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JN 192626

Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Via Princessa Park Project

Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California

Prepared for:
City of Santa Clarita
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Valencia, CA 91355

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April 2023
(Revised August 2023)

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Planning Division
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Draft

National Archaeological Database (NADB)
Type of Study: Literature Search, Intensive Pedestrian Survey, Significance Evaluation
New Sites: Historic Object 1 and Historic Object 2
Updated Sites: N/A
USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Mint Canyon
Acreage: 33 acres
Level of Investigation: Section 106 NHPA; CEQA Phase I
Keywords: Santa Clarita; NHPA Section 106; CEQA; MBI-VP-MY-01H

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Santa Clarita (City) proposes the Via Princessa Park Project (Project). The Project proposes constructing and operating Via Princessa Park, including recreational improvements and a regional stormwater infiltration facility. The Project would include athletic fields with sports field lighting, pickleball courts, playground equipment, walking paths, shade structures, picnic areas, public art, and education and monumentation signage. The Project is subject to compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended for a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Applicable regulations include the National Environmental Policy Act, CEQA, and local regulations. The City is the CEQA lead agency, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the lead agency for Section 106. This Phase 1 Cultural Resources Assessment is produced compliant with CEQA and USACE Section 106 Standards.

In support of the Project, Michael Baker International conducted: background and archival research; South Central Coastal Information Center records search; Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search; historical society consultation; an archaeological field survey; buried site sensitivity analysis; and National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) evaluation of one historic-period archaeological site. The site is recommended ineligible for either register. These efforts were completed to determine whether the proposed Project could result in significant impacts to historical and archaeological resources as defined by CEQA Section 15064.5 or adverse effects to historic properties as defined by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800.16(l)(1).

Based on the results of the study, one historic-period archaeological site was identified project's area of potential effect and evaluated as ineligible for the National Register and California Register, and therefore is not a historic property as defined by 36 CFR 800.16(l)(1) or historical resource as defined by CEQA Section 15064.5(a), nor does it meet the definition of a "unique archeological resource" as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2. As such, no further work is recommended for this resource. A finding of no historic properties affected with conditions under Section 106 and less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated under CEQA is appropriate for the Project. Refer to recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7.

TABLE MS-1. CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE APE

Resource Name	Description	National/California Register Evaluation Recommendation	Historic Property/ Historical Resource
MBI-VP-MY-01H	Agricultural features	Ineligible	No

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Santa Clarita (City) proposes to construct and operate Via Princessa Park to include recreational improvements and a regional stormwater infiltration facility. The Via Princessa Park Project (Project) is within the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) jurisdictional boundaries; therefore, a USACE permit is anticipated, and compliance with the requirement of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is needed. The USACE is the lead agency for Section 106 compliance. Because the Project also requires discretionary approval from the City, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements also pertain. The City is the lead agency for CEQA.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project site is located in the City of Santa Clarita in Los Angeles County, California, bordered by the Santa Clara River to the north, Via Princessa and Friendly Valley Golf Course to the south, the Whites Canyon Road to the west, and Cordova Estates and Sierra Highway to the east (**Figure 1**). The Project site is within the southeast quarter of Section 20 and the northeast quarter of Section 29 of Township 4 North and Range 15 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian of the Mint Canyon, California 7.5-minute US Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle (**Figure 2**).

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project site is primarily undeveloped, with existing improvements constructed on the southerly portion of the property, including the Via Princessa Metrolink Station, an existing restroom and office building, and an existing parking lot (approximately 400 spaces). The purpose of the Project is to construct and operate Via Princessa Park, which, in addition to recreational improvements, would include a regional stormwater infiltration facility on an approximately 33-acre area of vacant City-owned land. The City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update (August 2008) identified the proposed Via Princessa Park as a possible future park to provide needed recreational facilities to the community. The Project would include athletic fields with sports field lighting, pickleball courts, playground equipment, and other recreational facilities, such as walking paths, shade structures, picnic areas, public art, and education and monumentation signage.

Additionally, the Project would also provide parking, park access, and other amenities and improvements, including alterations to the existing Via Princessa Metrolink Station parking lot, construction of a pedestrian and vehicle (restricted access) railroad undercrossing (including removal of the existing at-grade pedestrian crossing), relocation of an existing storm drain line, construction of a new restroom building with associated utilities, improvements to the existing restroom/office building located in the parking area, landscaping and irrigation improvements, and restoration of the existing Honby drainage channel.

Additionally, the Project has been identified by the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency as an optimal location for off stream recharge, and the proposed infiltration basin would help the Agency meet their goals of sustainable basin management, in accordance with their 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. As a result, the Project also includes civil and geotechnical design features, including a subterranean regional stormwater infiltration facility, buried bank protection, a storm drain culvert

extension, removal of an agricultural water well, and soil processing requirements and design considerations. Additionally, a fourth lane may be added to Weyerhauser Way, and modifications may be made to Via Princessa to accommodate a double-left turn lane into and/or out of Weyerhauser Way. **Figure 3** depicts the preliminary Project site plan. Project construction is anticipated to begin by the summer of 2025, with construction completion planned for late 2028.

A detail of the Project characteristics can be found in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. They consist of new park facilities, a regional stormwater infiltration facility, the Honby Channel temporary channel diversion and construction crossing, improvements to Honby Channel, buried bank protection along the south bank of Santa Clara River and Honby Channel, Southern California Regional Rail Authority/Metrolink grade-separated undercrossing to replace the at-grade pedestrian crossing, Weyerhauser Way Park/site access improvements, and parking lot improvements.

1.3 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

According to Section 106 of the NHPA, the area of potential effects (APE) is:

[T]he geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800.16[d]).

An APE for this Project was delineated pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA. The APE includes the 34-acre area of vacant City-owned land consisting of 7 parcels (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 2836-002-907, 2836-002-922, 2836-003-923, 2864-003-920, 2864-003-921, 2864-003-922, and 2864-003-924), and any area where historic properties may be directly or indirectly affected by Project-related activities. The vertical APE for the project is limited to the depth of ground disturbance for each project component with a maximum depth of 20 feet for the infiltration BMP. **Figure 4** depicts the APE and all the Project elements discussed in the Project description.

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Project Location

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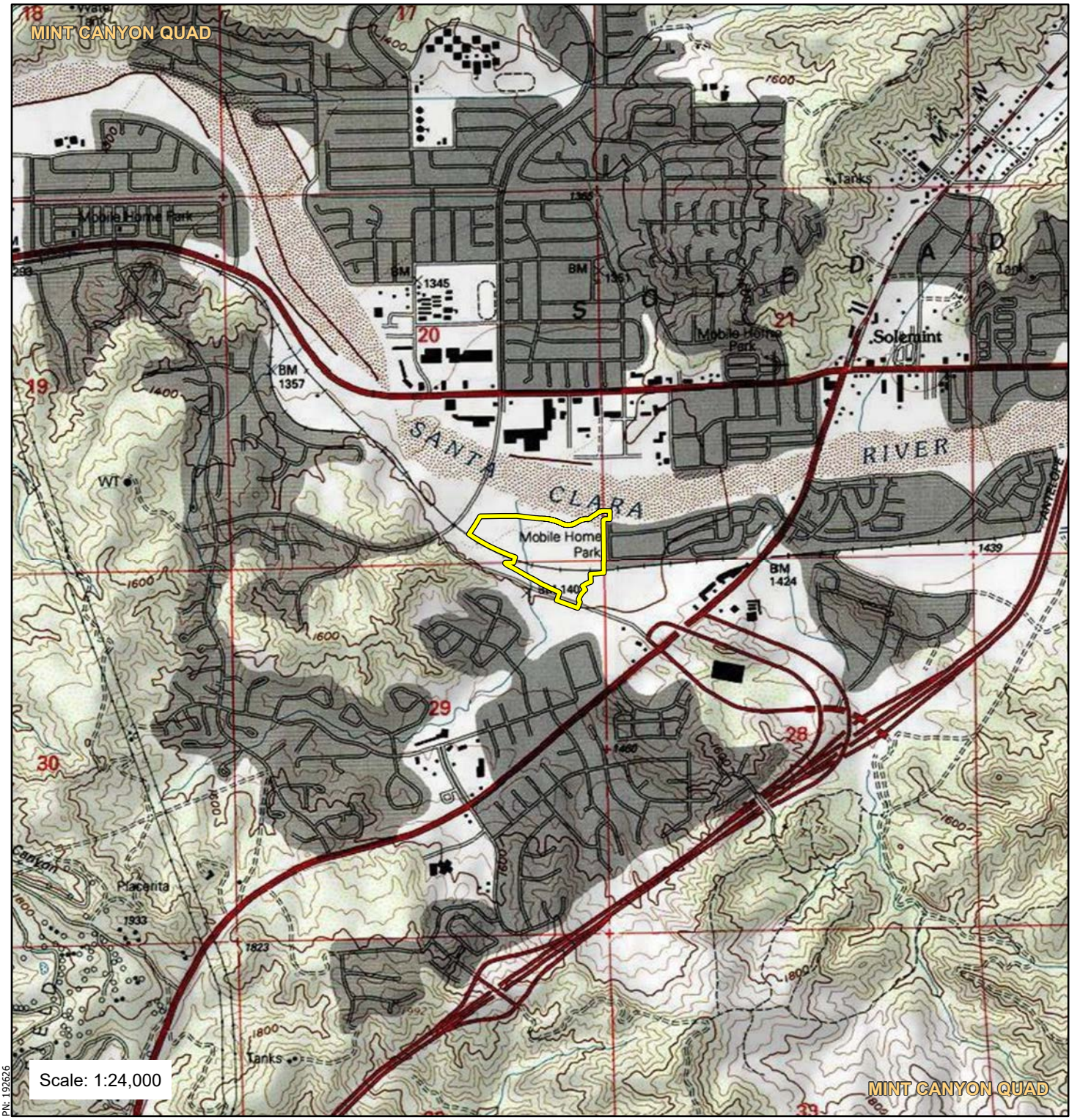
0 5 10 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, National Geographic World Map: *Santa Clarita, California*

VIA PRINCESSA PARK PROJECT
SANTA CLARITA, CA

Regional Vicinity

Figure 1



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Area of Potential Effects

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0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, Mint Canyon USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: *Santa Clarita, California*

VIA PRINCESSA PARK PROJECT
SANTA CLARITA, CA

Project Location

Figure 2

VIA PRINCESSA PARK CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN

LANDSCAPE CONCEPTUAL PLAN - FULL SITE - SITE FEATURES

1. 180' X 300' MP FIELD WITH 25' BUFFER
2. PEDESTRIAN AND MAINTENANCE VEHICLE TUNNEL (RESTRICTED ACCESS FOR MAINTENANCE VEHICLES) WITH PUBLIC ART LIGHTING + MURALS
3. AMENITY BUILDINGS: 8 RESTROOM STALLS + SECURITY
4. 10' TALL RETAINING WALL + MONUMENT PARK SIGN AT ENTRY "VIA PRINCESSA PARK"
5. ENTRY GATHERING PLAZA WITH SHADE, PARK INFORMATIONAL KIOSK, PUBLIC ART + SEATING
6. WAYFINDING "HONBY CREEK" MONUMENT SIGN WITH EDUCATION
7. WAYFINDING "SANTA CLARA RIVER" PLAZA + MONUMENT SIGN WITH SHADE, SEATING + EDUCATION COMPONENTS
8. VEHICULAR ACCESS OVER HONBY CREEK
9. NEW EXTENDED CULVERT PER CIVIL
10. EMERGENCY VEHICLE HAMMERHEAD TURN-AROUND
11. SERVICE VEHICLE ACCESS LOOP DOUBLES AS BANK LINER ALONG NORTH AND WEST SIDE OF PROPERTY. ALSO SERVES AS MULTI-MODAL PATHWAY, MIMICKING THE SHAPE AND GEOMORPHOLOGY OF RIVERS
12. SERVICE VEHICLE AT-GRADE CROSSING WITH HAMMERHEAD TURN-AROUND
13. SHADED PICNIC AREA (LARGE GROUPS)
14. SHADED PICNIC AREA (STANDARD GROUP)
15. NATURAL PLAY AREA INTEGRATED WITH STORMWATER BIOSWALES. STORMWATER COLLECTION SWALES DIRECTS STORMWATER TO BMP INTAKE
16. NATURE THEMED PLAYGROUND
17. AMPHITHEATER BERM SEATING WITH SHADE COVER
18. SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING
19. BANK LINER
20. EXISTING VIA PRINCESSA STATION PARKING LOT WITH 400 PARKING SPACES
21. EXISTING RESTROOM + SECURITY FACILITY
22. SUBGRADE INFILTRATION WELL BMP
23. MAINTENANCE VEHICLE ACCESS ROAD
24. NEW TRASH ENCLOSURE FOR (3) 5 YD DUMPSTERS
25. NEW BUS TURNAROUND. NEW ASPHALT
26. NEW PARKING AISLE WITH NEW PARKING SPACES. LANDSCAPE AREAS AND NEW FENCE AROUND PERIMETER
27. NEW PARKING STALLS
28. HONBY CREEK RESTORATION
29. LANDSCAPE AREA TO HELP PROMOTE NATURAL SUCCESSION OF PLANTING ON THE WEST SIDE OF HONBY
30. CENTRAL ACCESSIBLE PATH WITH SHADE AND SEATWALLS
31. NEW LANDSCAPE AREAS
32. DESERT SCRUB HYDROSEED MIX - THESE PLANTS DONT NEED IRRIGATION AFTER ESTABLISHMENT
33. CORDOVA ESTATES PLANTED BUFFER
34. EXISTING STORM OUTLET

SITE PLAN COLOR KEY

LANDSCAPE AREAS + HARDSCAPES
- LOW WATER ADAPTIVE PLANTING SLOPES
- LOW WATER ADAPTIVE PLANTING
- BIOSWALES
- LOW-MOW LAWN
- DECOMPOSED GRANITE/COMPACTED DIRT
- VEHICULAR CONCRETE
- CONCRETE PAVERS
- NATURAL PLAY AREA
- PLAYGROUND

CIRCULATION + SYMBOLOGY
- PEDESTRIAN TRAIL CIRCULATION
- WATER TUNNEL EDUCATION + ART PIECE
- WATER EDUCATION + PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY
- ECOLOGY + STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION + PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY
- GEOLOGY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY
- WAYFINDING
- PUBLIC ART

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revisions:
no. date issue/note:

issued:
no. date issue/note:

project:

VIA PRINCESSA PARK CONCEPT PLAN
VIA PRINCESSA PARK
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91321

plot date:
drawn by:
checked by:
PCLD project #: 21-020
file name:

CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN - ENTIRE PARK

EX-06

4 OF 4

PN: 192626

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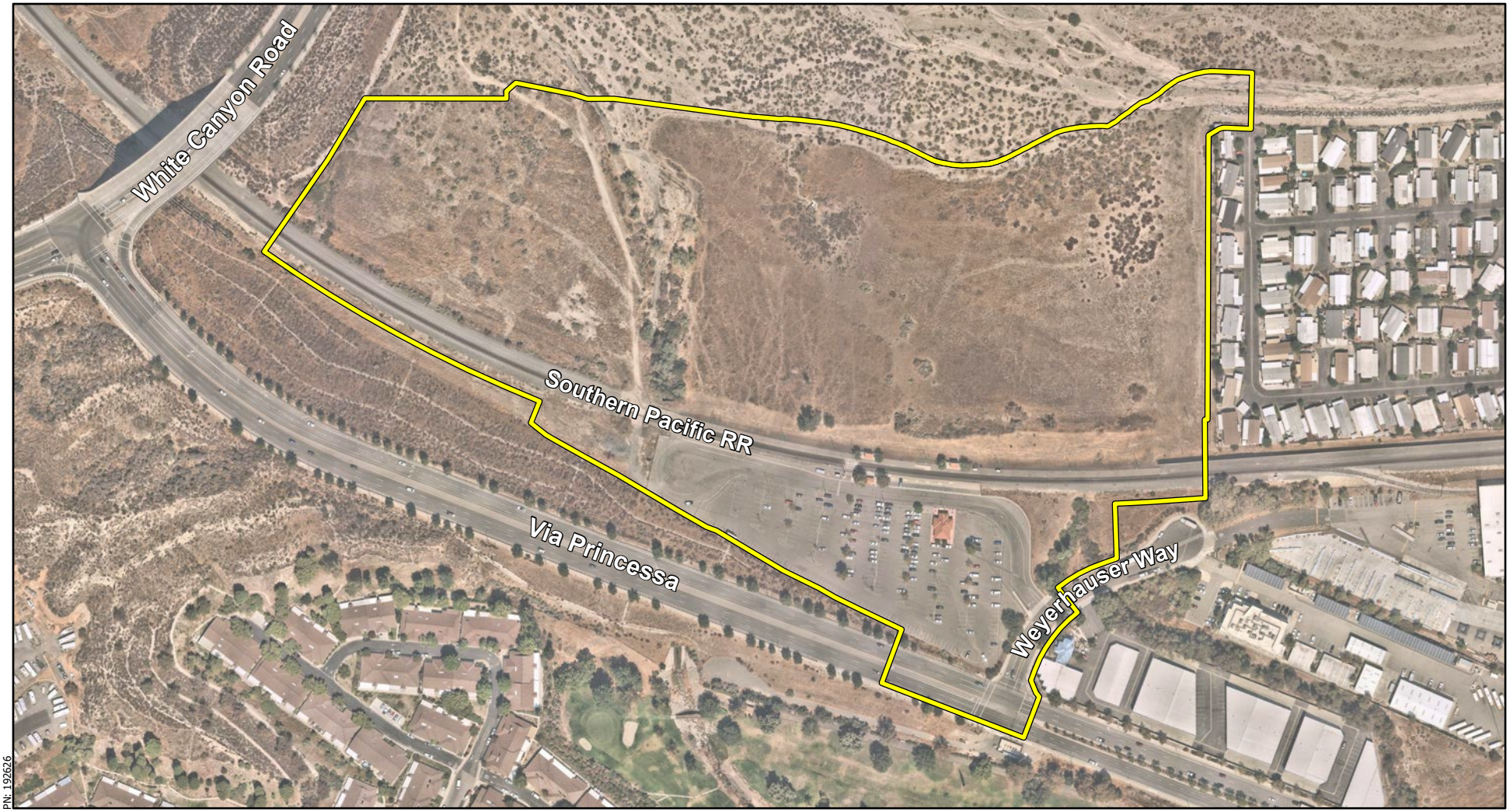
Source: City of Santa Clarita, California

VIA PRINCESSA PARK PROJECT
SANTA CLARITA, CA

Concept Plan

Figure 3



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Area of Potential Effects

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0 250 500 Feet

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, 2022 Nearmap Imagery: *Santa Clarita, California*

VIA PRINCESSA PARK PROJECT
SANTA CLARITA, CA

Area of Potential Effects

Figure 4

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND BACKGROUND

2.1 NATURAL SETTING

California is divided into 11 geomorphic provinces, each defined by unique geologic and geomorphic characteristics. The APE is in the central portion of the Transverse Ranges geomorphic province, marked by an east–west trending mountain ranges and valleys in contrast to the northwest-trending ranges of coastal California (CGS 2002). This geomorphic province extends offshore to include physiogeographic features, such as the northern members of the Channel Islands of Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel Islands (CGS 2002). The Transverse Ranges province crosses several counties and is bound by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada geomorphic provinces to the north, the Mojave Desert geomorphic province to the east, and the Peninsular Ranges and Colorado Desert geomorphic provinces to the south.

The geology of the Santa Clarita area was mapped by Campbell et al. (2016) at a scale of 1:100,000 and by Dibblee and Ehrenspeck (1996) at a scale of 1:24,000. Geologic units underlying the Project area are mapped as alluvial gravel, sand, and clay of the valley area that date to the Holocene epoch (Qa of Dibblee and Ehrenspeck 1996). The Mint Canyon formation consists of terrestrial sedimentary deposits ranging from conglomerate through sandstone to claystone that date to the Miocene epoch (Tmc of Dibblee and Ehrenspeck 1996).

The soils in the APE are predominantly sandy loam of 51 percent Hanford sandy loam (HcA) with 0 to 2 percent slopes, 20.7 percent Yolo loam with 2 to 9 percent slopes, 17.5 percent Cortina sand loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes, 8.9 percent sandy alluvial land, and 1.8 percent riverwash.

The APE is within the Venturan-Angeleno Coastal Hills ecoregion, a part of the larger California Coastal Sage and Chaparral ecoregion. The plant and animal species that would have been present during prehistoric times in this ecoregion include a mix of California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp.*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus Mexicana*), bigpod ceanothus (*Ceanothus megacarpus*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) (Griffith et al. 2016). The vegetation is adapted to a Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The region's wildlife during late prehistory would have included the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus)*, mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*).

2.2 CULTURAL SETTING

This section provides a brief summary of the prehistoric record and ethnohistoric and historic settings of the APE.

2.2.1 Prehistoric Period

The APE is within a segment of California where the prehistoric record is not as well documented as in other regions in the state. There have been a few significant archaeological studies within the Santa Clarita Valley, but they have not fully defined the local culture history of the Santa Clarita Valley and have thus lumped the region into neighboring cultural historical schemes of the southern California coast (e.g. Glassow et al. 2007, Waugh 1999, and ICF 2021). The summary of the prehistoric occupation of the region here follows the general cultural history schema of those previous reports.

The prehistoric occupation of Southern California is divided chronologically into four temporal phases or horizons (Moratto 1984). Horizon I, or the Early Man Horizon, began at the first appearance of people in the region (approximately 12,000 years ago) and continued until approximately 5,000 BC. One of the oldest archaeological finds in the region is Daisy Cave, on San Miguel Island, where cultural remains have been radiocarbon dated to between 11,100 and 10,950 B.C. (Moratto 1984). These early occupants of Southern California are believed to have been nomadic large-game hunters whose tool assemblage included percussion-flaked scrapers and knives; large, well-made stemmed, fluted, or leaf-shaped projectile points (e.g., Lake Mojave, Silver Lake); crescentics; heavy core/cobble tools; hammerstones; bifacial cores; and choppers and scraper-planes. Warren (1968) and W. J. Wallace (1955) suggest that the absence of milling tools commonly used for seed preparation indicates that an orientation toward hunting continued throughout this phase.

Horizon II, also known as the Millingstone Horizon or Encinitas Tradition, began around 5,000 BC and continued until approximately 1,500 BC. The Millingstone Horizon is characterized by the widespread use of milling stones (manos and metates) and core tools, with few projectile points or bone or shell artifacts. This horizon represents a diversification of subsistence activities and a more sedentary settlement pattern. Archaeological evidence suggests that hunting became less critical and that a reliance on collecting shellfish and vegetal resources increased (Moratto 1984:159). The inland occupants collected primarily hard seeds and hunted small mammals; projectile points were more common in inland assemblages.

A greater emphasis on seed gathering marked the general settlement/subsistence patterns of the Middle Holocene. Coastal and inland sites exhibit shallow midden accumulations, suggesting seasonal camping, and midden accumulation at desert locales dating to this period is generally rare. Based on the distribution of sites assigned to this period, aboriginal groups likely followed a modified, centrally based wandering pattern, with an inferred shift toward enhanced logistical settlement organization (Warren 1968). In this semisedentary pattern, larger groups occupied a base camp for a portion of the year, while smaller groups used satellite camps to exploit seasonally available floral resources such as grass seeds, berries, tubers, and nuts. King suggests that the coastal sites probably represent more permanent occupations than those found in the interior because coastal inhabitants were sustained by more reliable and abundant food resources (King 1967).

Horizon III, the Intermediate Horizon or Campbell Tradition, began around 1,500 BC and continued until approximately AD 600–800. Horizon III is defined by a shift from the use of milling stones to increased use of mortar and pestle, possibly indicating a greater reliance on acorns as a food source. Projectile points

become more abundant and, together with faunal remains, indicate increased use of both land and sea mammals (Moratto 1984:159).

Horizon IV, the Late Horizon, which began around AD 600–800 and terminated with the arrival of Europeans, is characterized by dense populations; diversified hunting and gathering subsistence strategies, including intensive fishing and hunting for sea mammals; extensive trade networks; use of the bow and arrow; and a general cultural elaboration (Moratto 1984:159). All regional chronological sequences recognize the introduction of the bow and arrow at about AD 500 by the appearance of small arrow points and arrow-shaft straighteners. Diagnostic artifacts for the Late Horizon include small triangular projectile points, mortars and pestles, steatite ornaments and containers, perforated stones, circular shell fishhooks, numerous and varied bone tools, and bone and shell ornamentation. Elaborate mortuary customs, generous use of bitumen, and the development of extensive trade networks are also characteristic of this period. Pottery, ceramic pipes, cremation urns, rock paintings, and some European trade goods were added to the previous cultural assemblage during the latter half of the late prehistoric occupation of the Southern California coastal region (Meighan 1954).

2.2.2 Ethnographic Setting

Native American territorial occupation of the Los Angeles basin and surrounding areas was traditionally assigned to the Gabrielino, also known as the Tongva, Chumash, and Tataviam Native American groups. The latter occupy the northwest and northern limits of the San Fernando Valley and other surrounding territories (Grant 1978; King and Blackburn 1978). For this study, a short description of Tataviam ethnography is provided.

The Tataviam are one of the least understood Native American groups in California. Their original territory has been estimated to lie within Los Angeles, Ventura, and Kern Counties (King and Blackburn 1978). Their language belongs to the Takic branch of the larger Uto-Aztecan linguistic family and, therefore, exhibits phylogenetic (based on natural evolution) relationships to other Takic languages of Southern California, such as those of the Gabrielino of the Los Angeles basin and the Kitanemuk of the Antelope Valley. The name *Tataviam* means “people facing the sun.” Their territory is thought to include the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River drainage east of Piru Creek, extending north to the southwestern fringes of the Antelope Valley (Fortier 2009; King and Blackburn 1978). Their neighbors included the Kitanemuk and Vanyume to the north, Chumash communities to the west, Gabrielino territories to the south, and Serrano communities to the east and southeast (King and Blackburn 1978). At the time of the missionary conquest, Tataviam villages were numerous. Many of the thousand Tataviam in the Los Angeles region were eventually sent to Mission San Fernando. Of those with a known ethnicity baptized at the mission, 27 percent were Tataviam (Fortier 2009).

Some of the most established Tataviam villages during the historic period included Wa’atnga and Coaynga near present-day Piru; Kavwénga at the present-day Cahuenga; Tujunga at Rancho Tujunga; Chaguayanga and Tochonanga near Newhall; Suitcanga near Encino; and Mapipinga at Vazquez Rocks. Mission San Fernando itself was established in the village of Achoicominga. On the eve of colonial contact, circa 1770, evidence suggests that Tataviam economic strategies were like those of the Gabrielino and the other similar groups in the vicinity. The Tataviam collected yucca, acorns, sage seeds, cherry, juniper berries, and other plants within their territory. Men and women hunted rabbits, rats, deer, birds, and antelope.

2.2.3 Historic Setting

Spanish/Mexican Period

Spanish occupation of California began at San Diego in 1769 when Franciscan missionaries led by Father Junípero Serra and Spanish soldiers established a military fort and chapel on Presidio Hill, which became colonial California's first presidio and first mission. During that same year, an expedition headed by Gaspar de Portolá traveled north from San Diego to explore Alta California for additional mission sites and search for Monterey Bay, which Spanish mariners had previously encountered. Portolá and his party would be the first people of European descent to travel through the Project vicinity. Moving northward, the party reached the Santa Clara River near Castaic Junction on August 8. Recording the expedition in journals, Father Juan Crespi described the area as "a very suitable site for a mission, with much good land, many palisades, two very large arroyos of water, and five large [Native American] villages close together." The following day, Portolá's party followed the Santa Clara River west toward present-day Fillmore (Perkins 1957; Rawls and Bean 2011).

Mission San Gabriel was established in the Los Angeles basin in 1771. Five years later, a party led by Father Francisco Garcés became the second group of Spanish explorers to travel through the Santa Clara River Valley, this time en route to the San Joaquin Valley. The Los Angeles pueblo was established as a civilian settlement on September 4, 1781. On March 31 of the following year, Father Serra founded Mission San Buenaventura, California's ninth mission and the last to be established under Serra's leadership. The coastal site was approximately 60 miles west-northwest of the Los Angeles pueblo. Serra's successor as "president" of the California missions, Father Fermín Lausén, established Mission San Fernando in the northern San Fernando Valley in 1797 (Kimbro et al. 2010; Perkins 1957; Rawls and Bean 2011).

Mission San Fernando leaders sought to colonize the Santa Clara River Valley. They intended to missionize the valley's numerous Native American villages and exploit its natural resources to supplement supplies from other regional missions bound for the military garrison at the Presidio of Santa Barbara. Successfully challenging attempts by civilian Francisco Avila to gain control of lands around the headwaters of the Santa Clara River, Mission San Fernando leaders established an *Asistencia* in the vicinity of Castaic Junction during the first years of the nineteenth century. The area became known as Rancho San Francisco. As at the missions, *Asistencia* leaders compelled local Native Americans to learn and perform European forms of animal husbandry, construction, and agricultural production. Rancho San Francisco was fenced to control cattle herds, and a dam and irrigation canal were constructed on the eastern portion of the rancho (Perkins 1957).

Spanish colonial officials maintained an ultimately tenuous grip on Alta California as the mission system expanded. Although some missions flourished economically, threats from within and without increasingly undermined stability. Indigenous populations declined dramatically because of disease, overwork, and mission campaigns to end native ways of life. Instances of native resistance to Spanish authority multiplied across Alta California. Mariners with allegiances to competing colonial powers and trappers/explorers from the east and north increasingly challenged the authority of officials and priests, whose problems were of little interest to officials in Spain, which was embroiled in European conflicts and declining as a major power. Spain eventually lost control of its colonies in North America, and Mexico achieved independence and made California a territory in 1821 (Perkins 1957; Rawls and Bean 2011).

In the wake of Mexico's independence from Spain, years of political instability, and several failed attempts to secularize California's missions, Governor José Figueroa issued a proclamation in 1834, defining the terms of the secularization process that would be instituted over the next two years. Provisions for ensuring that Indians would receive mission lands, however, were of little or no practical benefit to the region's Native Americans. During secularization, limits on the slaughter of mission cattle were often ignored by priests, who sought immediate profit from the burgeoning hide market. Mission lands were distributed mainly to officials and retired soldiers. Approximately 500 private land grants were made under Mexican rule. Governors Juan Batista Alvarado, Manuel Micheltorena, and Pío Pico made most of these grants after secularization (Rawls and Bean 2011).

In 1834, Lieutenant Antonio del Valle was given control of Mission San Fernando. Members of del Valle's family may have made private use of Rancho San Francisco lands as early as 1824. Del Valle had a map of the rancho produced in 1837, and in 1839, he successfully petitioned Governor Alvarado to grant him the 48,612-acre rancho, which gave him control of its former Mission San Fernando *Asistencia*. Under del Valle, the rancho produced cattle and wheat. In 1841, after Don del Valle died, the land was divided among his children and his widow, who subsequently married Don José Salazar. In 1842, one of del Valle's sons, Ygnacio del Valle, established the 1,800-acre Rancho Camulos west of the Project alignment (Perkins 1957; Triem and Stone 1996).

Predating the discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada foothills, which inaugurated the California Gold Rush of 1848, Francisco López first discovered commercially viable quantities of gold in California in 1842, in an area east of the Project alignment. While foraging wild onions in Placerita Canyon, east of Newhall, López noticed and gathered several gold nuggets. News of the discovery lured prospectors from Sonora, Mexico, and by the end of 1842, Abel Stearns had sent the first gold extracted from Placerita Canyon mines to the United States Mint in Philadelphia. Over the next several years, López's gold discovery would attract more miners to the upper Santa Clara River region (Kyle et al. 2002; Perkins 1957).

The American Period

At the conclusion of the Mexican-American War in 1848, California was ceded to the United States and granted statehood in 1850. Ventura County would later be created out of the original boundaries of Santa Barbara County.. In theory, the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War, protected the property rights of California's Hispanic or Californio population and their prior claims to land. In practice, however, the legal process for vetting land claims set in motion by the Land Commission, established in 1851, combined with the mounting debts of many rancho owners, allowed American and other newcomers to take possession of the abundant rancho lands that had been granted initially to Californios under Mexican rule (Perkins 1957; Rawls and Bean 2011; Guinn 1915).

After 1850, transportation developments like the Southern Pacific Railroad transformed the Santa Clara River Valley from an isolated backwater to a major Southern California travel corridor. In 1854, Fort Tejon was established in the highlands northwest of the APE. The fort functioned as a center of military and political power between Visalia and Los Angeles. Its soldiers accompanied travelers to Salt Lake City and also policed the region, which was marked by frequent conflicts among native groups, miners, and Euro-American settlers after 1850. During the 1860s, the fort became part of the vast landholdings of the former Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California, Edward F. Beale. In 1858, Butterfield Overland Mail

began operations between Los Angeles and Kern County and established stage stations at Fort Tejon and elsewhere. The road between the Santa Clara River Valley and San Fernando Valley was known as the worst portion of the Butterfield route until Beale received a franchise to develop a toll road. In 1862, Beale constructed what became known as "Beale's Cut," a pass through the mountains that vastly improved travel (Kyle et al. 2002; Perkins 1957).

Surveys for a rail line between Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley and through the Project vicinity were conducted as early as the 1850s. Southern Pacific engineers expected this line to be more difficult to build than the original transcontinental railroad through the Sierra Nevada. As developed, the Southern Pacific line required the construction of a 7,000-foot-long tunnel near Beale's Cut, approximately 9 miles southwest of the APE. In 1876, 1,500 Chinese immigrant laborers worked around the clock to complete the tunnel, the total cost of which surpassed $2 million. The railroad line between Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley was completed in 1877, and in 1886, the Southern Pacific began constructing a branch line from Soledad Canyon to Ventura. Stops on the line included Castaic, Del Valle, and Camulos. Helen Hunt Jackson's novel, *Ramona*; Southern Pacific promotional efforts; and cooperation from the del Valle family helped make Rancho Camulos one of the most frequented railroad tourist destinations in Southern California (Guinn 1915; Perkins 1957; Triem and Stone 1996). In addition to tourism, economic activity in the Project vicinity included agriculture and mining. At one time, a mining camp was located at the west end of Soledad Canyon.

The town of Newhall took shape after the completion of the Southern Pacific line between the San Joaquin Valley and San Fernando Valley when H. M. Newhall—who had earlier acquired much of Rancho San Francisco—convinced residents to relocate the townsite approximately 3 miles south to another area along the Southern Pacific line. There, Newhall constructed the Southern Hotel, providing the best accommodations for any stop on the Southern Pacific line between Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley (Perkins 1958a, 1958b).

The most important developments in the Project vicinity during the first two decades of the twentieth century involved transportation improvements to accommodate increased automobile travel. During the 1910s, the County of Los Angeles developed the Tejon-Castaic "Ridge Route" between the San Fernando Valley and San Joaquin Valley. Also, in 1910, the County of Los Angeles constructed Newhall Tunnel to replace Beale's Cut. By the early 1920s, the tunnel and the Ridge Route facilitated automobile traffic through the area (Perkins 1958b; Blow 1920).

West of the APE, one of the worst disasters in California history was unleashed during the 1920s. William Mulholland, who engineered the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Los Angeles Aqueduct to deliver water from Owens Valley, thereby enabling Los Angeles's rapid urban growth, sought to develop a reservoir to supplement the water supply. In 1926, the department constructed a Mulholland-designed dam and reservoir at San Francisquito Canyon on geological foundations that proved catastrophically faulty. In 1928, the dam failed and released a torrent of water that ripped through the Santa Clara River Valley and killed more than 400 people on its path to the Ventura shoreline. The disaster ended Mulholland's career and focused future water planning on the Colorado River (Starr 1990).

By the late 1920s, increased traffic on the Golden State Highway (US 99) between the San Joaquin Valley and San Fernando Valley prompted the State Highway Commission to direct the Department of Public

Works to begin a series of highway improvements. The first such improvement was the construction of a new highway segment between Castaic and Gorman. The Department of Public Works also eliminated Newhall Tunnel, which had become a severe bottleneck, and replaced it with an open cut that was between 130 and 185 feet deep. A new bridge was also constructed to replace the one washed out in 1928 by the dam failure at San Francisquito Canyon. The highway improvements eliminated numerous dangerous curves and the Newhall Tunnel bottleneck and shortened the route between the San Joaquin Valley and San Fernando Valley by 14 miles (California Highways and Public Works 1930; E. E. Wallace 1930).

Beginning in the 1920s, the small valley known as Val Verde, which is approximately 13 miles west of the APE, became an important site for the Los Angeles-area African American community. At that time, racial discrimination kept African American Angelinos from using public beaches and swimming pools and competing for most higher-wage jobs. In the mid-1920s, African American professionals, led by newspaper publisher Charlotta Bass and insurance businessman Norman O. Houston, organized a so-called "Black Palm Springs" at the Eureka Tract in Val Verde. There, black professionals purchased land and built summer vacation homes, while many restaurants and inns began serving African American vacationers. In 1939, the County of Los Angeles donated land to develop Val Verde Park, including a clubhouse and swimming pool. The park became an important site of African American community gatherings. Until the civil rights movement secured African American access to previously segregated leisure and residential spaces, Val Verde provided a space for black Angelinos to enjoy rural living and leisure without the threat of racial conflict (Worden 1996).

During the early 1960s, a new phase of transportation improvements occurred near the APE. The State of California adopted the segment of State Route 126 from the Los Angeles/ Ventura county line east to the Golden State Freeway. A new interchange connecting State Route 126 to the Golden State Freeway (US 99) at Castaic Junction was constructed in 1964–1965. This effort was part of converting the Golden State Freeway between the San Joaquin Valley and San Fernando Valley into the eight-lane Interstate 5 (Telford 1963, 1964).

With plans to develop the town of Valencia and in hopes of luring visitors to the area, the Newhall Land and Farming Company partnered with Sea World to develop an amusement park on a 70-acre site. Construction on the park began in 1969. On May 29, 1971, Magic Mountain opened to the public, with attractions that included the Gold Rush roller coaster, El Bumpo bumper boat ride, Log Jammer flume ride, Sky Tower, and double-armed Ferris wheel. Entertainers such as Barbara Streisand, Bill Cosby, Jimmy Durante, Phyllis Diller, Pat Boone, the Carpenters, Connie Stevens, Mac Davis, and Sonny & Cher performed at the park's 7 UP/Dixi Cola Showcase Theater. Millions of people have visited Magic Mountain since its initial development in the early 1970s (Worden 2012).

In the 1970s, numerous residential tracts were developed west of the APE. Valencia, Newhall, and Santa Clarita became commuter suburbs dominated by single-family housing. Suburban tract housing development in these communities, as well as others on the outskirts of the San Fernando Valley in western Los Angeles County and eastern Ventura County, depended on increased water supplies from the State Water Project, which was constructed to convey Northern California water from the Feather River to Southern California via the California Aqueduct. State Water Project water would be pumped up the Tehachapi Mountains, at which point the California Aqueduct would split into east and west branches.

There, the state constructed a dam and created Castaic Lake. The first water conveyed through the California Aqueduct reached the new Castaic Lake reservoir in April 1972 (Schwarz 1991).

3.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

3.1 CLEAN WATER ACT

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Activities in the waters of the United States regulated under this program include fill for development, water resource projects, infrastructure development, and mining projects. Section 404 requires a permit to be obtained before dredged or fill material may be discharged into the waters of the United States.

The proposed Project requires filling and/or redirection of ephemeral drainages. As a result, a Section 404 permit must be obtained from the USACE prior to construction. Because the Project falls within the jurisdiction of a federal agency and requires a federally issued permit, the Project is considered a federal undertaking.

3.2 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

The Project requires federal permitting, license, or approval; therefore, the Project meets the definition of an undertaking in 36 CFR Section 800.16(y). Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings (36 CFR Section 800.1). A historic property is defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register. Properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to Native Americans are considered under Section 106 (36 CFR Sections 800.3-800.10) and Section 101 (d)(6) of the NHPA.

3.2.1 National Register of Historic Places

The National Register is the official register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects determined to be worth special protections due to their historic or artistic significance. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meet one or more of the following four criteria:

- Criterion A: Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- Criterion B: Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- Criterion C: Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Criterion D: Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

All resources or properties nominated for listing in the National Register must retain integrity, which is the authenticity of a historic resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. Resources, therefore, must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historic resources and to convey the reasons for their significance. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It must also be judged with reference to the particular criteria under which a resource is proposed for nomination.

3.3 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CEQA applies to all discretionary projects undertaken or subject to approval by the state's public agencies (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14[3] Section 15002[i]). CEQA conditions that it is the policy of the state of California to "take all action necessary to provide the people of this state with historic environmental qualities and preserve for future generations examples of the major periods of California history" (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21001[b], [c]). Under the provisions of CEQA, "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[b]).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) defines a "historical resource" as a resource that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register.
- Listed in a local register of historical resources (as defined in PRC Section 5020.1[k]).
- Identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting PRC Section 5024.1(g) requirements.
- Determined to be a historical resource by a project's lead agency (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[a]).

A historical resource consists of "any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California. … Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be 'historically significant' if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources" (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[a][3]).

The CEQA planning process requires considering historical resources and unique archaeological resources (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5; PRC Section 21083.2). If feasible, adverse effects to the significance of historical resources must be avoided or mitigated (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[b][4]). The significance of a historical resource is impaired when a project demolishes or materially alters adversely those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and justify its eligibility for the California Register. If there is a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, the preparation of an environmental impact report may be required (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15065[a]).

If the cultural resource in question is an archaeological site, CEQA (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15064.5[c][1]) requires that the lead agency first determine if the site is a historical resource as defined in CCR Title 14(3) Section 15064.5(a). If the site qualifies as a historical resource, potential adverse impacts must be

considered in the same manner as a historical resource (OHP 2001a). If the archaeological site does not qualify as a historical resource but does qualify as a unique archaeological site, then the archaeological site is treated in accordance with PRC Section 21083.2 (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15069.5[c][3]). In practice, most archaeological sites that meet the definition of a unique archaeological resource will also meet the definition of a historical resource. CEQA defines a "unique archaeological resource" as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and 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 (PRC Section 21083.2[g]).

If an impact to a historical or archaeological resource is significant, CEQA requires feasible mitigation measures to minimize the impact (CCR Title 14[3] Section 15126.4[a][1]). Mitigation must lessen or eliminate the physical impact that the project will have on the resource. Generally, drawings, photographs, and/or displays do not mitigate the physical impact on the environment caused by the demolition or the destruction of a historical resource. However, CEQA (PRC Section 21002.1[b]) requires that all feasible mitigation be undertaken even if it does not mitigate impacts to a less than significant level (OHP 2001a:9).

3.3.1 California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register is a guide to cultural resources that must be considered when a government agency undertakes a discretionary action subject to CEQA. The California Register helps government agencies identify and evaluate California's historical resources (OHP 2001b:1) and indicates which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (PRC Section 5024.1[a]). Any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register is to be considered during the CEQA process (OHP 2001a:7).

A cultural resource is evaluated under four criteria to determine its historical significance. A resource must be significant in accordance with one or more of the following criteria:

- Criterion 1: Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of California's history and cultural heritage.
- Criterion 2: Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- Criterion 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.
- Criterion 4: Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Age

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the California Register requires that sufficient time must have passed to allow a "scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource." Fifty years is used as a general estimate of the time needed to understand the historical importance of a resource (OHP 2006:3). The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) recommends documenting, and taking into consideration in the planning process, any cultural resource that is 45 years or older (OHP 1995:2).

Period of Significance

The period of significance for a property is "the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, persons, or attained the characteristics which qualify it for National Register listing" (NPS 1997:42). The period of significance begins with the date of the earliest important land use or activity that is reflected by historic characteristics tangible today. The period closes with the date when events having historical importance ended. The period of significance for an archaeological property is "the broad span of time about which the site or district is likely to provide information" (NPS 1997:42). Archaeological properties may have more than one period of significance.

Integrity

The California Register also requires a resource to possess integrity, which is defined as "the authenticity of a historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association" (OHP 2006:2).

Archaeologists use the term "integrity" to describe the level of preservation or quality of information contained within a district, site, or excavated assemblage. Integrity is relative to the specific significance that the resource conveys. Although it is possible to correlate the seven aspects of integrity with standard archaeological site characteristics, those aspects are often unclear for evaluating the ability of an archaeological resource to convey significance under Criterion 4. The integrity of archaeological resources is judged according to the site's ability to yield scientific and cultural information that can be used to address important research questions (NPS 1997:44–49).

3.4 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5097.5

PRC Section 5097.5 prohibits excavation or removal of any "vertebrate paleontological site … or any other archaeological, paleontological or historical feature, situated on public lands, except with express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over such lands." Public lands are defined to include lands owned by or under the jurisdiction of the state or any city, county, district, authority, or public corporation, or any agency thereof. Section 5097.5 states that any unauthorized disturbance or removal of archaeological, historical, or paleontological materials or sites located on public lands is a misdemeanor.

3.5 CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 7050.5

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that in the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the remains are discovered has determined whether or not the remains are subject to the coroner's authority. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of this identification. The NAHC will identify a Native American most likely descendant to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods.

4.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS

This section includes the methods and results of the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) records search, literature review, interested parties consultation, archaeological field survey, sensitivity analysis, and National Register and California Register evaluations.

4.1 SCCIC RECORDS SEARCH

Senior Archaeologist Marc Beherec, PhD, conducted a records search for the Project on December 8, 2022, at the California Historical Resources Information System SCCIC housed at California State University, Fullerton. The records search included a review of all recorded cultural resources and previous studies within a half-mile radius of the APE. The SCCIC records search results are included in **Appendix A**.

4.1.1 Previous Studies

The records search results indicated that 33 cultural resources studies have been conducted within a half-mile radius of the APE, and three of those studies (LA-02503, LA-03690, LA-10560, and LA-10642) address portions of the APE (**Table 1**). The "Cultural Resources Study for the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Arundo and Tamarisk Removal Program Long-term Implementation Plan" prepared by SWCA (Hunt and Schultz 2005) addresses approximately 60 percent of the current APE. However, the investigation did not include an archaeological pedestrian survey. The only portions of the APE that have previously been surveyed were the portions of the new corridor for Route 126 that runs through it associated with the study by Greenwood and Associates (LA-02503) and a small corridor in the northeastern portion of the APE associated with the study by Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research Team for the Santa Clarita Circulation Element (LA-03690). The study by SWCA (LA-105660) only included a records search and Native American consultation, but no survey. The CRM Tech (LA-10642) addressed the portion of the Pacific Coast Railroad that runs through the APE. The majority of the APE has not been previously surveyed.

TABLE 1. PREVIOUS STUDIES WITHIN APE AND A HALF-MILE SEARCH RADIUS

Report Number	Date	Author	Firm	Title/Description	Intersects APE?
LA-00054	1974	Leonard, Nelson N. III	University of California, Los Angeles Archaeological Survey	Archaeological Resources of the Proposed Castaic Conduit System	No
LA-00209	1976	Horne, Wiley		Letter Report of Archaeological Survey for Los Angeles County Sanitation Project Engineer Report for Soledad Canyon Relief Trunk Sewer Section 4	No
LA-00467	1979	McIntrye, Michael J. and Roberta S. Greenwood	Greenwood and Associates	Cultural Resource Survey of a Near Sand Canyon, Upper Santa Clara River Valley, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-00524	1979	Tartaglia, Louis J.		Assessment of the Impact Upon Cultural Resources by the Proposed Zone Change 6408 for a 10.07 Acre Parcel Located at the Terminus of Luther Drive, Canyon Country, California	No
LA-00571	1979	Davis, Lois and Bruce Love	University of California Los Angeles Archaeological Survey	An Archaeological Assessment of a Proposed 400 Unit Mobile Home Park in Canyon Country, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-01117	1979	Anonymous	Northridge Archaeological Research Center, CSUN	Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Report for Zone Case No 6406, Soledad Canyon Area, California	No
LA-01322	1979	Wessel, Richard L.	Northridge Archaeological Research Center, CSUN	Assessment of the Impact Upon Cultural Resources by the Proposed Zone Change 6406 for Tract Number 35984, 102.4 Acres Centered at the Section Corner of Sections 19, 20, 29, and 30 Series USGS Topographic Map in Friendly Valley of Los Angeles	No
LA-01398	1984	Van Horn, David M., and J. P. Murray	Archaeological Associates, Ltd	Archaeological Survey Report: Tract 43510 Located in Canyon Country, Unincorporated Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-01466	1985	Taylor, Thomas T.	Southern California Edison	Tosco Cogeneration Project Transmission Line: Archaeological Survey and Native American Contacts	No
LA-01515	1986	Bissell, Ronald M.	RMW Paleo Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resources Assessment of the Mitchell Properties, Santa Clarita Valley Area, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-02104	1990	Bissell, Ronald M.	RMW Paleo Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Tentative Tract 47200, 220 Acres Near Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-02193	1990	Romani, John F.	Greenwood and Associates	Archaeological Assessment for the Proposed Santa Fe Specific Plan Southeast and Adjacent to the City of Santa Clarita Los Angeles County, California	No

TABLE 1, CONTINUED

Report Number	Date	Author	Firm	Title/Description	Intersects APE?
LA-02249	1990	Tartaglia, Louis J.		Cultural Resource Survey Report Tentative Tract Map No. 50151	No
LA-02503	1992	Romani, John F., Roberta S. Greenwood, Portia Lee, and Gwen Romani	Greenwood and Associates; Parsons, Brinckerhofff, Quade & Douglas, Inc.	Historic Property Survey Report & Archaeological Survey Report & Historic Architectral Survey Report for the Route 126 Location Study (easterly Extension) From I-5 to SR-14, Santa Claita Valley, Los Angeles County, California 07-la-126-5.8/12.7. Final	Yes
LA-03690	1997	Wlodarski, Robert J.	Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research, Team	Cultural Resources Evaluation City of Santa Clarita Circulation Element EIR	Yes
LA-03710	1997	Wlodarski, Robert J.	Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research, Team	A Phase 1 Archaeological Study for the Proposed Realignment of Luther Drive, City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-03840	1996	Wlodarski, Robert J.	Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research, Team	A Phase I Archaeological Study: Santa Clarita Water Company Application 29898 for 13 Existing Well Site Locations, Los Angeles County, CA	No
LA-04008	1996	Unknown	Science Applications Internatinal Corporation	Cultural Resources Investigation Pacific Pipeline Emidio Route	No
LA-04058	1998	Wlodarski, Robert J.	Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research, Team	Cultural Resources Evaluation: Golden Valley Ranch Eir City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-04200	1998	Maxon, Patrick O.	RMW Paleo Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Tentative Tract 48892, a 62.2 Acre Parcel in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-05626	2001	Maki, Mary K.	Conejo Archaeological Consultants	Negative Phase I Archaeological Survey of Approximately One Acre for the Sierra Vista Jr. High School Boys and Girls Club Project Canyon Country, City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-05627	2002	Duke, Curt	LSA Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resource Assessment, Cingular Wireless Facility No. Vy 150-02, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-05628	2002	Sylvia, Barbara	Caltrans District 7	Negative Archaeological Survey Report	No
LA-05820	2000	Billat, Lorna	Earthtouch LLC	Nextel Communications Wireless Telecommunications Service Facility - Los Angeles County	No

TABLE 1, CONTINUED

Report Number	Date	Author	Firm	Title/Description	Intersects APE?
LA-06917	1998	Bricker, Lauren W. and Janet L. Tearnen	Chambers Group, Inc.	Historic Property Clearance Report for the Magic Mountain Parkway Via Princessa Improvement Project in the City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-07846	1988	Wessel, Richard L., Michael J. McIntyre, and Helen M. Johnson	Angeles National Forest	Archaeological Reconnaissance Report 05-01-so-01 Cultural Resources Inventory of the Cross-forest Off-highway Vehicle Trail	No
LA-08958	2007	Tsunoda, Koji and A. Moreno	Jones & Stokes	Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company Saugus-north Oaks Fo Cable Project Los Angeles County, California (wo#8456-0639, Jo#6155)	No
LA-09851	2008	Robert E. Parr	Cal Heritage	Cultural Resource Assessment for the Replacement of Deteriorated Power Pole #1443493E on the Southern California Edison Company Saugus-North Oaks- Tengen 66kV Circuit Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-10560	2005	Hunt, Kevin and Richard D. Schultz	SWCA Environmental Consultants	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	Yes
LA-10642	2010	Tang, Bai "Tom"	CRM Tech	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	Yes
LA-10848	2011	Wlodarski, Robert	Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research, Team	A Phase I Archaeological Study for Proposed Improvements to 28884 Cliffside Drive, City of Malibu, County of Los Angeles, California	No
LA-12588	2014	Dice, Michael and Stephen O'Neil	UltraSystems	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	No
LA-12692	2014	Bonner, Diane, Carrie Wills, and Kathleen Crawford	EAS	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for AT&T Mobility, LLC Candidate NL0446 (Canyon Center) 19351 Soledad Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No

4.1.2 Previously Identified Resources

The records search results indicated that a total of four previously recorded cultural resources have been recorded within a half-mile radius of the APE: one prehistoric burial site with habitation debris (CA-LA-87), one historic railroad bed (CA-LA-3582H), and two historic commercial buildings (P-19-190983 and P-19-192735) (**Table 2**). None of the four resources intersect the current APE. No resources were identified within the APE.

TABLE 2. RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY RECORDED WITHIN A HALF-MILE RADIUS OF THE APE

Primary No.	Trinomial	Site Attributes	Proximity to APE	Recorder/Firm/Year	Evaluation Status
P-19-000087	CA-LA-000087	AP02 (Lithic scatter) AP09 (Burials) AP15 (Habitation debris)	350 m	L. Tartaglia & R. Wlordski (1979) S. L. Peck (1945)	Unevaluated
P-19-003582H	CA-LA-003582H	AH07 (Railroad bed)	630 m	J.A. McKenna – McKenna et al. (2005)	Evaluated and recommended ineligible
P-37-190983		HP6 (Commercial Building)	675 m	K.A. Crawford – Crawford Historic Services (2014)	Evaluated and recommended ineligible
P-19-192735		HP6 (Commercial Building)	630 m	M. Elliott – Michael Baker International (2016)	Evaluated and recommended ineligible

4.2 INTERESTED PARTIES CONSULTATION

4.2.1 Native American Coordination

The California NAHC maintains a confidential Sacred Lands File, which contains sites of traditional, cultural, or religious value to the Native American community. The NAHC was contacted on November 14, 2022, to request a search of the Sacred Lands File. The NAHC responded to the request in a letter dated December 8, 2022. The results of the Sacred Lands File search conducted by the NAHC indicated that no Native American cultural resources are known to be located within the APE. The response and contact list is located in **Appendix B** for the USACE's use in consultation. No tribal outreach has been completed by Michael Baker International.

Separately, the City initiated the tribal consultation process, as required under PRC Section 21080.3.1, consistent with Assembly Bill (AB) 52 and Senate Bill (SB) 18. The City mailed consultation letters on December 8, 2022, to contacts identified by the NAHC and to Native American tribes that have requested the City of Santa Clarita to notify them of projects subject to AB 52 or SB 18. Under AB 52, Native American tribes have 30 days to respond and request further project information and formal consultation; under SB 18, Native American tribes have 90 days to respond to request consultation. Results of the AB 52 and SB 18 outreach will be documented as part of the environmental document.

4.2.2 Historical Society Consultation

On January 18, 2023, Michael Baker International sent a letter describing the Project, with maps depicting the APE, to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society based in Newhall, California. The letter requested any information about, or concerns regarding, historical resources that may be impacted by the proposed Project (**Appendix B**). No response to the consultation letter has been received to date.

4.3 HISTORICAL MAPS, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, AND ARCHIVES

Michael Baker International reviewed publications, maps, and websites for archaeological, ethnographic, historical, and environmental information about the APE and its vicinity. APE specific analysis is located below. Literature reviewed here includes:

4.3.1 Historical Maps

- Survey Plat Map, Township 4 North, Range 15 West (Bureau of Land Management 1877)
- *Fernando, CA* 1:62,500 topographic map (USGS 1900)
- *Sylmar, CA* 1:24,000 topographic map (USGS 1929)
- *Sylmar, CA* 1:24,000 topographic map (USGS 1935)
- *San Fernando, CA* 1:62,500 topographic map (USGS 1940)
- *San Fernando, CA* 1:62,500 topographic map (USGS 1945)
- *Mint Canyon, CA* 1:24,000 topographic map (USGS 1961)
- *Mint Canyon, CA* 1:24,000 topographic map (USGS 1975)
- *Mint Canyon, CA* 1:24,000 topographic map (USGS 1988)
- *Mint Canyon, CA* 1:24,000 topographic map (USGS 1995)

4.3.2 Historical Aerial Images

- University of California, Santa Barbara Library (UCSB) Geospatial Collection (UCSB 2023)
- National Environmental Title Research (NETR 2023)
- HistoricAerials.com

4.3.3 Historical Databases

- California Digital Newspaper Collection (2023)
- Calisphere (2023)
- Internet Archive (2023)
- HathiTrust (2023)

4.3.4 Literature

- “Trade Among the Tataviam” (Caruso 1988)
- “One If by Land, Two If by Sea: Who Were the First Californians?” (Erlandson et al. 2007)
- “Handbook of North American Indians” (Heizer 1978)
- “The Alliklik-Tataviam Problem” (Hudson 1982)
- “Tataviam” (King and Blackburn 1978)
- California Archaeology (Moratto 1984)

- "Rancho San Francisco: A Study of a California Land Grant (Perkins 1957)
- "The Del Rey Tradition and Its Place in the Prehistory of Southern California" (Sutton 2010)
- "Reconceptualizing the Encinitas Tradition of Southern California (Sutton and Gardner 2010)
- "A Suggested Chronology for Southern California Coastal Archaeology" (Wallace 1955)
- "Cultural Tradition and Ecological Adaptation on the Southern California Coast" (Warren 1968)

4.3.5 Results

Historical topographic maps and aerial photographs were examined to provide historical information about the APE and contribute to assessing the historic occupation of the area and vicinity. Available maps include the 1900 Fernando, CA 15-minute topographic quadrangle and 1905, 1910, 1914, 1924, 1930, 1932, 1945, 1946, 1955, 1961, 1964, and 1975 Mint Canyon, CA 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (Historicaerials.com 2023). The historical aerial photographs of the APE were available for the years 1947, 1952, 1959, 1974, and onward (Historicaerials.com 2023).

The 1900 topographic map depicts the APE on the south side of the Santa Clara River and north of the Southern Pacific Railroad, with one north–south oriented road east of the Project area and two structures just south of the APE. The 1945 topographic map shows the addition of an east–west oriented road east of the APE leading to US 6 Highway, now State Highway 14 (Sierra Highway), with one structure at the southwest intersection.

The 1947 aerial photograph shows the APE covered in what appears to be agricultural crop furrows, and the closest structure appears to be the one depicted on the 1945 topographic map at the southwest intersection of a dirt road and US 6 Highway. By 1959, it appears that the APE was no longer being tilled but left in the pasture, and whether it was used to graze livestock is uncertain. The 1969 aerial shows the initial construction of the Cordova Mobile Estates manufactured home community east adjacent to the APE. The 1992 aerial shows the rerouted portion of the Southern Pacific Railroad that was moved farther north, running along the southern edge of the Cordova Mobile Estates community and through the proposed APE. The 1994 aerial shows the development of the Via Princessa Metrolink station and parking lot.

A review of the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records yielded a US Land Patent issued to F. M. Erwin for the southwest quarter of Section 20 in Township 4 North and Range 15 West in 1891 (Bureau of Land Management 2011). The APE intersects this portion of Section 20. No further information could be located on the transfer of the land after the initial homestead grant. A transfer detail report from NETROnline for parcel APN 2836-002-922 indicated that the County of Los Angeles purchased the property from Park Princessa LTD in October 1991, and in April 2017, the County sold the parcel to the City of Santa Clarita (NETR 2023).

In summary, the archival map, aerial photographs, and records review indicate that the APE was initially granted to F. M. Erwin in 1891 and was used as farmland until around 1959. By 1969, the property adjacent to the east of the APE was developed, and in 1994 the Via Princessa Metro station was constructed in the southern portion of the proposed APE. The northern portion has remained vacant and undeveloped.

4.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

4.4.1 Survey Methods

A cultural resources survey was conducted on February 8, 2023, by cultural resources specialists Marcel Young, BA, and Zandra Mikael, MA. The undeveloped portions of the APE were intensively surveyed using 15-meter spaced transects.

Before fieldwork, a map was created in ArcGIS Online that includes the APE and GIS feature classes, including point, line, and polygon features for collecting data in the field. The maps were then downloaded in Esri's Field Maps app on Apple iPads and coupled via Bluetooth with a Trimble DA2 Catalyst GNSS GPS receiver with submeter accuracy. The field crews used the tablets and GPS units to accurately locate and survey the APE and map newly discovered cultural resources. Photographs of features, artifacts, and overviews were attached to GIS points, lines, and polygons recorded in the field and remained attached to the GIS feature classes in the companion geodatabase submitted with this report. After the fieldwork, this information was imported into Esri's ArcGIS Pro to create digital maps.

The pedestrian survey was a non-collection survey. Michael Baker International archaeologists recorded artifacts in the field using appropriate descriptions, drawings, and photos to facilitate interpretations of site character. All resources were recorded using DPR 523 series forms to OHP standards. Site recording included the definition of site boundaries, features, and formed artifacts. Detailed sketch maps demonstrating the relationship of the location of each resource to topographic features and other landmarks were prepared. Digital photographs documented the environmental associations, specific features, and the general character of the survey area.

A daily survey summary form was completed at the end of the survey to convey the conditions of the survey area and summarize survey findings. This form included a description of vegetation cover (including contextual photographs), as well as estimates of ground surface visibility, rated as poor (0-25 percent), fair (26-50 percent), well (51-75 percent), or excellent (76-100 percent). Evidence for buried cultural deposits was opportunistically sought by inspecting natural or artificial erosional exposures and the spoils from rodent burrows. In the daily survey notes, the archaeologists assessed the potential for buried sites based on geomorphology.

4.4.2 Survey Results

Survey Conditions

During the survey of the APE, ground surface visibility was rated poor, with approximately 10 to 20 percent visibility due to relatively dense vegetation coverage. The vegetation observed during the survey included tree Tobacco and Blue Elderberry trees, California sagebrush, Wild rhubarb, Coast prickly pear, mugwort, Fourwing Saltbrush, Thick-leaved yerba santa shrubs, California Cholla, white horehound, and non-native grasses.

Several disturbances were also noted during the survey. Along the north margin of the APE, a large modern refuse scatter extended approximately 100 meters along the Santa Clara River's southern edge. The refuse scatter includes one actively inhabited encampment. Other disturbances noted included an unoccupied encampment in the Honby Creek bed. Animal burrowing was noted as sparsely dispersed

within the APE. Two dirt push piles were identified in the southwest of the APE near the rail crossing. One of the push piles consists of rail aggregate, and one consists of soil and modern debris from the surrounding ground surface.

During the pedestrian survey, one historic-period archaeological site consisting of five discrete features was identified within the APE. No prehistoric archaeological resources were identified. The site is described below, and the DPR 523 series for the resource is included in **Appendix C**.

Site MBI-VP-MY-01H

Michael Baker International archaeologists identified five historic-era features during the intensive pedestrian survey, which are most likely associated with the agricultural use of the area during the early twentieth century, as noted in the historical aerials. Five separate features were identified during the survey and recorded as a single historic-era archaeological site and given the temporary site designation MBI-VP-MY-01H (**Appendix D, Figure 5**). Rather than drawing a site boundary around the five features, five separate boundaries were created by drawing a 5-meter buffer around each feature.

Feature 1 is a metal drainage pipe that empties into the Santa Clara River (**Photo 1**). The exposed portion of the pipe is 46 inches in length and approximately 11 inches x 6.5 inches in diameter, as it has been compressed into an oval shape.

Photo 1. MBI-VP-MY-01H Feature 1 - Metal pipe jutting out into the Santa Clara Riverbed at the north end of the APE.

Feature 2 consists of a rectangular concrete structure that measures 46 inches (n/s) by 210 inches (e/w) with 4.5-inch-thick walls. The structure was constructed via board-formed molding and poured cement (**Photo 2**). The structure is visible in a 1959 aerial photograph but not in the 1952 aerial photograph, suggesting it was constructed sometime between those years (**Appendix D, Figure 6**). Another similarly shaped structure, along with additional rectilinear structures, can be seen south of Feature 2. However, no remnants of these structures were identified during the survey. The 1959 aerial photograph suggests the APE was a pasture during this time, suggesting this feature is a watering trough for livestock.

Photo 2. MBI-VP-MY-01H Feature 2 - Concrete rectangular structure identified during the survey.

Feature 3 is a turbine well pump on a concrete base (**Photo 3**). The concrete base measures 46 inches by 45 inches by 44 inches, and the pump's height is approximately 70 inches. The pump manufacturer is the Johnston Pump Company of Los Angeles, CA. The patent number for the pump was engraved on a sign attached to the pump (US2029333A). A review of the patent indicates that the patent was filed on July 25, 1932, by De Mont G. Miller, and the patent was issued on February 4, 1936 (Miller 1936).

Feature 4 is a galvanized pipe and a circular cement cistern or basin by an old oak tree (**Photo 4**). The cement basin measures approximately 12 inches in diameter. The pipe coming out of the ground has a 3-inch diameter and sticks up at a 45-degree angle from the ground to a height of about 4 feet and then curves at the end with three soldered joints. The feature likely brought water from a well to the surface for grazing animals.

Photo 3. MBI-VP-MY-01H Feature 3 - Turbine water well pump on a concrete block with associated valves and pipes.

Photo 4. MBI-VP-01H Feature 4 - Metal water conveyance pipe and concrete cistern.

Feature 5 is a concrete pad measuring 74 inches (e/w) by 31 inches (n/s) by 42 inches in height (**Photo 5**). The concrete has six metal brackets around it, suggesting that something was previously attached to the top of the concrete. In the 1947 aerial photograph, there appears to be a small watering hole or possibly a grove of trees to the east of Feature 5 (**Appendix D, Figure 7**). The function of this feature is uncertain, but was likely associated with the water conveyance system when the parcel was used for agricultural purposes.

Photo 5. MBI-VP-MY-01H Feature 5 - Concrete remnant with metal brackets.

The historic features identified are all suspected to be associated with agricultural and pastoral activity during the early twentieth century. Based on the aerial imagery and the date of the patented well turbine pump, the area was farmed from at least 1936 to possibly 1959. The 1959 aerial depicts an absence of crop furrows and the introduction of possible livestock animal troughs, suggesting that the area transitioned from growing crops to grazing livestock.

4.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

Archaeological sensitivity zones are qualitative and based on the general presence and/or absence of Native American occupation sites, isolated prehistoric Native American artifacts and burials, and historic archival and archaeological materials exposed during various construction projects. The archaeological sensitivity for potential unknown prehistoric archaeological sites within the APE is moderate, given that a

known burial site was identified 350 meters north of the APE during the 1930s. The closest documented ethnohistoric village of *pi'irukung* is approximately 20 miles east-northeast of the APE (Johnson and Earle 1990). The APE sits on the southern edge of the Santa Clara River, which would have provided an important resource procurement locale for prehistoric inhabitants of the area. The APE consists of Quaternary alluvium, alluvial fan deposits, and younger playa deposits, all coeval with the Santa Clara River Valley's prehistoric human occupation, which may conceal buried archaeological deposits. The APE would have been an important resource procurement area, and significant archaeological sites may lie buried within the APE. However, given the history of agriculture in the APE, the integrity of any buried prehistoric sites may be compromised. Therefore, the sensitivity for potential undocumented prehistoric archaeological sites in the APE is considered moderate due to proximity of known resources, natural perennial water source, and soil deposits known to bury archaeological deposits.

The sensitivity for potential undocumented historic period buildings, structures, and historic period archaeological sites is moderate. Topographic maps, aerial photographs, and the historic setting narrated in Chapter 2 indicate that historic period homesteads were established within or near the APE and were used for agricultural and pastoral purposes during the early twentieth century. The historic period archaeological site and the five component features seem to be associated with farming between 1936 and 1959. The potential for significant buried historic period resources is moderate, but given the amount of disturbance and the conditions of the recorded surface features, no significant historic period archaeological sites or built features are anticipated within the APE.

5.0 EVALUATION

Site MBI-VP-MY-01H required evaluation for listing in the California Register and National Register. Below is a summary of the evaluation. Further documentation for the resource is located in the DPR 523 form (see **Appendix C**).

5.1 MBI-VP-MY-01H

Site MBI-VP-MY-01H is a historic period site consisting of five discrete features associated with agricultural and pastoral activities during the early twentieth century. Feature 3, the turbine well pump, was patented in 1936, and the 1947 aerial photograph of the site area shows the land in crop furrow. By 1959, the site area appears to have transitioned from agricultural farmland to pastoral land for livestock grazing, as indicated by the aerial photograph from that year and the construction of concrete water troughs, such as Feature 2.

Criterion A/1: Archival research indicates this resource is located on a parcel used as agricultural farmland during the early twentieth century. Research has not revealed any significant events in national, state, regional, or local history associated with the site. The site is recommended as not eligible for listing under Criterion A/1.

Criterion B/2: Archival research indicates that the site parcel was first issued as a homestead land grant to F. M. Erwin in 1891; however, the features identified as part of MBI-VP-MY-01H postdate Erwin and cannot be directly to them. No additional records of land ownership were identified during archival research and the site cannot be directly tied to a specific individual, family, or group. Moreover, the

background research failed to identify any persons who are particularly notable or important to national, state, or local history who are associated with the homesteads in the general vicinity. Therefore, the site is recommended as ineligible for listing under Criterion B/2.

Criterion C/3: The site and its component features consist of a drainage pipe, water pump, and other concrete features, which represent common and ubiquitous agricultural remnants. The site does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, nor does it represent the work of a master or possess high artistic values. Thus, the resource is recommended as ineligible under Criterion C/3.

Criterion D/4: The information and documentation presented in this report and the associated DPR 523 series form exhausts the site's data potential. The features appear to be limited to the surface with no associated artifacts, and the available archival information does not indicate that the site possesses any further potential to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the community, state, or nation; therefore, the resource is recommended as ineligible under Criterion D/4.

In conclusion, MBI-VP-MY-01H is recommended ineligible for listing in the National Register and is not a historic property as defined by 36 CFR 800.16(l)(1). Furthermore, MBI-VP-MY-01H is recommended ineligible for listing in the California Register and is not a historical resource as defined by CEQA Section15064.5(a) or a unique archaeological resource as defined by PRC Section 21083.2(g).

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The SCCIC records search, literature review, field survey, and interested parties consultation identified one historic-period archaeological site within the APE. The site, MBI-VP-MY-01H, was evaluated and recommended ineligible for inclusion in the National Register and California Register. No historic properties or historical resources were identified within the APE; however, buried site sensitivity is moderate due to the Quaternary date of the APE's sediments, proximity of the Santa Clara River and other water sources, and proximity to known archaeological sites. A finding of no historic properties affected with conditions under Section 106 and a finding of less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated is appropriate for the Project, and less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated under CEQA. Impacts to unanticipated cultural resources may be avoided or reduced to a less than significant level by implementing the following mitigation measures:

CUL-1: Cultural Resources Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring shall occur in the APE during all soil disturbing and grubbing/grading/excavation/trenching activities, which could impact archaeological resources. The monitor will observe construction activities to determine if cultural resources are present below the surface. The Principal Investigator (PI) will submit a request to the City during construction requesting a modification to the monitoring program when field conditions occur that could reduce or increase the potential for resources to be present. Such field conditions may include modern disturbance post-dating the previous grading/trenching activities, presence of fossil formations, or when native soils are encountered. Ground-disturbing activities include, but are not limited to, geotechnical boring, boring, trenching, grading, excavating, and the demolition of building foundations. Monitoring shall be

conducted by an archaeological monitor who is working under the guidance of a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (48 Federal Register 44738). The archaeological monitor shall observe ground-disturbing activities in all areas with the potential to contain significant cultural deposits. The archaeological monitor shall maintain and submit monitoring logs at the conclusion of monitoring. If discoveries are made during ground-disturbing activities, additional work may be required in accordance with the terms specified in the cultural resources monitoring and discovery plan.

At the completion of grading, excavation, and ground-disturbing activities on the site, a monitoring report shall be submitted to the City that documents monitoring activities conducted by the Project archaeologist within 60 days of completion of monitoring. This report shall document the daily archaeological monitoring results; describe how each mitigation measure was fulfilled; document the type of cultural resources recovered and the disposition of such resources; and, in a confidential appendix, include the daily/weekly monitoring notes from the qualified archaeologist. Final monitoring reports will be submitted to the City and the South Central Coastal Information Center. If a federal agency (e.g., the US Army Corps of Engineers) is involved in the Project due to a federal nexus, monitoring reports may also be shared with that agency. Any unanticipated archaeological finds and subsequent evaluation or data recovery efforts will be documented in the report.

CUL-2: Evaluation of Unanticipated Finds; Phase II Testing

In the event an archaeological resource is unearthed during excavation, all excavations shall be halted within 50 feet of the find. Work shall stop immediately, and the discovery shall be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (48 Federal Register 44738), pursuant to the procedures set forth at CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 and 36 CFR Part 60.4. Depending on the nature of the find, the determination of significance may require additional excavation, potentially including the preparation and execution of a Phase II Archaeological Testing Plan. As the lead agency, the City shall make a determination of significance on the basis of the recommendations of the qualified archaeologist.

If the resource is determined not to be significant, then resource-specific work shall be completed, and construction may proceed. If the resource is determined to be significant and avoidance is not feasible, then a resource-specific archaeological resources treatment plan shall be prepared and executed in accordance with Mitigation Measure CUL-4 prior to recommencing ground-disturbing activities that may impact the resource.

CUL-3: Section 106 Consultation for Unanticipated Finds

As the lead agency for Section 106 compliance, USACE shall make a determination of significance of the evaluated unanticipated archaeological find on the basis of the recommendations of the qualified archaeologist and submit this determination of significance to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment. Upon SHPO concurrence,

the results of testing and evaluating the unanticipated archaeological find shall be presented in the final report communicated to the SCCIC by the PI.

CUL-4: Treatment of Significant Resources

Avoidance and preservation-in-place are the preferred treatment for historical resources, but avoidance is not always feasible. In an event that a historical resource is discovered and disturbance to such a resource cannot be avoided, one of the following treatments shall be implemented: avoidance, site capping, creation of conservation easements, or archaeological data recovery.

If avoidance, site capping, or creation of a conservation easement is determined infeasible, then a Phase III data recovery excavation will be required, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 and Section 106 36 CRF 800.13, to document the resource's scientifically consequential information. The Phase III data recovery plan shall be prepared in consultation with the consulting tribe(s). The Phase III study shall consist of the recovery and analysis of a statistically significant sample of the site through archaeological excavation, radiocarbon dating of organic materials or other kinds of dating, cataloging, specialist analysis, and report writing designed to document the resource in perpetuity.

During the course of construction, all discovered resources shall be temporarily curated in a secure location on-site or at the offices of the qualified archaeologist. The removal of any artifacts from the APE for cataloging and analysis during evaluation and analysis will need to be thoroughly inventoried with tribal monitor oversight of the process. The landowner shall relinquish ownership of all cultural resources, including sacred items, burial goods, and all archaeological artifacts and non-human remains, as part of the required mitigation for impacts to cultural resources. The applicant shall relinquish the artifacts through one or more of the following methods and provide the City with evidence of final disposition of the cultural material collection:

- Accommodate the process for on-site reburial of the discovered items with the consulting tribe(s). This shall include measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts. Reburial shall not occur until all cataloguing and basic recordation have been completed.
- A curation agreement with an appropriate qualified repository in Los Angeles County that meets federal standards per 36 CFR Part 79, and therefore will be professionally curated and made available to other archaeologists/researchers for further study. The collections and associated records shall be transferred, including title, to an appropriate curation facility in Los Angeles County, to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation.
- If more than one Native American tribe is involved with the Project and the tribes cannot come to a consensus as to the disposition of cultural materials, they shall be curated at an appropriate qualified repository determined by the City.

CUL-4: Treatment of Unanticipated Finds of Human Remains

If human skeletal remains are found during earth-moving activities, work shall be suspended and the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office shall be notified. Standard guidelines set by California law provide for the treatment of skeletal material of Native American origin (California Public Resources Code, Sections 5097.98 et seq.; Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5). If the remains are found to be archaeological, then after the coroner releases the site, the qualified professional archaeologist, in consultation with the most likely descendant, shall prepare an archaeological treatment plan in accordance with Mitigation Measure CUL-4 that also incorporates the guidance in "A Professional Guide for the Preservation and Protection of Native American Remains and Associated Grave Goods," published by the California Native American Heritage Commission.

7.0 PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

This report was prepared by Michael Baker International Archaeologist James Daniels. Archaeologists Marcel Young and Zandra Mikhael conducted the field survey and site recordation. Michael Baker International Cultural Resources Department Manager Margo Nayyar conducted quality assurance review.

James Daniels, MA, RPA, is a senior archaeologist with cultural resource management experience in California, Nevada, and North Carolina. His experience includes archaeological surveys, evaluations of historic and prehistoric sites for listing in the California and National Registers, site mitigation data recoveries, mitigation monitoring, and preparation of archaeological resource management reports and cultural resources technical reports. As senior archaeologist, he supports projects needing CEQA, NEPA, NHPA, Section 106, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Assembly Bill 52, USACE 404 permits, and local cultural resource regulation compliance. He assists with environmental impact statements/reports and alternative mitigation measures for clients, including interpretive signage, informative website design, brochures, and ethnographic studies. He also assists in Native American consultation and coordination of Native American monitoring. James provides advanced technical services for clients, including geophysical surveys with ground penetrating radar, obsidian and ceramic sourcing using portable X-ray fluorescence, photogrammetry, and GIS predictive modeling and data collection using Esri Field Maps. James meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology and historic preservation.

Margo Nayyar, MA, is a senior architectural historian with 13 years of cultural management experience in California, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Idaho, and Mississippi. Her experience includes built environment surveys, evaluation of historic-era resources using guidelines outlined in the California and National Registers, and preparation of cultural resources technical studies pursuant to CEQA and NHPA Section 106, including identification studies, finding of effect documents, memorandum of agreements, programmatic agreements, and Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey mitigation documentation. She prepares cultural resources sections for CEQA environmental documents, including infill checklists, initial studies, and environmental impact reports, as well as NEPA environmental documents, including environmental impact statements and environmental assessments. She also specializes in municipal preservation planning, historic preservation ordinance updates, Native American consultation, and provision of Certified Local Government training to interested local governments. She develops Survey 123 and Esri Collector applications for large-scale historic resources surveys, and authors National Register nomination packets. Margo meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for history and architectural history.

Marcel Young, BA, has worked in various capacities in cultural resource management since 2013. He is experienced in surveying and conducting recording and evaluations of historic and prehistoric archaeological sites in California. Marcel is versed in conducting fieldwork within frameworks of Section 106 of the NHPA, CEQA, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). He has participated in projects in several phases of archaeology: Phase I pedestrian, Extended Phase I testing, shovel test surveys, buried site testing, Phase III data recovery, and monitoring.

Zandra Mikhael, MSc, has worked in cultural resource management since 2022. She was awarded a Master of Archaeological Science in 2021 and specializes in zoo-archaeology. She has experience conducting pedestrian surveys and data recovery.

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Appendix A: SCCIC Records Search Results – *Confidential - Bound Separately*

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Appendix B: Interested Parties Consultation

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
916-373-3710
916-373-5471 – Fax
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search

Project: Via Princessa Park Project

County: Los Angeles

USGS Quadrangle Name: Mint Canyon, CA

Township: 4N **Range: 15W** **Section(s): 20,29**

Company/Firm/Agency: Michael Baker International

Street Address: 3100 Zinfandel Drive, Suite 125

City: Rancho Cordova **Zip: 95670**

Phone: 775-666-5524

Fax:

Email: max.vanrensselaer@mbakerintl.com

Project Description: The project proposes to construct a new 26-acre park adjacent to the Via Princessa Metrolink Station.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

December 8, 2022

Max van Rensselaer
Michael Baker International

Via Email to: max.vanrensselaer@mbakerintl.com

Re: Via Princessa Park Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. van Rensselaer:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
12/8/2022

Barbareno/ Ventureno Band of Mission Indians
Annette Ayala, CRM Committee Chair
188 S. Santa Rosa Street
Ventura, CA, 93001
Phone: (805) 515 - 9844
annetteayala78@yahoo.com
Chumash

Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians
Dayna Barrios, Chairperson
Phone: (805) 890 - 6855
barrios_dayna@yahoo.com
Chumash

Chumash Council of Bakersfield
Julio Quair, Chairperson
729 Texas Street
Bakersfield, CA, 93307
Phone: (661) 322 - 0121
chumashtribe@sbcglobal.net
Chumash

Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
Gabe Frausto, Vice Chair
P.O. Box 4464
Santa Barbara, CA, 93140
Phone: (805) 324 - 0135
cbcn22vicechair@gmail.com
Chumash

Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
Mia Lopez, Chairperson
P. O. Box 4464
Santa Barbara, CA, 93140
Phone: (805) 324 - 0135
cbcntribalchair@gmail.com
Chumash

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Rudy Ortega, Tribal President
1019 Second Street, Suite 1
San Fernando, CA, 91340
Phone: (818) 837 - 0794
Fax: (818) 837-0796
thcp@tataviam-nsn.us
Tataviam

Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
Andrew Salas, Chairperson
P.O. Box 393
Covina, CA, 91723
Phone: (626) 926 - 4131
admin@gabrielenoindians.org
Gabrieleno

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
Anthony Morales, Chairperson
P.O. Box 693
San Gabriel, CA, 91778
Phone: (626) 483 - 3564
Fax: (626) 286-1262
GTTribalcouncil@aol.com
Gabrieleno

Gabrielino /Tongva Nation
Sandonne Goad, Chairperson
106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St., #231
Los Angeles, CA, 90012
Phone: (951) 807 - 0479
sgoad@gabrielino-tongva.com
Gabrielino

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
Robert Dorame, Chairperson
P.O. Box 490
Bellflower, CA, 90707
Phone: (562) 761 - 6417
Fax: (562) 761-6417
gtongva@gmail.com
Gabrielino

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
Christina Conley, Tribal Consultant and Administrator
P.O. Box 941078
Simi Valley, CA, 93094
Phone: (626) 407 - 8761
christina.marsden@alumni.usc.edu
Gabrielino

Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe
Charles Alvarez,
23454 Vanowen Street
West Hills, CA, 91307
Phone: (310) 403 - 6048
roadkingcharles@aol.com
Gabrielino

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 Via Princessa Park Project, Los Angeles County.

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
12/8/2022

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road — Cahuilla, Serrano
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951) 755 - 5110
Fax: (951) 755-5177
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Ann Brierty, THPO
12700 Pumarra Road — Cahuilla, Serrano
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951) 755 - 5259
Fax: (951) 572-6004
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Northern Chumash Tribal Council
Violet Walker, Chairperson
P.O. Box 6533 — Chumash
Los Osos, CA, 93412
Phone: (760) 549 - 3532
violetsagewalker@gmail.com

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
Donna Yocum, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838 — Kitanemuk, Vanyume, Tataviam
Newhall, CA, 91322
Phone: (503) 539 - 0933
Fax: (503) 574-3308
ddyocum@comcast.net

San Luis Obispo County Chumash Council
1030 Ritchie Road — Chumash
Grover Beach, CA, 93433

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Jessica Mauck, Director of Cultural Resources
26569 Community Center Drive — Serrano
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 864 - 8933
Jessica.Mauck@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair
P.O. Box 391820 — Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 659 - 2700
Fax: (951) 659-2228
lsaul@santarosa-nsn.gov

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
Kenneth Kahn, Chairperson
P.O. Box 517 — Chumash
Santa Ynez, CA, 93460
Phone: (805) 688 - 7997
Fax: (805) 686-9578
kkahn@santaynezchumash-nsn.gov

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 — Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (909) 528 - 9032
serranonation1@gmail.com

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

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson
P. O. Box 487 — Cahuilla, Luiseno
San Jacinto, CA, 92581
Phone: (951) 654 - 5544
Fax: (951) 654-4198
ivivanco@soboba-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 Via Princessa Park Project, Los Angeles County.

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural Resource Department
P.O. BOX 487
San Jacinto, CA, 92581
Phone: (951) 663 - 5279
Fax: (951) 654-4198
jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov

Cahuilla
Luiseno

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 Via Princessa Park Project, Los Angeles County.

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

We Make a Difference

January 18, 2023

ALAN POLLACK, PRESIDENT
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
24101 NEWHALL AVENUE
P.O. BOX 221925
NEWHALL, CALIFORNIA 91322
VIA EMAIL: ALAN@SCVHISTORY.COM

RE: VIA PRINCESSA PARK PROJECT, CITY OF SANTA CLARITA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Pollack:

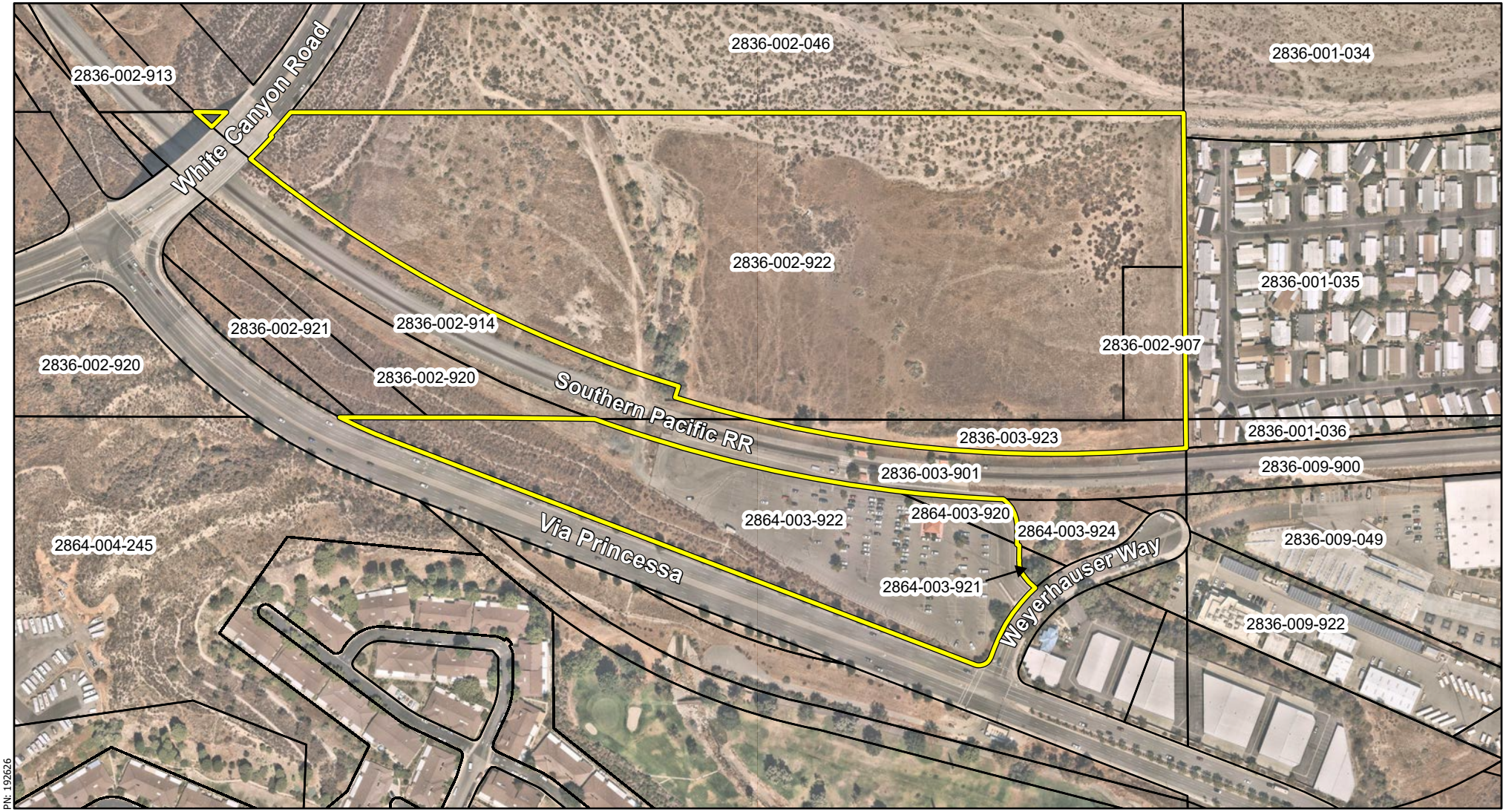
Michael Baker International is conducting a cultural resources study supporting the Via Princessa Park Project (project) in Santa Clarita, California. The City of Santa Clarita (City) is conducting an environmental review on plans to construct a park and regional infiltration facility in an approximately 26-acre area of vacant City-owned land along the south bank of the Santa Clarita River, in the Canyon Country community. The project site is bordered by the Santa Clarita River to the north, Whites Canyon Road to the west, Via Princessa to the south, and Weyerhauser Way and the Cordova Estates mobile home community to the east. The project is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the California Environmental Quality Act.

We are contacting you to identify cultural resources the proposed project may impact. Please notify us if your organization has any information or concerns about historical resources on the project site. This is not a research request; it is solely a request for public input related to any concerns that the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society may have. If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch with me at your earliest convenience at max.vanrensselaer@mbakerintl.com or 775-666-5524. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Max van Rensselaer, R.A.
Archaeologist

Attachments:
Attachment 1 - Figures



Project Area

Parcel Boundary

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

N

0 100 200 400 Feet

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, 2022 Nearmap Imagery: *Santa Clarita, California*

VIA PRINCESSA PARK PROJECT
SANTA CLARITA, CA

Project Area

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Appendix C:
DPR 523 Forms –
Confidential - Bound Separately

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Appendix D: Report Figures – *Confidential - Bound Separately*