-10642	Preliminary Historical/Archaeological Resources Study, Antelope Valley line Positive Train Control (PTC) Project Southern California Regional Rail Authority, Lancaster to Glendale, Los Angeles County, California	Tang, Bai "Tom"	2010	Outside
LA-11337	Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Survey - AT&T Site NL0025-04 Canton Country Park, 17615 Soledad Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	Loftus, Shannon	2011	Outside
LA-12514	CA-067 (Santa Clarita), 17975 Sierra Hwy, Santa Clarita, CA	Beazley, Matthew	2012	Outside
LA-12588	Cultural Resources Records Search and Native American Consultation Results, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Mint Canyon and Whites Canyon Projects, Los Angeles County, California	Dice, Michael and O'Neil, Stephen	2014	Outside
LA-13053	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for AT&T Mobility, LLC Candidate NL0205 (Fair Oaks Ranch Community School), 26933 Silverbell Lane, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California. CASPR No. 3551597090	Bonner, Wayne H. and Sarah A. Williams	2013	Outside

*LA-05628*

*Negative Archaeological Survey Report* (Sylvia 2002) reports the results of an archaeological survey completed in the Santa Clarita Valley Region. The study interests the current proposed Project site within the eastern half. The study included a records search and an archaeological survey. No cultural resources were identified as a result of the study.

*LA-10556*

*RE: 2004 Los Angeles County Pole Replacement Project* (Schmidt 2004) reports the results of an archaeological study in support of several pole replacements within the Santa Clarita area. The study overlaps the current proposed Project site along the eastern boundary. The study included a records search and an archaeological survey. No cultural resources were identified as a result of the study.

*LA-10560*

*Final Confidential: Cultural Resources Study for the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Arundo and Tamarisk Removal Program Long-term implementation Plan, program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment, Los Angeles County, California* (SWCA 2005) reports the results of a cultural resource survey in support of a removal plan being developed by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District. The study intersects the current proposed Project site along the northern boundary. The study includes 2,405 acres within the Santa Clara River floodplain. In addition, the study includes historical research and a records search. As a result of the 2005 study, six previously recorded resources were identified within the study area, including the location of 10 of buildings depicted on historic maps. No resources were identified within the current proposed Project site.

Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

SCCIC records indicate that a total of seven previously recorded cultural resources fall within 1.0-mile of the proposed Project site (Table 2). One resource is a historic refuse scatter, one is the remains of a single family property, one is a prehistoric flake scatter, one is a multicomponent site made up of a historic cemetery and a low density flake scatter, and three are prehistoric isolates. None of these resources overlap or intersect the proposed Project site.

**Table 2. Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources Within 1.0-Mile of the Proposed Project Site**

Primary Number (P-19-)	Trinomial (CA-LAN-)	Age and Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Recorded By and Year	Proximity to Proposed Project Site
1077	1077	Prehistoric site	Flake scatter	Not evaluated	1980 (R.W. Robinson)	Outside; approximately 0.6 miles northeast

**Table 2. Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources Within 1.0-Mile of the Proposed Project Site**

4355	4355	Multicomponent Site	Historic cemetery, low density flake scatter	Not evaluated, recommended eligible for CRHR	2008 (J.M. Simon, W&S Consultants); 2015 (Scott Wolf, Dudek)	Outside; approximately 0.6 miles northeast
004356	004356H	Historic site	Historic refuse scatter	Not evaluated	2008 (J.M. Simon, W&S Consultants); 2015 (Scott Wolf, Dudek)	Outside; approximately 0.5 miles northeast
004605	004605H	Historic site	Remains of a single family property	Not evaluated	2011 (R.J. Lichtenstein, M. Armstrong, Applied Earthworks)	Outside; approximately 0.68 miles northeast
100335		Prehistoric isolate	Sandstone Mano	Not eligible	1977 (R. W. Robinson, Archaeological Impact Services, Inc)	Outside; approximately 1 mile north
100336		Prehistoric isolate	White Silicate Core	Not eligible	1977 (R.W. Robinson, Archaeological Impact Services)	Outside; approximately 1 mile north
101228	-	Prehistoric isolate	Rhyolite Core tool	Not eligible	1978 (M. McIntyre)	Outside; approximately 0.75 miles south

### Review of Historic Aerials and Topographic Maps

Dudek consulted historic maps and aerial photographs to understand development of the proposed Project site and surrounding properties. Topographic maps are available for the years 1900, 1905, 1910, 1914, 1924, 1930, 1932, 1945, 194, 1955, 1961, 1964, 1975, 1988, 1994, 1999, 2012, and 2015 (NETR 2019a). Historic aerials are available for the years 1947, 1952, 1959, 1969, 1947, 1977, 1978, 1994, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2014 (NETR 2019b).

The first topographic map depicting the proposed Project site dates to 1900 and depicts the proposed Project site as undeveloped land with the Pacific Railroad running along the southern boundary. There are no changes on topographic maps until 1932, which shows a modest increase in development throughout the area though the proposed Project site was still undeveloped. There are no significant changes within the proposed Project site or vicinity aside from modest increase in residential development until 1975. The topographic map from 1975 shows that the Antelope Valley Freeway was developed by this time. In 1975 the proposed Project site and much of the surrounding area are still undeveloped. By 1999 the proposed Project site was still undeveloped however, a large amount of residential development had been built north of Antelope Valley Freeway. There are no significant changes throughout the twenty-first century. The proposed Project site has not been developed.

The first aerial depicting the proposed Project site dates to 1947 and shows the proposed Project site and several surrounding parcels and agricultural fields, though the majority of the land in the area was not

developed. By 1959 there was modest development in the area however, much of the land including the proposed Project site was undeveloped. By 1969 there were several residential subdivisions north of the Antelope Freeway. Throughout the 1980s and the 1990s there was a large increase in residential and commercial development north and west of Antelope Freeway and a more modest amount of development to the east of the proposed Project site. The proposed Project site was not developed throughout this time. Starting in the later 1990s more development began taking place south of the proposed Project site. The residential developments directly south of the proposed Project site were developed between 2002 and 2014. By 2014 the area was developed to its current extent.

## Built Environment Considerations

### *Overview of SPRR San Joaquin Valley Line Alignment*

In 1853, plans began to link Los Angeles to San Francisco by rail, but it was after the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869 that the “Big Four” capitalists of the Central Pacific Railroad (changed to Southern Pacific in 1871) made plans to link Northern and Southern California by rail.<sup>1</sup> The major obstacle was the San Gabriel Mountains and Santa Susanna Mountains, which enclosed the Los Angeles Basin from the Central Valley of California. In 1872, the San Joaquin Valley Line route was chosen through the Tehachapi Mountains, south through the towns of Mojave, Lancaster, and Palmdale, and then through Soledad Canyon to the Santa Clarita Valley. Construction began from both ends. At Tehachapi, engineers employed the Tehachapi Loop to conquer a difficult grade, and brought the line south through the Mojave Desert. In 1875, engineers and a 1,500-person Chinese labor force opened the San Fernando Railroad Tunnel, just outside of present day Santa Clarita and Newhall and approximately 5.5 miles southwest from the project site. Once the tunnel was complete it took mere months for both railroads to join at Lang Station in 1876, nearly 4 miles northeast of the project site (Parker 1937; Pollack 2010; Sacramento Bee 1876; SFE 1872; Stevenson 1887).

The area at the intersection of Woodfall Road and the SPRR right-of-way (approximately 100 feet from the southwest corner of the project site) was once the location of Humphrey’s Station. Humphrey’s Station was established between 1887 and 1892, near the vegetable ranch of John F. Humphreys, who incidentally, also served as station master. In the 1960s, Humphreys Station was demolished after the SPRR stopped passenger service along the route (Los Angeles County Assessor 2020; NETR 2020; SCVHistory.com 2020; Stevenson 1887; UCSB 2020).

Despite some post-flood rebuilding in the same location, there were few changes to the SPRR route until the 1990s. In 1991, Metrolink began passenger service along the SPRR lines, offering a commuter service to Los Angeles. Between 1986 and 1994, a cutoff segment of railroad was constructed in the project site,

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<sup>1</sup> The “Big Four” consisted of Charles Crocker, Mark Hopkins, Leland Stanford, and Collis Huntington.

smoothing out the curve. This newer railroad segment lies between the project site and the 1875 SPRR line (Los Angeles County Assessor 2020; NETR 2020; Pollack 2010; SCVHistory.com 2020; UCSB 2020).

### ***Indirect Impacts Analysis***

There are two railroad lines located south of the project site, both belonging to Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR). The track located closest to the project site was constructed c. 1990s as a cutoff segment functioning as part of Metrolink's passenger service offered along SPRR lines. The track located furthest south of the project site is part of the original 1875 SPRR alignment between Northern and Southern California.

### Tribal Correspondence

Dudek initiated correspondence with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on February 22, 2020 requesting a search of their files to determine if any Native American resources have been mapped within or near to the Project area. The NAHC responded on March 5, 2020, stating that the search was negative for Native American resources, but provided a list of Native American individuals that should be contacted for more information on potential tribal sensitivities regarding the current Project. Tribal correspondence records are attached to this report as an appendix.

### Intensive Pedestrian Survey

An intensive pedestrian survey was completed on Friday March 13, 2020 by Dudek archaeologist and a Tataviam Native American monitor. Surface visibility was hindered by dense grass and other vegetation. All earthen exposures (such as animal burrows) were inspected for cultural material and boots were used to clear small (less than 20 cm diameter) areas of grass to inspect the earth at 10-20 meter intervals. Survey transects were spaced at 15 meters for the entirety of the Project area. No cultural materials were identified during the survey. Modern refuse was found scattered throughout the Project area irregularly, including consumables, auto parts, and other metal items.

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No cultural resources were identified in this study, which included a records search, NAHC search, and an intensive pedestrian survey. Historic and modern aerial analysis indicates a low probability of discovering archaeological deposits. No comments were received from the Native American monitor during fieldwork regarding tribal sensitivity or other resource concerns. As such, Dudek's recommendations for further work is to have a qualified archaeologist provide archaeological awareness training at the construction kickoff meeting in order to ensure proper identification and treatment of inadvertent discoveries.

While the 1875 railroad alignment may have significant historical associations, it is located 300 to 800 feet outside of the project site's southern boundary. Further, the newer cutoff added in the 1990s creates

a distinct modern rail barrier between the project site and the 1875 segment. Additionally, the historical setting for the 1875 SPRR segment has already been subject to extensive impacts of setting, not only by construction of the 1990s railroad cutoff, but by multiple residential housing subdivision developments in the 1990s and early 2000s, as well as the construction of the Antelope Freeway (California State Route 14) between 1969 and 1974 (NETR 2020; UCSB 2020). For these reasons, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on the adjacent SPRR alignment. No additional study or management is recommended for the SPRR segment south of the project site.

In the event that archaeological resources (sites, features, artifacts, or fossilized material) are exposed during construction activities for the proposed Project, all construction work occurring within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified specialist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, can evaluate the significance of the find and determine whether additional study is warranted. Prehistoric archaeological deposits may be indicated by the presence of discolored or dark soil, fire-affected material, concentrations of fragmented or whole freshwater bivalves shell, burned or complete bone, non-local lithic materials, or some other distinctive characteristic observed to be atypical of the surrounding area. Common prehistoric artifacts may include modified or battered lithic materials; lithic or bone tools that appear to have been used for chopping, drilling, or grinding; projectile points; fired clay ceramics or non-functional items; and other items. Historic-age deposits are often indicated by the presence of glass bottles and shards, ceramic material, building or domestic refuse, ferrous metal, or old features such as concrete foundations or privies. Depending upon the significance of the find, the archaeologist may simply record the find and allow work to continue. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA, additional work, such as preparation of an archaeological treatment plan, testing, or data recovery, may be warranted.

In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are found, the county coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the county coroner has determined, within 2 working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she shall notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant of the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant shall complete his/her inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.

*Subject: Cultural Resources Inventory for the MetroWalk Project, Santa Clarita, California*

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this report by email at lkry@dudek.com or phone at (626) 590-1739, or Micah J. Hale by email at mhale@dudek.com or phone at (760) 479-4276.

Sincerely,



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Linda Kry, Ba  
Archaeologist

*cc: Samantha Murray, RPA – Dudek Senior Architectural Historian  
Heather McDaniel McDevitt, RPA – Dudek Senior Archaeologist  
Micah J. Hale, Ph.D., RPA – Dudek Cultural Resources Technical Lead*

*Att: Appendix A: Figures  
Appendix B: Confidential CHRIS Records Search Results  
Appendix C: Tribal Correspondence*

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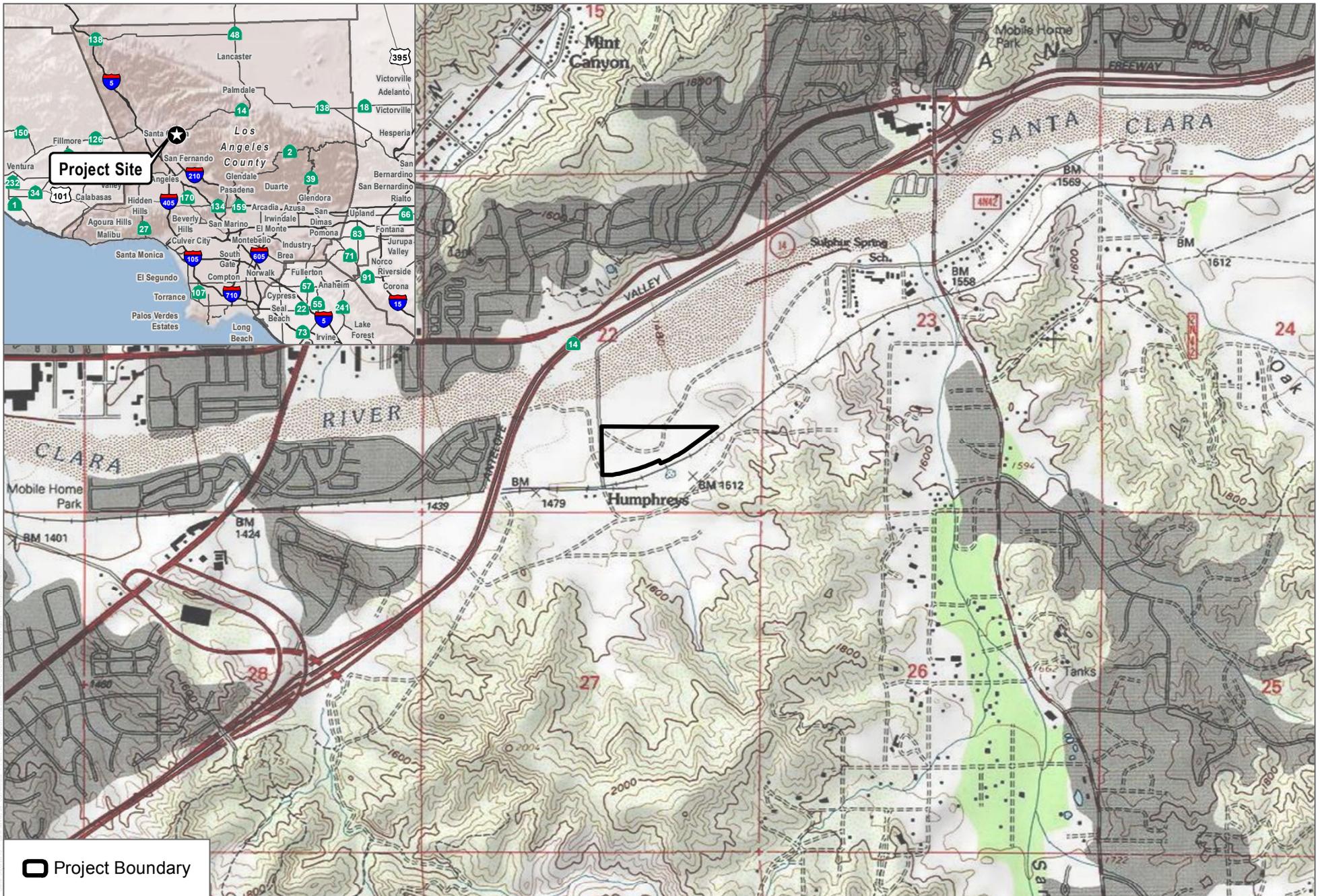


# APPENDIX A

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Figures

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SOURCE: SOURCE: USGS 7.5-Minute Series Mint Canyon

**FIGURE 1**  
Regional Location  
Lost Canyon Project



 Project Boundary

SOURCE: ESRI 2018



**FIGURE 2**  
Project Site  
Lost Canyon Project



# APPENDIX B

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CHRIS Records Search Results – Confidential

## Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95501  
(916) 373-3710  
(916) 373-5471 – Fax  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)

*Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search*

Project: Metro Walk Project  
County: Los Angeles

USGS Quadrangle

Name: Mint Canyon  
Township: 4N Range: 15W Section(s): 22

Company/Firm/Agency:

Dudek

Contact Person: Linda Kry

Street Address: 38 North Marengo Avenue

City: Pasadena Zip: 91101

Phone: (626) 590-1739 Extension: N/A

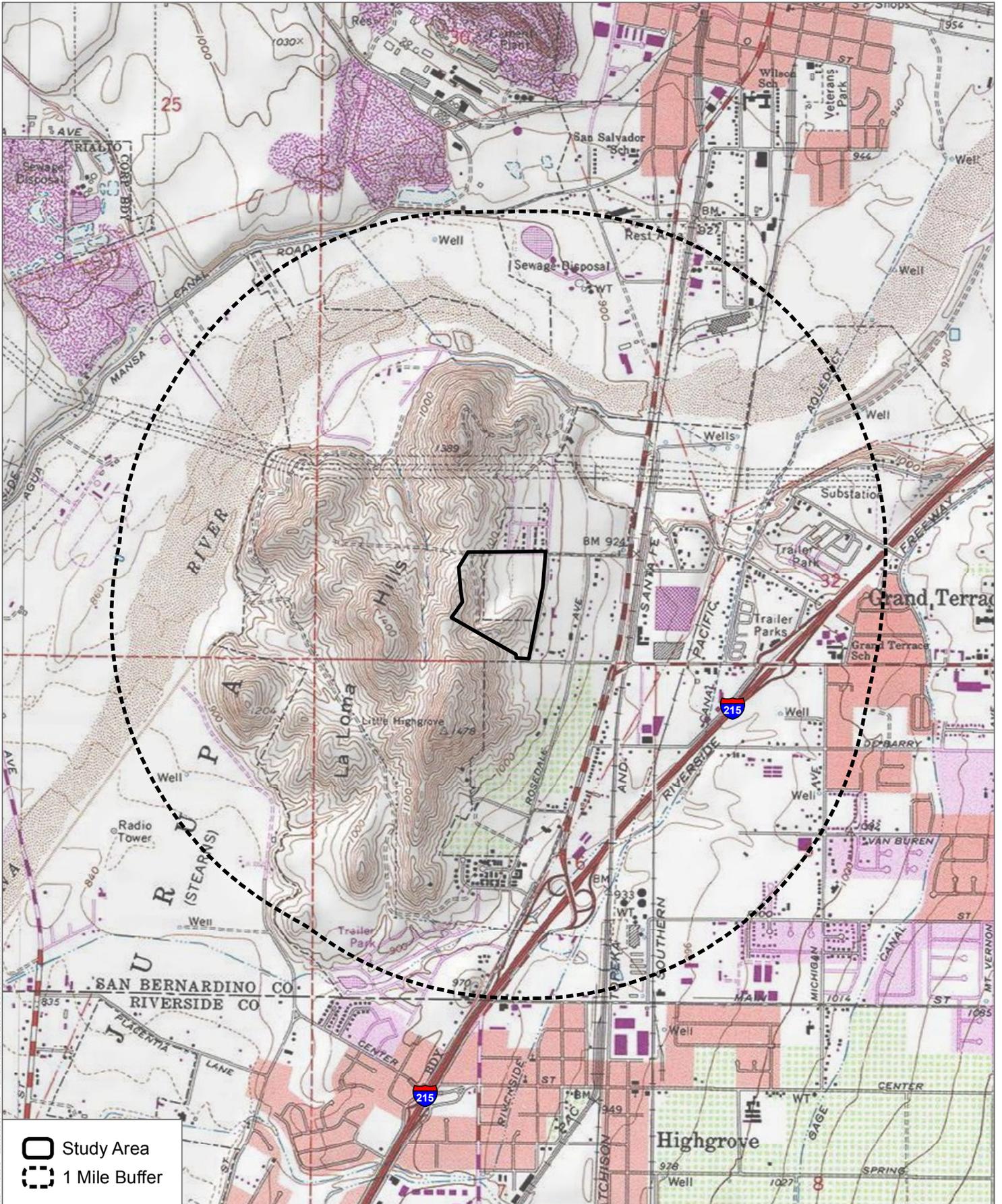
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: lkry@dudek.com

Project Description:

The proposed Project is on a 20-acre parcel located within the Canyon Country community in the eastern portion of Santa Clarita, approximately 27 miles northwest of Downtown Los Angeles. The proposed Project site is located 0.30 miles east of the State Route (SR)-14 Freeway, approximately 1 mile south of the Angeles National Forest, approximately 2.35 miles north of the Santa Susana Mountains, and 28 miles northeast of the proposed Project site. Specifically, the proposed Project site is bound by Lost Canyon Road along the eastern boundary, the Southern Pacific Railroad along the southern and western boundary and undeveloped land along the northern boundary and encompasses \_\_\_\_\_ including Assessment Parcel Number (APN) 9940 004 000. The proposed Project is located \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location Map is attached



 Study Area  
 1 Mile Buffer

SOURCE: USGS 7.5-Minute Series San Bernardino South Quadrangle  
 Township 1S, 2S; Range 5W, 4W; Sections 1, 5, 6, 7, 25, 29, 30, 31, 32, 36



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

March 5, 2020

Linda Kry  
Dudek

Via Email to: lkry@dudek.com

**Re: Metro Walk Project, Los Angeles County**

Dear Ms. Kry:

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: [steven.quinn@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:steven.quinn@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Steven Quinn  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON  
**Laura Miranda**  
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
Chumash

SECRETARY  
**Merri Lopez-Keifer**  
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
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Karuk

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**Marshall McKay**  
Wintun

COMMISSIONER  
**William Mungary**  
Paiute/White Mountain  
Apache

COMMISSIONER  
**Joseph Myers**  
Pomo

COMMISSIONER  
**Julie Tumamait-Stenslie**  
Chumash

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**Christina Snider**  
Pomo

**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
West Sacramento,  
California 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
[NAHC.ca.gov](http://NAHC.ca.gov)