

APPENDIX J

Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report

Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report

Belcaro at Sand Canyon Project, City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California

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Area: *209.27 acres*

Key Words: *Pedestrian survey; CRHR; Mancara-01; BSC-DF-S-005; BSC-DF-S-006; BSC-RB-S-001; Southern Pacific Railroad; Southern Pacific Railroad Soledad Canyon Line; historic railroad*

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Management Summary

This report presents the results of Dudek’s cultural resources inventory and evaluation conducted in 2024 for the Belcaro at Sand Canyon Project (Project or proposed Project), located in the City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California. The Project is located within Sections 13 and 24 of Township 4 North and Range 15 West of the Mint Canyon, California U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangle (Figure 1, Project Location). The Project proposes the private development of approximately 193.8 acres of land located along the southern edge of the Santa Clara River in the City of Santa Clarita, California (Figure 2, Project Area). The Project area consists of the following Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs): 2840-001-118, 2840-015-025, -031, -032, -033, -034, -035, -045, and -047. This report also incorporates the results of a 2014 cultural resources study conducted by Dudek for the Mancara Project, which occupied the same project area as the currently proposed Project (Wolf et al. 2014 included as Confidential Appendix A).

The City of Santa Clarita (City) is the Lead Agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In accordance with CEQA and local regulations, Dudek performed a Phase I cultural resources inventory and Phase II evaluation that included a records search, an archival information and literature review, correspondence with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), a cultural resources pedestrian survey of the 209.27-acre area of potential impacts (API), the recordation and evaluation of three newly identified historic-era archaeological resources and one newly identified historic-era built environment resource, and an evaluation concurrence of one previously identified historic-era archaeological resource under the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), and the City of Santa Clarita criteria.

Dudek conducted a California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search of the Project area and surrounding one-mile radius at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC). The records search did not identify any cultural resources within the API, however Dudek’s previous inventory efforts identified one historic-era resource, Mancara-01, within the currently proposed Project area in 2014. Mancara-01 is characterized as an historic-era residential site with an associated historic-era refuse scatter. Dudek conducted an evaluation of Mancara-01 in 2014 and recommended it as not significant or a unique archaeological resource under CEQA, and ineligible for inclusion in the CRHR. 2014 testing and evaluation results are included in Confidential Appendix A. Additionally, seven cultural resources including two prehistoric resources, one prehistoric isolate, one multi-component resource, one historic-era residence, one historic-era single-family property, and the Angeles National Forest, were identified within one mile of the Project area. The SCCIC records search results are included in Confidential Appendix B. A NAHC Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was also requested for the proposed Project, and results were negative for Native American cultural resources within one mile of the Project area. The NAHC additionally provided a list of 23 Native American individuals/tribal organizations who may have information relevant to potential tribal sensitivities associated with the proposed Project. Potential impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources, as defined by CEQA, should be determined by the lead agency based on government-to-government consultation pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52. The SLF search results are included in Appendix C.

Dudek cultural resource specialists conducted an intensive-level pedestrian survey of the API on April 8 and 9, 2024, and supplementary surveys on November 21, 2024, and September 25, 2025. During the pedestrian survey, crews revisited the previously recorded historic-era archaeological resource, Mancara-01, and recorded three newly identified historic-era archaeological resources (BSC-DF-S-005, BSC-DF-S-006, and BSC-RB-S-001) and one newly identified historic-era built environment resource (Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) Soledad Canyon Line) within the API. These newly identified resources are characterized as a standing concrete well or cistern, a complex

of four concrete historic-era residential features, an old railway embankment/alignment with an associated concrete culvert inscribed with “1923”, and an operational railway, respectively. A review of historic aerial imagery and historic topographic maps reveal that BSC-DF-S-006 was likely associated with a historic-era residence that appeared within the Project area in the late nineteenth-century, and that the BSC-RB-S-001 was constructed prior to 1900. Dudek’s archival review did not reveal any additional information regarding the construction date or period of use of BSC-DF-S-005. Archival research also indicates that the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line, in its current alignment, was relocated from BSC-RB-S-001 due to flooding between 1955 and 1959. Additionally, this review also identified that approximately 10% of the currently proposed Project area has been subject to past ground disturbances like development, and grading and clearing by heavy machinery. California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 Series site forms were prepared for all resources and will be submitted to the SCCIC of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at California State University, Fullerton. A Cultural Resources Overview Map and all DPR site forms are included in Confidential Appendix D.

BSC-DF-S-005, BSC-DF-S-006, BSC-RB-S-001 and a segment of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line were evaluated as part of the current study. Dudek concludes that all three historic-era archaeological resources do not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered significant or unique archaeological resources under CEQA and are recommended ineligible for listing on the NRHP, CRHR, and the City of Santa Clarita’s List of Historic Resources. Although the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line was found to possess significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1 and the City of Santa Clarita’s List of Historic Resources under Criterion A due to its association with the San Joaquin Valley Route and its contribution to the economic development of the Santa Clarita during the period between 1876 and 1883, the subject railroad segment lacks the integrity necessary to convey its significance and, therefore, is recommended ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP, CRHR, and the City of Santa Clarita’s List of Historic Resources. Additionally, this study concurs with Dudek’s 2014 conclusion that Mancara-01 does not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered a significant or unique archaeological resource under CEQA and is recommended ineligible for listing on the NRHP, CRHR, and the City of Santa Clarita’s List of Historic Resources.

Based on the presence of various historic-era archaeological resources within and adjacent to the API, the Project’s location directly adjacent to the Santa Clara River, and in consideration of the lack of previous disturbances within API, there is a moderate potential for the inadvertent discovery of subsurface archaeological resources (prehistoric and historic) during Project implementation. Dudek recommends archaeological monitoring during initial ground disturbing activities for the Project. If disturbed sediments (e.g., fill) or other sediments and formations are identified that do not have the potential to contain archaeological resources, then monitoring may be reduced or terminated. The requirement for a Native American monitor shall be determined by the lead agency based on government-to-government consultation pursuant to AB 52.

1 Introduction

Dudek conducted a cultural resources inventory and evaluation for the Belcaro at Sand Canyon Project (Project or proposed Project), located in the City of Santa Clarita, California. The City of Santa Clarita (City) is the Lead Agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In accordance with CEQA and local regulations, Dudek performed a Phase I cultural resources inventory and Phase II evaluation that included a records search, an archival information and literature review, correspondence with the Native American Heritage Commission, a cultural resources pedestrian survey of the area of potential impacts (API), the recordation and evaluation of three newly identified historic-era archaeological resources and one newly identified historic-era built environment resource, and an evaluation concurrence of one previously identified historic-era archaeological resource under the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), and the City of Santa Clarita criteria.

This present report incorporates the results of a 2014 cultural resources study conducted by Dudek for the Mancara Project, which occupied the same project area as the currently proposed Project (Wolf et al. 2014 included as Confidential Appendix A).

1.1 Project Location and Description

The proposed Project is located within Sections 13 and 24 of Township 4 North and Range 15 West of the Mint Canyon, California USGS 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangle (Figure 1, Project Location) and consists of APNs: 2840-001-118, 2840-015-025, -031, -032, -033, -034, -035, -045, and -047. The Project involves the development of existing, vacant parcels with 341 dwelling units (age-restricted detached single-family homes), an approximately 3.1-acre recreation center, trailhead, and an emergency staging area. Proposed off-site improvements include a railroad undercrossing at proposed A Street below the operational Southern Pacific Railroad, the development of the proposed J Street, an extension of Lost Canyon Road with a bridge connecting the Project area to provide access from the existing Lost Canyon Road, infrastructure improvements within the existing right-of-way on Lost Canyon Road, roundabout at Sand Canyon Road and Lost Canyon Road, and the development of public trails along existing and expanded sections of Lost Canyon Road and the newly proposed J Street (Figure 2, Project Area). The Project area is bound by low-density residential development to the west, Robinson Ranch Golf Course to the south, and generally undeveloped land to the east.

Overall, the Project area remains undeveloped, although there is evidence to indicate that some areas of the Project have been disked and plowed in the past for agricultural uses. The Project is also bisected by numerous dirt roads and above ground utilities. To note, an operational railway trending on an east to west axis bisects but is not contained within the Project area. For the purposes of this report, the Project area is further defined/identified by its northern-most Project area (northern parcel) that sits to the north of the railway, and its southern-most Project area (southern parcel) that sits to the south of the railway.

1.2 Area of Potential Impacts for Cultural Resources

The API for cultural resources is the study area delineated to assess potential impacts from the construction and operation of the Project on both archaeological and historic-era built environment resources that are 45 years of age

or older (those built in or prior to 1978).¹ In total, the API encompasses the extent of the proposed Project area together with the area of direct physical effects for all off-site improvements as delineated in Figure 3, Area of Potential Impacts for Cultural Resources, totaling approximately 209.27 acres. The API provides the maximum area where proposed Project components may result in impacts to archaeological and historic-era built environment resources.

The API includes one historic-era built environment resource that requires inventory and evaluation, the former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line subject segment. The extent of the impact to built environment resources is limited to construction related to the former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line, which is a historic-era railroad initially constructed between 1873 and 1876. The Project would include an undercrossing underneath the existing railroad at proposed “A” Street to provide access between the northern and southern parcels of the Project area. The railroad undercrossing at “A” Street would include two 14-foot-wide travel lanes, 3- to 5-foot parkways on each side, and a 12-foot-wide trail on the eastern side of the street. “A” Street would continue south into the southern portion of the Project area. “A” Street would be the primary gated access road into the residential portion of the Project area. The street would consist of two 10-foot-wide travel lanes, one 8-foot-wide parallel parking area on each side of the street, 5-foot-wide sidewalks along both sides of the road, and associated curb and gutter improvements, for a total of a 46-foot-wide street.

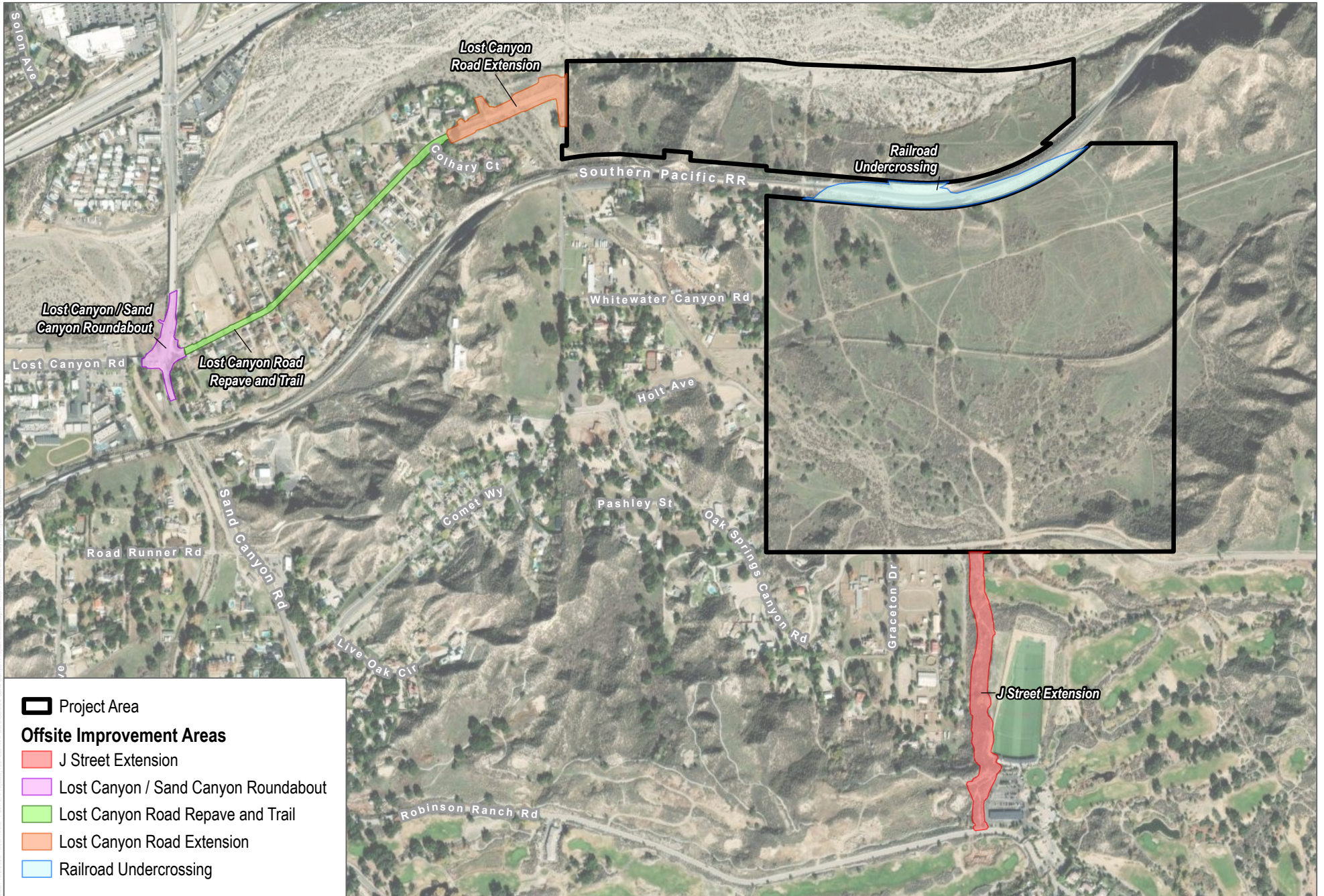
The API excludes two historic-era residential properties located adjacent to the proposed J Street. These properties would not be directly affected by the proposed Project construction activity, which would remain within the right-of-way of J Street and would not transect these properties. Additionally, this report does not include the inventory or evaluation of historic-era Lost Canyon Road and Sand Canyon Road, as proposed changes are consistent with routine roadway maintenance activities. As such, the Project will not result in impacts to these roadways.

The vertical underground extent of the API is currently unknown, but it is anticipated that ground disturbance would involve tree removals, trenching for utilities, foundation work, and grading. The vertical above ground extent of the API is anticipated to be approximately 30-feet (two to three stories), which is the height of the residential buildings proposed for construction within the Project area.

Finally, since there are no reasonably foreseeable Project activities that would occur later in time or that would be farther removed in distance that could indirectly affect historical resources, the API contains no geographic areas under consideration for indirect effects.

¹ While the 50-year threshold is generally used for listing resources in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical resources (CRHR), the California Office of Historic Preservation’s (OHP) Instructions for Recording Historical Resources recommends recording “any physical evidence of human activities over 45 years . . . for the purposes of inclusion in the OHP’s filing system.” It also allows for the “documentation of resources less than 45 years . . . if those resources have been formally evaluated, regardless of the outcome of the evaluation.” Further, the guidance notes that the 45-year threshold recognizes that there is commonly a 5-year lag between resource identification and the date that planning decisions are made, and thus it explicitly encourages the collection of data about resources that may become eligible for the NRHP or CRHR within that planning period. More restrictive criteria must be met before the resources included in OHP’s filing system are listed, found eligible for listing, or otherwise determined to be important in connection with federal, state, and local legal statuses and registration programs (OHP 1995: 2).

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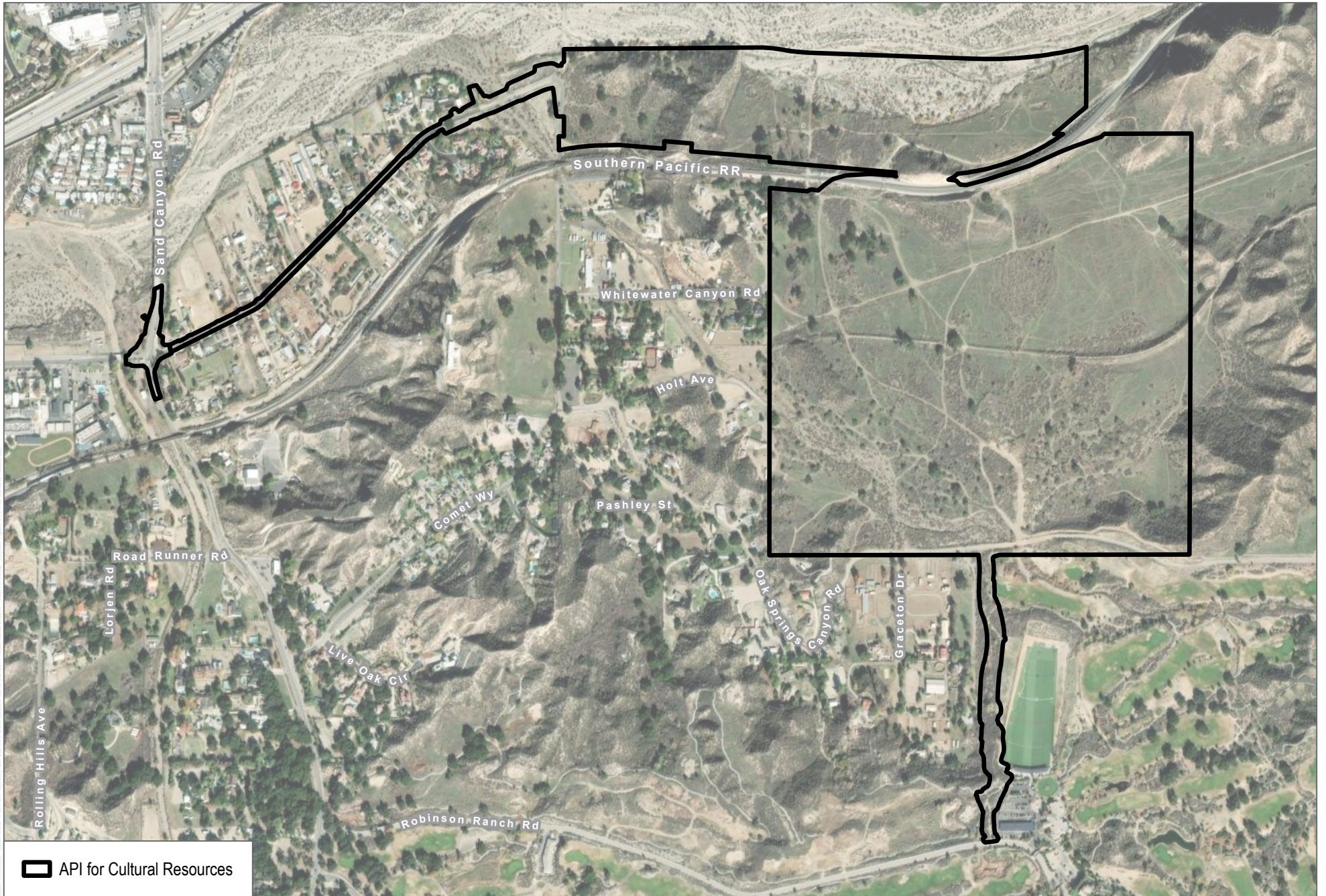


SOURCE: Maxar 12/8/2022



FIGURE 2
Project Area

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SOURCE: ESRI Imagery 2025; OpenStreetMaps 2019

FIGURE 3
API for Cultural Resources

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2 Regulatory Setting

While the Project as currently planned is subject only to state and local regulatory conditions, federal regulations are also provided here for reference should they be relevant in the future.

2.1 Federal

2.2.1 National Historical Preservation Act and National Register of Historic Places

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) established the NRHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). Under the NHPA, significant cultural resources are referred to as historic properties, which include any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or determined eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization. Historic properties that are designated by the Secretary of the Interior to be National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. A property is considered historically significant if it meets one of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria and retains sufficient historic integrity to convey its significance.

The NRHP is the United States' official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. Overseen by the National Park Service (NPS), under the U.S. Department of the Interior, the NRHP was authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. Its listings encompass all National Historic Landmarks, as well as historic areas administered by NPS.

The NRHP criteria for evaluation (36 CFR Section 60.4) considers the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures., For a property to be listed in or determined eligible for listing, it must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That 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
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

To be listed in the NRHP, a property must not only be shown to be significant under the NRHP criteria, but it also must have integrity. Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. Because the concept of integrity is based on significance, the assessment of a property's integrity can only proceed after its significance has been fully established. The assessment of integrity requires consideration under the following seven aspects or qualities:

location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. To retain integrity, a property will always possess several, and generally most, of these aspects (NPS 1997: 44).

2.2 State

2.2.1 California Environmental Quality Act

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

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

If a site is listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or included in a local register of historic resources, or identified as significant in a historical resources survey (meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(q)), it is an “historical resource” and is presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of CEQA (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)). The lead agency is not precluded from determining that a resource is a historical resource even if it does not fall within this presumption (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)).

Under CEQA, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it may cause “a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource or an historical resource. A “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource” reflecting a significant effect under CEQA means “physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(1); PRC Section 5020.1(q)). In turn, the significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project does any of the following:

- (1) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register; or
- (2) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of

Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or

- (3) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(2)).

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

Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archaeological resource as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

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

Impacts on nonunique archaeological resources are generally not considered a significant environmental impact (PRC Section 21083.2(a); CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)(4)). However, if a nonunique archaeological resource qualifies as a Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR) (PRC Sections 21074(c) and 21083.2(h)), further consideration of significant impacts is required.

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

2.2.2 The California Register of Historical Resources

In California, the term “historical resource” includes, but is not limited to, “any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California” (California Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 5020.1(j)). In 1992, the California legislature established the CRHR “to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state’s historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change” (PRC Section 5024.1(a)). The criteria for listing resources on the CRHR were expressly developed to be in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), enumerated below. According to PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4), a resource is considered historically significant if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition to possessing significance, the CRHR requires that a resource also possess integrity, which is defined under 14 CCR § 4852(c) as “the authenticity of an historical resource’s physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource’s period of significance.”

In order to understand the historic importance of a resource, sufficient time must have passed to obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource. A resource less than 50 years old may be considered for listing in the CRHR if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance (see 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 4852(d)(2)).

The CRHR protects cultural resources by requiring evaluations of the significance of prehistoric and historic resources. The criteria for the CRHR are nearly identical to those for the NRHP, and properties listed or formally designated as eligible for listing in the NRHP are automatically listed in the CRHR, as are the state landmarks and points of interest. The CRHR also includes properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

2.2.3 Native American Historical Cultural Sites (California Public Resources Code Section 5097)

State law addresses the disposition of Native American burials in archaeological sites and protects such remains from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction; establishes procedures to be implemented if Native American human remains are discovered during ground disturbing activities; and establishes the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to resolve disputes regarding the disposition of such remains. In addition, the Native American Historic Resource Protection Act makes it a misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year in jail to deface or destroy an Indian historic or cultural site that is listed or may be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

2.2.4 California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

The California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (California Repatriation Act), enacted in 2001, required all state agencies and museums that receive state funding and that have possession or control over collections of human remains or cultural items, as defined, to complete an inventory and summary of these remains and items on or before January 1, 2003, with certain exceptions. The California Repatriation Act also provides a process for the identification and repatriation of these items to the appropriate tribes.

2.2.5 California State Assembly Bill 52

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

- On or determined to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources or a local historic register; or
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1.

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

PRC Section 21084.2 establishes that a project that may cause “a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.” Effects on tribal cultural resources should be considered under CEQA. PRC Section 21080.3.2 states that parties may propose mitigation measures “capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource.” Further, if a California Native American tribe requests consultation regarding project alternatives, mitigation measures, or significant effects to tribal cultural resources, the consultation shall include those topics (PRC Section 21080.3.2[a]). The environmental document and the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (where applicable) shall include any mitigation measures that are adopted (PRC Section 21082.3[a]).

2.2.6 California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 assigns special importance to human remains and specifies procedures to be used when Native American remains are discovered. As described below, these procedures are detailed in California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods, regardless of their antiquity, and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains. Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that if human remains are discovered in any place other than a dedicated cemetery, no further disturbance or excavation of the site or nearby area reasonably suspected to contain human remains shall occur until the County coroner has examined the remains (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines or has reason to believe the remains are those of a Native American, the coroner must contact the NAHC within 24 hours (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[c]). In accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(a), the NAHC will notify the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner, the MLD may inspect the site of discovery. Within 48 hours of being granted access to the site, the MLD may recommend means of treatment or disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the human remains and associated grave goods.

2.2.7 Guidelines for Determining Significance

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5b, a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA defines a substantial adverse change:

Substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired.

The significance of an historical resource is materially impaired when a project:

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

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c) applies to effects on archaeological sites and contains the following additional provisions regarding archaeological sites:

- When a project will impact an archaeological site, a lead agency shall first determine whether the site is an historical resource, as defined in subsection (a).
- If a lead agency determines that the archaeological site is a historical resource, it shall refer to the provisions of Section 21084.1 of the Public Resources Code, and this section, Section 15126.4 of the Guidelines, and the limits contained in Section 21083.2 of the Public Resources Code do not apply.
- If an archaeological site does not meet the criteria defined in subsection (a), but does meet the definition of a unique archaeological resource in Section 21083.2 of the Public Resources Code, the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2. The time and cost limitations described in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 (c–f) do not apply to surveys and site evaluation activities intended to determine whether the project location contains unique archaeological resources.
- If an archaeological resource is neither a unique archaeological nor a historical resource, the effects of the project on those resources shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. It shall be sufficient that both the resource and the effect on it are noted in the Initial Study or Environmental Impact Report (EIR), if one is prepared to address impacts on other resources, but they need not be considered further in the CEQA process.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (d) and (e) contain additional provisions regarding human remains. Regarding Native American human remains, paragraph (d) provides:

When an initial study identifies the existence of, or the probable likelihood of, Native American human remains within the project, a lead agency shall work with the appropriate Native Americans as identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as provided in Public Resources Code SS5097.98. The applicant may develop an agreement for treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any items associated with Native American burials with the appropriate Native Americans as identified by the Native American Heritage Commission. Action implementing such an agreement is exempt from:

1. The general prohibition on disinterring, disturbing, or removing human remains from any location other than a dedicated cemetery (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5); and
2. The requirement of CEQA and the Coastal Act.

Under CEQA, an EIR is required to evaluate any impacts on unique archaeological resources (PRC Section 21083.2). A “unique archaeological resource” is defined as (PRC Section 21083.2(g)):

[A]n archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

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

An impact to a non-unique archaeological resource is not considered a significant environmental impact and such non-unique resources need not be further addressed in the EIR (Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(a); CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)(4)).

As stated above, CEQA contains rules for mitigation of “unique archeological resources.” For example (PRC Section 21083.2(b)(1)-(4)), “[i]f it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a unique archeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts to be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. Examples of that treatment, in no order of preference, may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:”

1. “Planning construction to avoid archeological sites.”
2. “Deeding archeological sites into permanent conservation easements.”
3. “Capping or covering archeological sites with a layer of soil before building on the sites.”
4. “Planning parks, greenspace, or other open space to incorporate archeological sites.”

PRC Section 21083.2(d) states that “[e]xcavation as mitigation shall be restricted to those parts of the unique archeological resource that would be damaged or destroyed by the project. Excavation as mitigation shall not be

required for a unique archeological resource if the lead agency determines that testing or studies already completed have adequately recovered the scientifically consequential information from and about the resource, if this determination is documented in the environmental impact report.”

The rules for mitigating impacts to archeological resources to qualify as “historical resources” are slightly different. According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), “[p]ublic agencies should, whenever feasible, seek to avoid damaging effects on any historical resource of an archeological nature. The following factors shall be considered and discussed in an EIR for a project involving such an archeological site:

- A. Preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archeological sites. Preservation in place maintains the relationship between artifacts and the archeological context. Preservation may also avoid conflict with religious or cultural values of groups associated with the site.
- B. Preservation in place may be accomplished by, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Planning construction to avoid archeological sites;
 - 2. Incorporation of sites within parks, greenspace, or other open space;
 - 3. Covering the archeological sites with a layer of chemically stable soil before building tennis courts, parking lots, or similar facilities on the site [; and]
 - 4. Deeding the site into a permanent conservation easement.

Thus, although Section 21083.2 of the Public Resources Code, in addressing “unique archeological sites,” provides for specific mitigation options “in no order of preference,” CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b), in addressing “historical resources of an archeological nature,” provides that “[p]reservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archeological sites.”

Under CEQA, “[w]hen data recovery through excavation is the only feasible mitigation,” the lead agency may cause to be prepared and adopt a “data recovery plan,” prior to any excavation being undertaken. The data recovery plan must make “provision for adequately recovering the scientifically consequential information from and about the historic resource” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C)). The data recovery plan also “must be deposited with the California Historical Resources Regional Information Center” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C)). Further, “[i]f an artifact must be removed during project excavation or testing, curation may be an appropriate mitigation” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C)).

However, “[d]ata recovery shall not be required for an historical resource if the lead agency determines that testing or studies already completed have adequately recovered the scientifically consequential information from and about the archeological or historic resource, provided that determination is documented in the EIR and that the studies are deposited with the California Historical Resources Regional Information Center” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(D)).

2.3 Local

2.3.1 City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code - Section 17.64.030: Commission Resolution Findings for Designating a Historic Resource

Chapter 17.64 of the City of Santa Clarita (City) Municipal Code from July 8, 2025, also known as the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance, establishes the eligibility criteria for historic resources within Santa Clarita. Municipal Code Section 17.64.030 identifies that any building, structure, or object may be designated by the Commission as a historic resource if it possesses sufficient character-defining features and integrity, and meets at least one (1) of the following criteria (City of Santa Clarita 2025a):

- A. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the historical, archaeological, cultural, social, economic, aesthetic, engineering, or architectural development of the City, State or Nation; or
- B. Is associated with persons significant in the history of the City, State or Nation; or
- C. Embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship; or
- D. Has a unique location, singular physical characteristic(s), or is a landscape, view or vista representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City; or
- E. Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the history or prehistory of the City, State, or nation.

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3 Setting

3.1 Environmental and Geological Setting

The Project area is located in the Soledad Canyon area of the Santa Clarita Valley, within the City of Santa Clarita in northern Los Angeles County, California as depicted on the Mint Canyon, California USGS 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangle. The general area is characterized by a predominantly Mediterranean climate, typified by hot, dry summers and moderate winters. Due to persistent high-pressure zones, the basin receives very little rainfall in the summers with average temperatures reaching into the 80s and 90s, and high temperatures reaching over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Winter is typically characterized by alternating sporadic rainstorms and clear sunny days. Elevation throughout the Project area ranges from around 1,569 to 1,630 feet (ft) above mean sea level (amsl). As stated previously, the Project area is located south of the Santa Clara River. Vegetation at the site consists primarily of cottonwood/willow riparian and riparian scrub species. Other nearby vegetation types include chaparral, coastal sage scrub, some oak woodland, and some buckwheat and cholla cacti species.

3.2 Prehistoric Setting

Numerous chronological sequences have been devised to aid in understanding cultural changes within southern California. Building on early studies and focusing on data synthesis, Wallace (1955, 1978) developed a prehistoric chronology for the southern California coastal region that is still widely used today and is applicable to near-coastal and many inland areas. Four periods are presented in Wallace's prehistoric sequence: Early Man, Milling Stone, Intermediate, and Late Prehistoric. Although Wallace's (1955) synthesis initially lacked chronological precision due to a paucity of absolute dates (Moratto 1984:159), this situation has been alleviated by the availability of thousands of radiocarbon dates that have been obtained by southern California researchers in the last three decades (Byrd and Raab 2007:217). Several revisions have been made to Wallace's (1955) synthesis using radiocarbon dates and projectile point assemblages (e.g., Koerper and Drover 1983; Mason and Peterson 1994; Koerper et al. 2002).

Horizon I—Early Man (ca. 10,000–6,000 B.C.)

When Wallace defined the Horizon I (Early Man) period in the mid-1950s, there was little evidence of human presence on the southern California coast prior to 6000 B.C. Archaeological work in the intervening years has identified numerous pre-8000 B.C. sites, both on the mainland coast and the Channel Islands (e.g., Erlandson 1991; Johnson et al. 2002; Moratto 1984). The earliest accepted dates for occupation are from two of the northern Channel Islands, located off the coast of Santa Barbara. On San Miguel Island, Daisy Cave clearly establishes the presence of people in this area about 10,000 years ago (Erlandson 1991:105). On Santa Rosa Island, human remains have been dated from the Arlington Springs site to approximately 13,000 years ago (Johnson et al. 2002). Present-day Orange and San Diego counties contain several sites dating to 9,000 to 10,000 years ago (Byrd and Raab 2007:219; Macko 1998:41; Mason and Peterson 1994:55–57). Known sites dating to the Early Man period are rare in western Riverside County. One exception is the Elsinore site (CA-RIV-2798-B), which has deposits dating as early as 6630 calibrated B.C. (Grenda 1997:260).

Recent data from Horizon I sites indicate that the economy was a diverse mixture of hunting and gathering, with a major emphasis on aquatic resources in many coastal areas and on Pleistocene lakeshores in eastern San Diego County (see Moratto 1984:90–92). Although few Clovis-like or Folsom-like fluted points have been found in southern California (e.g., Dillon 2002; Erlandson et al. 1987), it is generally thought that the emphasis on hunting

may have been greater during Horizon I than in later periods. Common elements in many sites from this period, for example, include leaf-shaped bifacial projectile points and knives, stemmed or shouldered projectile points, scrapers, engraving tools, and crescents (Wallace 1978:26–27). Subsistence patterns shifted around 6000 B.C. coincident with the gradual desiccation associated with the onset of the Altithermal climatic regime, a warm and dry period that lasted for about 3,000 years. After 6000 B.C., a greater emphasis was placed on plant foods and small animals.

Horizon II–Milling Stone (6000–3000 B.C.)

The Milling Stone Horizon of Wallace (1955, 1978) and Encinitas Tradition of Warren (1968) (6000–3000 B.C.) are characterized by subsistence strategies centered on collecting plant foods and small animals. Food procurement activities included hunting small and large terrestrial mammals, sea mammals, and birds; collecting shellfish and other shore species; near-shore fishing with barbs or gorges; the processing of yucca and agave; and the extensive use of seed and plant products (Kowta 1969). The importance of the seed processing is apparent in the dominance of stone grinding implements in contemporary archaeological assemblages, namely milling stones (metates and slabs) and handstones (manos and mullers). Milling stones occur in large numbers for the first time during this period, and are more numerous still near the end of this period. Recent research indicates that Milling Stone Horizon food procurement strategies varied in both time and space, reflecting divergent responses to variable coastal and inland environmental conditions (Byrd and Raab 2007:220).

Milling Stone Horizon sites are common in the southern California coastal region between Santa Barbara and San Diego, and at many inland locations, including the Prado Basin in western Riverside County and the Pauma Valley in northeastern San Diego County (e.g., Herring 1968; Langenwalter and Brock 1985; Sawyer and Brock 1999; Sutton 1993; True 1958). Wallace (1955, 1978) and Warren (1968) relied on several key coastal sites to characterize the Milling Stone period and Encinitas Tradition, respectively. These include the Oak Grove Complex in the Santa Barbara region, Little Sycamore in southwestern Ventura County, Topanga Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains, and La Jolla in San Diego County. The well-known Irvine site (CA-ORA-64) has occupation levels dating between ca. 6000 and 4000 B.C. (Drover et al. 1983; Macko 1998).

Stone chopping, scraping, and cutting tools made from locally available raw material are abundant in Milling Stone/Encinitas deposits. Less common are projectile points, which are typically large and leaf-shaped, and bone tools such as awls. Items made from shell, including beads, pendants, and abalone dishes, are generally rare. Evidence of weaving or basketry is present at a few sites. Kowta (1969) attributes the presence of numerous scraper-planes in Milling Stone sites to the preparation of agave or yucca for food or fiber. The mortar and pestle, associated with pounding foods such as acorns, were first used during the Milling Stone Horizon (Wallace 1955, 1978; Warren 1968).

Cogged stones and discoidals are diagnostic Milling Stone period artifacts, and most specimens have been found within sites dating between 4000 and 1000 B.C. (Moratto 1984:149). The cogged stone is a ground stone object with gear-like teeth on its perimeter. Discoidals are similar to cogged stones, differing primarily in their lack of edge modification. Discoidals are found in the archaeological record subsequent to the introduction of the cogged stone. Cogged stones and discoidals are often purposefully buried, and are found mainly in sites along the coastal drainages from southern Ventura County southward, with a few specimens inland at Cajon Pass, and heavily in Orange County (Dixon 1968:63; Moratto 1984:149). These artifacts are often interpreted as ritual objects (Eberhart 1961:367; Dixon 1968:64–65), although alternative interpretations (such as gaming stones) have also been put forward (e.g., Moriarty and Broms 1971).

Characteristic mortuary practices of the Milling Stone period or Encinitas Tradition include extended and loosely flexed burials, some with red ochre, and few grave goods such as shell beads and milling stones interred beneath cobble or milling stone cairns. “Killed” milling stones, exhibiting holes, may occur in the cairns. Reburials are common in the Los Angeles County area, with north-oriented flexed burials common in Orange and San Diego counties (Wallace 1955, 1978; Warren 1968).

Koerper and Drover (1983) suggest that Milling Stone period sites represent evidence of migratory hunters and gatherers who used marine resources in the winter and inland resources for the remainder of the year. Subsequent research indicates greater sedentism than previously recognized. Evidence of wattle-and-daub structures and walls has been identified at several sites in the San Joaquin Hills and Newport Coast area (Mason et al. 1991, 1992, 1993; Koerper 1995; Strudwick 2005; Sawyer 2006), while numerous early house pits have been discovered on San Clemente Island (Byrd and Raab 2007:221–222). This architectural evidence and seasonality studies suggest semi-permanent residential base camps that were relocated seasonally (de Barros 1996; Koerper et al. 2002; Mason et al. 1997) or permanent villages from which a portion of the population left at certain times of the year to exploit available resources (Cottrell and Del Chario 1981).

Horizon III–Intermediate (3000 B.C.–A.D. 500)

Following the Milling Stone Horizon, Wallace’s Intermediate Horizon and Warren’s Campbell Tradition in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and parts of Los Angeles counties, date from approximately 3000 B.C. to A.D. 500 and are characterized by a shift toward a hunting and maritime subsistence strategy, along with a wider use of plant foods. The Campbell Tradition (Warren 1968) incorporates David B. Rogers’ (1929) Hunting Culture and related expressions along the Santa Barbara coast. In the San Diego region, the Encinitas Tradition (Warren 1968) and the La Jolla Culture (Moriarty 1966; Rogers 1939, 1945) persist with little change during this time.

During the Intermediate Horizon and Campbell Tradition, there was a pronounced trend toward greater adaptation to regional or local resources. For example, an increasing variety and abundance of fish, land mammal, and sea mammal remains are found in sites along the California coast during this period. Related chipped stone tools suitable for hunting are more abundant and diversified, and shell fishhooks become part of the tool kit during this period. Larger knives, a variety of flake scrapers, and drill-like implements are common during this period. Projectile points include large side-notched, stemmed, and lanceolate or leaf-shaped forms. Koerper and Drover (1983) consider Gypsum Cave and Elko series points, which have a wide distribution in the Great Basin and Mojave deserts between ca. 2000 B.C. and A.D. 500, to be diagnostic of this period. Bone tools, including awls, were more numerous than in the preceding period, and the use of asphaltum adhesive was common.

Mortars and pestles became more common during this period, gradually replacing manos and metates as the dominant milling equipment. Hopper mortars and stone bowls, including steatite vessels, appeared in the tool kit at this time as well. This shift appears to correlate with the diversification in subsistence resources. Many archaeologists believe this change in milling stones signals a shift away from the processing and consuming of hard seed resources to the increasing importance of the acorn (e.g., Glassow et al. 1988; True 1993). It has been argued that mortars and pestles may have been used initially to process roots (e.g., tubers, bulbs, and corms associated with marshland plants), with acorn processing beginning at a later point in prehistory (Glassow 1997:86) and continuing to European contact.

Characteristic mortuary practices during the Intermediate Horizon and Campbell Tradition included fully flexed burials, placed facedown or face up, and oriented toward the north or west (Warren 1968:2–3). Red ochre was common, and abalone shell dishes were infrequent. Interments sometimes occurred beneath cairns or broken artifacts. Shell, bone, and stone ornaments, including charmstones, were more common than in the preceding Encinitas Tradition. Some later sites include *Olivella* shell and steatite beads, mortars with flat bases and flaring sides, and a few small points. The broad distribution of steatite from the Channel Islands and obsidian from distant inland regions, among other items, attest to the growth of trade, particularly during the later part of this period. Recently, Raab and others (Byrd and Raab 2007:220–221) have argued that the distribution of *Olivella* grooved rectangle (OGR) beads marks “a discrete sphere of trade and interaction between the Mojave Desert and the southern Channel Islands.”

Horizon IV–Late Prehistoric (A.D. 500–Historic Contact)

In the Late Prehistoric Horizon (Wallace 1955, 1978), which lasted from the end of the Intermediate (ca. A.D. 500) until European contact, there was an increase in the use of plant food resources in addition to an increase in land and sea mammal hunting. There was a concomitant increase in the diversity and complexity of material culture during the Late Prehistoric, demonstrated by more classes of artifacts. The recovery of a greater number of small, finely chipped projectile points, usually stemless with convex or concave bases, suggests an increased usage of the bow and arrow rather than the atlatl (spear thrower) and dart for hunting. Other items include steatite cooking vessels and containers, the increased presence of smaller bone and shell circular fishhooks, perforated stones, arrow shaft straighteners made of steatite, a variety of bone tools, and personal ornaments made from shell, bone, and stone. There is also an increased use of asphalt for waterproofing and as an adhesive.

Many Late Prehistoric sites contain beautiful and complex objects of utility, art, and decoration. Ornaments include drilled whole venus clam (*Chione* spp.) and drilled abalone (*Haliotis* spp.). Steatite effigies become more common, with scallop (*Pecten* spp. and *Argopecten* spp.) shell rattles common in middens. Mortuary customs are elaborate and include cremation and interment with abundant grave goods. By A.D. 1000, fired clay smoking pipes and ceramic vessels began to appear at some sites (Drover 1971, 1975; Meighan 1954; Warren and True 1984). The scarcity of pottery in coastal and near-coastal sites implies ceramic technology was not well developed in that area, or that ceramics were obtained by trade with neighboring groups to the south and east. The lack of widespread pottery manufacture is usually attributed to the high quality of tightly woven and watertight basketry that functioned in the same capacity as ceramic vessels.

Another feature typical of Late Prehistoric period occupation is an increase in the frequency of obsidian imported from the Obsidian Butte source in Imperial County, California. Obsidian Butte was exploited after ca. A.D. 1000 when it was exposed by the receding waters of Holocene Lake Cahuilla (Wilke 1978). A Late Prehistoric period component of the Elsinore site (CA-RIV-2798-A) produced two flakes that originated from Obsidian Butte (Grenda 1997:255; Towner et al. 1997:224–225). Although about 16 percent of the debitage at the Peppertree site (CA-RIV-463) at Perris Reservoir is obsidian, no sourcing study was done (Wilke 1974:61). The site contains a late Intermediate to Late Prehistoric period component, and it is assumed that most of the obsidian originated from Obsidian Butte. In the earlier Milling Stone and Intermediate periods, most of the obsidian found at sites within Riverside County came from northern sources, primarily the Coso volcanic field. This appears to be the case within Prado Basin and other interior sites that have yielded obsidian (e.g., Grenda 1997; Taşkıran 1997:46). The presence of Grimes Canyon (Ventura County) fused shale at southern California archaeological sites is also thought to be typical of the Late Prehistoric period (Demcak 1981; Hall 1988).

During this period, there was an increase in population size accompanied by the advent of larger, more permanent villages (Wallace 1955:223). Large populations and, in places, high population densities are characteristic, with some coastal and near-coastal settlements containing as many as 1,500 people. Many of the larger settlements were permanent villages in which people resided year-round. The populations of these villages may have also increased seasonally.

In Warren's (1968) cultural ecological scheme, the period between A.D. 500 and European contact is divided into three regional patterns. The Chumash Tradition is present mainly in the region of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties; the Takic or Numic Tradition is present in the Los Angeles, Orange, and western Riverside counties region; and the Yuman Tradition is present in the San Diego region. The seemingly abrupt changes in material culture, burial practices, and subsistence focus at the beginning of the Late Prehistoric period are thought to be the result of a migration to the coast of peoples from inland desert regions to the east. In addition to the small triangular and triangular side-notched points similar to those found in the desert regions in the Great Basin and Lower Colorado River, Colorado River pottery and the introduction of cremation in the archaeological record are diagnostic of the Yuman Tradition in the San Diego region. This combination certainly suggests a strong influence from the Colorado Desert region.

In Los Angeles, Orange, and western Riverside counties, similar changes (introduction of cremation, pottery, and small triangular arrow points) are thought to be the result of a Takic migration to the coast from inland desert regions. This Takic or Numic Tradition was formerly referred to as the "Shoshonean wedge" or "Shoshonean intrusion" (Warren 1968). This terminology, used originally to describe a Uto-Aztecan language group, is generally no longer used to avoid confusion with ethnohistoric and modern Shoshonean groups who spoke Numic languages (Heizer 1978:5; Shipley 1978:88, 90).

3.3 Ethnographic Setting

The Project area falls within the ethnographic boundary of the Tataviam (Kroeber 1925). However, there are many neighboring tribes who are known to have interacted with the Tataviam in this region, including the Ventureño Chumash to the west, the Gabrielino to the southeast, the Serrano to the east, and Kitanemuk to the north. It is important to note that this ethnographic context is not designed to be an all-inclusive culture history, rather, it is designed to provide the reader with a very basic understanding of the tribe's geographic affiliation, language, social and political organization, religious and spiritual beliefs, material culture, and subsistence strategies.

Tataviam

The Tataviam territories included the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River drainage east of Piru Creek, but also encompassed the Sawmill Mountains to the north and the southwestern portion of the Antelope Valley. Relatively little is known about the Tataviam. Most of what is known today about the Tataviam comes from the work of Alfred L. Kroeber and John P. Harrington, and data obtained from one consultant named Juan José Fustero (Johnson and Earle 1990).

There are different hypotheses in regards to the affiliation of the Tataviam language. Some scholars hypothesize that the Tataviam may have spoken a language that was uncommonly used in southern California, or that they may have spoken a Takic language like their southern neighbors (King and Blackburn 1978). As with most languages, the Takic dialects may have been more noticeable at the geographic extremes, while in actuality there was likely a

Pedro Fage's account of the 1769 Portola expedition indicates that the first Chumash settlement encountered upon leaving Tataviam territory was located west of the mouth of Piru Creek. The village of *kamulus* (Camulos), located east of Piru Canyon, bears a Chumash name, and it is thought that this village consisted of a mixed Chumash-Tataviam population (Johnson and Earle 1990).

3.4 Historic Setting

Post-Contact history for the state of California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), Mexican Period (1822–1848), and American Period (1848–present). Although Spanish, Russian, and British explorers visited the area for brief periods between 1529 and 1769, the Spanish Period in California began with the establishment in 1769 of a settlement at San Diego and the founding of Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first of 21 missions constructed between 1769 and 1823. Independence from Spain, which took effect in California in 1822, marks the beginning of the Mexican Period, and the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, ending the Mexican-American War, signals the beginning of the American Period, when California became a territory of the United States.

Spanish Period (1769–1822)

Spanish explorers made sailing expeditions along the coast of southern California between the mid-1500s and mid-1700s. In search of the legendary Northwest Passage, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo stopped in 1542 at present-day San Diego Bay. With his crew, Cabrillo explored the shorelines of present Catalina Island as well as San Pedro and Santa Monica bays. Much of the present California and Oregon coastline was mapped and recorded in the next half-century by Spanish naval officer Sebastián Vizcaíno. Vizcaíno's crew also landed on Santa Catalina Island and at San Pedro and Santa Monica bays, giving each location its current name. The Spanish crown laid claim to California based on the surveys conducted by Cabrillo and Vizcaíno (Bancroft 1885:96–99; Gumprecht 1999:35).

More than 200 years passed before Spain began the colonization and inland exploration of Alta California. The 1769 overland expedition by Captain Gaspar de Portolá marks the beginning of California's Historic period, occurring just after the king of Spain installed the Franciscan Order to direct religious and colonization matters in assigned territories of the Americas. With a band of 64 soldiers, missionaries, Baja (lower) California Native Americans, and Mexican civilians, Portolá established the Presidio of San Diego, a fortified military outpost, as the first Spanish settlement in Alta California. In July of 1769, while Portolá was exploring southern California, Franciscan Fr. Junípero Serra founded Mission San Diego de Alcalá at Presidio Hill, the first of the 21 missions that would be established in Alta California by the Spanish and the Franciscan Order between 1769 and 1823.

A major emphasis during the Spanish Period was the construction of missions and associated presidios to integrate the Native American population into Christianity and communal enterprise. Incentives were also provided to bring settlers to pueblos or towns, but just three pueblos were established during the Spanish Period, two of which were successful and remain as California cities (San José and Los Angeles). Several factors kept growth within Alta California to a minimum, including the threat of foreign invasion, political dissatisfaction, and unrest among the indigenous population.

Mexican Period (1822–1848)

After more than a decade of intermittent rebellion and warfare, New Spain (Mexico and the California territory) won independence from Spain in 1821. In 1822, the Mexican legislative body in California ended isolationist policies designed to protect the Spanish monopoly on trade, and decreed California ports open to foreign merchants (Dallas 1955:14).

Extensive land grants were established in the interior during the Mexican Period, in part to increase the population inland from the more settled coastal areas where the Spanish had first concentrated their colonization efforts. The secularization of the missions following Mexico's independence from Spain resulted in the subdivision of former mission lands and establishment of many additional ranchos. During the supremacy of the ranchos (1834–1848), landowners largely focused on the cattle industry and devoted large tracts to grazing. Cattle hides became a primary southern California export, providing a commodity to trade for goods from the east and other areas in the United States and Mexico. The number of nonnative inhabitants increased during this period because of the influx of explorers, trappers, and ranchers associated with the land grants. The rising California population contributed to the introduction and spread of diseases foreign to the Native American population, who had no associated immunities.

American Period (1848–Present)

War in 1846 between Mexico and the United States brought U.S. Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny and part of his Army of the West from Kansas to California through present-day Imperial Valley. Lt. Colonel Philip St. George Cooke and the Mormon Battalion, following Kearny west to map a strategic wagon road through the territory, likewise moved through Imperial Valley. The Mexican-American War ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed in 1848, ushering California into its American Period.

Horticulture and livestock, based primarily on cattle as the currency and staple of the rancho system, continued to dominate the southern California economy through the first decade of the Gold Rush, which began in 1848. With the influx of people seeking gold, cattle were no longer desired mainly for their hides, but also as a source of meat and other goods. During the 1850s cattle boom, rancho vaqueros drove large herds from southern to northern California to feed that region's burgeoning mining and commercial boom. The cattle boom ended for southern California as neighbor states and territories drove herds to northern California at reduced prices, as operation of the huge ranchos became increasingly difficult, and as droughts severely reduced their productivity. The disruption of the Civil War and severe drought during the winters of 1862–1863 and 1863–1864 ruined many surviving rancho families and resulted in the refocusing of grazing activities in southern California upon sheep (Beattie and Beattie 1939; Brown 1985; Ingersoll 1904).

During the nineteenth century, what would become Los Angeles County was an important travel corridor from the interior of the continent to the California coast. During the Gold Rush, thousands of people traveled the Gila (or Southern Overland) Trail from Yuma to Temecula and on to Los Angeles. Thousands more traveled the Old Spanish Trail from Santa Fe across the Mojave Desert to Mission San Gabriel Arcángel and the Pueblo de Los Ángeles. Wagon roads and railroads constructed across the Colorado and Mojave deserts from the 1850s to the 1870s connected coastal California with the rest of the county. These modes of transport served to carry mail, prospectors, miners, entrepreneurs, merchants, immigrants, laborers, muleteers, settlers, and military personnel, as well as civilian and military supplies, livestock, produce, timber, and minerals produced by desert mines, among other necessities. The construction of permanent roadways across the desert trails and wagon roads accompanied the increased use of the automobile at the turn of the twentieth century.

California became one of the United States with the Compromise of 1850, which also designated Utah and New Mexico (with present Arizona) as U.S. territories. The County of Los Angeles was established on February 18, 1850, 1 of 27 counties established in the months prior to California acquiring official statehood in the United States 2 years after the Mexican American War. Settlement of the Los Angeles region continued in the early American Period. Many of the ranchos in the area now known as Los Angeles County remained intact after the United States took possession of California; however, a severe drought in the 1860s resulted in many of the ranchos being sold or otherwise acquired by Americans. Most of these ranchos were subdivided into agricultural parcels or towns (Dumke 1944: 3–6). Nonetheless, ranching retained its importance, and by the late 1860s, Los Angeles County was one of the top dairy production centers in the country (Dumke 1944: 14–15). In the 1870s, the county was divided into townships comprised of subdivided ranchos, and by 1876, the county reportedly had a population of 30,000 people (Dumke 1944: 7).

Historic Overview of Santa Clarita

Santa Clarita was incorporated in 1987 approximately 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Initially, the area was inhabited by the Tongva band of Native Americans, who dominated the area until the arrival of the Spanish. During the Spanish period in the 1770s, the area was part of Rancho San Francisco, which supported Mission San Fernando Rey de España. Members of the local tribes were gathered from the surrounding area and required to build the mission structure and worked on the ranch to cultivate crops (Perkins 1957).

In 1822, the political situation changed as Mexico won its independence from Spain, and the San Gabriel Valley region became part of the Mexican Republic. Following secularization of the missions in 1833, the Mexican government confiscated all mission land holdings and commissioned Lieutenant Antonio Del Valle to take over Mission San Fernando in 1834 by inventory from the incumbent Padre, Fr. Ybarra. In 1838, Del Valle resigned his army commission and petitioned the Mexican government for Rancho San Francisco (despite the fact that the land was supposed to revert back to Native Americans). On January 22, 1839, the request was granted, and Del Valle became the owner of 48,829 acres of Rancho San Francisco. Del Valle died two years later, leaving behind thousands of heads of livestock, over 75 square miles of land, and no legal will. Legal battles ensued between his widow, Jacoba Felix Del Valle, and his oldest son, Ygnacio Del Valle, with a judge eventually dividing up the land amongst the parties and their children (Reynolds 1998).

Rancho San Francisco was owned and operated by Ygnacio Del Valle until 1865, by which time it was deep in debt as a result of two years of drought. Del Valle eventually lost the rancho to his financiers who then sold it to oil speculators. This resulted in the first major discovery of oil on the Rancho, and just seven weeks later, the first oil well was installed on the south side of the Santa Clara River near the Del Valle residence (Perkins 1957). The land changed hands several times until Henry Mayo Newhall acquired it in 1875. Shortly thereafter, in 1876, a new townsite known as “Newhall” was founded, and a Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) Soledad Canyon Line right-of-way was granted across the rancho (Perkins 1957). In 1875, work had already begun on the San Fernando Railroad Tunnel, which was constructed by over 1,000 Chinese and 500 white laborers, and overseen by Frank Frates. The completion of the tunnel in 1876 resulted in the completion of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line at Lang Station. A Golden Spike ceremony was held the day the final pieces of track were laid (Pollack 2010). That same year the Newhall station was built, although adverse conditions from sandstorms would result in the building (and the rest of the townsite) being moved three miles to the south (Perkins 2010).

The completion of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line in 1876 facilitated the growth of the local oil and mining industries throughout the United States, which encouraged settlers to move to the area. Situated along the Santa Clara River,

Soledad Canyon has long been an area particularly rich in sand and gravel. The Canyon was first explored as part of the Williamson Road Survey in 1853 as a possible railway route to Los Angeles. During these efforts, a copper vein was identified that later brought Los Angeles merchant Don Manual Ravena to organize the Soledad Mining Company in 1861. Other small-scale miners later moved into the area to exploit the copper deposits, and later, gold deposits were first identified in 1868, prompting the establishment of three mines for gold, copper, and silver: Red Rover Mine, Escondido Grande Mine, and the New York Mine. Additionally, in 1876, the Pioneer Oil Refinery was established by California Star Oil Works (now known as Chevron) to process petroleum into kerosene from the surrounding Pico Canyon. Settlers enticed by the mining and oil industries began to develop as a stock-raising frontier post-1850 as well. Owners of herds, mostly commonly sheep, moved their stock to the area in search of new pastures after drought devastated other regions of Southern California. Through this early period, however, the community of Santa Clarita developed slowly (Earle 2003; Dumke 1944: 41-43; Striplin 2025).

Historic topographic maps from the early twentieth century show sparse development along the railroad in the area (NETR 2025b). In 1907, Saugus School was constructed in the San Francisquito Canyon. The same year, construction began on the north end of the Elizabeth Tunnel section of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The Sterling Borax mine operated in Tick Canyon from 1908 to 1921, and general stores, post offices, and churches were developed as the community began to grow. The surrounding landscape garnered Hollywood producers, such as Gene Autry and William S. Hart, who used the area to film western movies, bringing the film industry to the community and both built personal ranches in the area. In 1913, the Los Angeles Aqueduct opened, allowing water to flow to the community from the Owens Valley, which further facilitated agriculture and ranching (Worden 2025; Reynolds 1992).

The 1920s saw increased civic development and the formation of groups such as the Newhall Chamber of Commerce in 1923. Four years later, the Newhall Community Hospital was established. In 1928, one of the worst civil engineering failures of the twentieth century occurred when the St. Francis Dam, located north of Santa Clarita in the San Francisquito Canyon, failed. The flooding resulted in widespread property destruction and the deaths of 411 people. As a result of the disaster, William Mulholland, the driving force behind the Los Angeles Aqueduct, retired from the Los Angeles Bureau of Water Works and Supply (Reynolds 1992; Worden 2025).

The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 impacted the communities comprising present-day Santa Clarita, and through the 1930s, the area remained predominantly rural in character, with development primarily consisting of scattered ranches and farms. However, a second gold rush in Placerita, Piru, and Soledad Canyons, as well as the establishment of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Bear Canyon in Saugus in 1933, somewhat insulated the local economy from the worst impacts of the Great Depression. The establishment of the Bermite Power Company in 1934 provided additional employment, which accelerated with the United States' entrance into World War II. The first housing tract in the community was constructed for workers by the company and consisted of 50 rent-to-own bungalows on Walnut Street (NETR 2025a; Reynolds 1992).

Following the conclusion of World War II, Southern California's population boomed. In the present-day Santa Clarita area, the population nearly doubled from 4,000 in 1940 to 7,500 by 1950. In 1947, the area's first tract housing community was constructed in Seco Canyon, a group of 15 homes called Rancho Santa Clarita, the first time the name Santa Clarita was officially affixed to the community (Reynolds 1992). The County of Los Angeles, attempting to encourage more residential development, changed its rules for property taxes so that land would be taxed at its "best use," regardless of the land's actual use. This meant that formerly open land was taxed at the rate of residential or commercial properties, prompting many, including the Newhall Land and Farming Company, to sell

large portions of land for residential subdivisions. As a result, the communities began to densify with tract housing and corresponding commercial development in the 1950s and 1960s (Reynolds 1992; Worden 2025).

Between 1965 and 1967, a right-of-way for Interstate 5 was sold to the state; the completion of the freeway made the Santa Clarita Valley accessible to San Fernando and Los Angeles, turning the area into a “bedroom community” and spurring more residential development. In 1967, the California Land Company was created to develop a new master-planned community designed by Victor Gruen and Associates named Valenica, which was later incorporated as a part of the City. Additional development in the 1960s included the establishment of the California Institute of the Arts in 1961, the construction of Old Orchard Shopping Center in 1965, and groundbreaking of Castaic Lake by the California Department of Water Resources in 1964 (completed in 1974) (Reynolds 1992; Worden 2025).

The trend of population increase and corresponding development continued into the 1970s. In 1971, Six Flags Magic Mountain opened, quickly becoming the largest employer in the Santa Clarita Valley and a major draw for local tourism. Although there were scattered efforts to incorporate as early as the 1920s, these efforts became more organized in the 1970s. After multiple attempts that failed at the ballot box, in 1987 residents voted to incorporate as the City of Santa Clarita. The incorporation included the communities of Canyon Country, Newhall, Saugus, and Valenica. Since then, dozens of neighborhoods have been annexed to the City, making Santa Clarita the third largest city in Los Angeles County. As of 2020, Santa Clarita is a largely residential community with a population of 228,673 (City of Santa Clarita 2025b; Encyclopedia Britannica 2025).

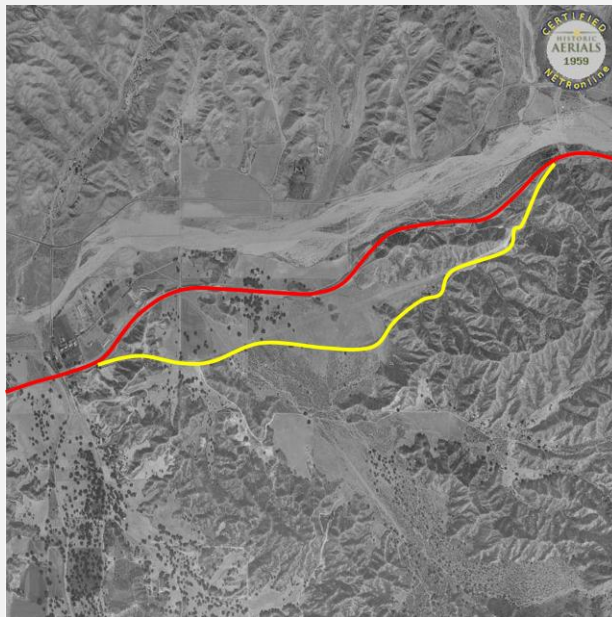
Southern Pacific Railroad

The SPRR Company was founded in 1865 as a rail line from San Francisco to San Diego. During the mid-1870s, the SPRR Company developed railroads through the Santa Clarita Valley, spurring the development of small towns along the railway. The SPRR constructed the Soledad Canyon Line between Santa Clarita and Palmdale from 1873 to 1876 to transport mining products from Soledad Canyon. After the completion of the line in 1876, a golden railroad spike laid at Lang Station, which was designated California Historic Landmark No. 590 in 1957 (California Historic Landmarks 2016; Jonhstone 2005; Lang Station: Recalling a Forgotten Monument 1993). In 1971, Lang Station was torn down, and a monument was added to its former location reading, “On September 5, 1876, Charles Crocker, president, Southern Pacific Railroad, drove a gold spike here to complete his company’s San Joaquin Valley Route, first rail connection of Los Angeles with San Francisco and transcontinental lines” (Lang Station: Recalling a Forgotten Monument 1993). The railroad connected the Santa Clarita Valley to the nation via the San Joaquin Valley Route that connected Los Angeles and San Francisco and provided access to the northern California portion of the first transcontinental railroad in Sacramento (Southern California Railway Museum 2025; Sapphos 2024: 4–7).

In 1883, the SPRR extended its lines to New Orleans, Louisiana, providing southern California with a transcontinental route across the southern United States through Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. The completion of the route led to an increase of about 60,000 residents in Los Angeles County between 1890 and 1900. By the twentieth century the SPRR dominated much of the western railways supporting the growth of the economy in the west by transporting goods, people, and resources. The Santa Clarita area experienced a boom during the early 1900s with the discovery of oil and the development of agriculture. The area’s location and topography allowed for an efficient route south to Los Angeles or north to San Francisco where products could be transferred to lines across the greater United States. The Soledad Canyon Line opened new land to farmers in the area and provided farmers and businesses with a fast new transit option for their products (Sapphos 2024: 4–7; Southern California Railway Museum 2025).

Historic topographic maps and aerial photographs of the API show that the subject segment of the railroad was realigned to the north in Section 24 within the Township 4 North and Range 15 West between 1955 and 1959 (Exhibit 1). The original alignment was abandoned due to flooding and is labeled the “Old Railroad Grade” on subsequent topographic maps (NETR 2025a; NETR 2025b). The railroad continued to operate as both a passenger and freight line until the 1970s when the last passenger train operated in 1971 following the last freight train in 1979. The Los Angeles County Transportation Commission purchased the Soledad Canyon Line in 1992 and transferred control of the railroad to the Southern California Reginal Rail Authority (now known as Metrolink) (Sapphos 2024: 5–4). In 1993, Metrolink established shared trackage rights with the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line and developed a commuter service (Morin 2001). As of 2025, the former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line continues to be used by Metrolink as a commuter route.

Exhibit 1. Comparison of the original SPRR Soledad Canyon Line alignment (yellow) to the 1950s realignment (red).



Source: NETR 2025a

4 Methods

4.1 Project Personnel

This report, associated fieldwork, and significance evaluations were prepared by Dudek Secretary of the Interior qualified archaeologists Roshanne Bakhtiary, MA and Makayla Murillo, BA, and architectural historian Katie Ahmanson, MHC. The report was reviewed by Senior Archaeologist Micah J. Hale, Ph.D., RPA, and Senior Architectural Historian Monte Kim, PhD.

4.2 Records Search

On September 9, 2014, Dudek performed a records search of the CHRIS at the SCCIC, located on the campus of the California State University, Fullerton, in Fullerton, California. This initial records search was conducted for the Mancara Project and included the same project area as the currently proposed Project. Updates to this original records search were completed by Dudek on March 20, 2024. These records searches included a review of mapped prehistoric, historical, and built-environment resources; Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) site forms; technical reports; archival resources; and ethnographic references. Additional consulted sources included historical maps of the Project area, the NRHP, the CRHR, the California Historic Property Data File, and the lists of California State Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and the Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility. Results from the records search are provided in Confidential Appendix B.

4.3 Native American Coordination

Dudek requested a search of the NAHC SLF for the Project area and one-mile radius on April 17, 2024. The NAHC emailed a response letter on May 6, 2024, stating the results of the SLF for the Project area were negative. The NAHC additionally provided a list of 23 Native American individuals/tribal organizations who may have information relevant to potential tribal sensitivities associated with the proposed Project. Potential impacts to TCRs, as defined by CEQA, should be determined by the lead agency based on government-to-government consultation pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Documentation of the search and correspondence with the NAHC is provided in Appendix C.

4.4 Cultural Resources Pedestrian Survey

Dudek archaeologists conducted an intensive-level cultural resources pedestrian survey in support of the Mancara Project in September 2014. This project had the same project area as the currently proposed Project. Updated cultural resources pedestrian surveys of the API were completed by Dudek archaeologists David Faith and Shane McDonnell on April 8, 2024, and April 9, 2024, and Roshanne Bakhtiary on November 21, 2024. All survey work was conducted using standard archaeological procedures and techniques consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for archaeology. When possible, 15-meter interval survey transects were conducted, oriented in north-south cardinal directions in the southern parcel and in east-west cardinal directions in the northern parcel. Where visible, the ground surface was examined for prehistoric artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, ceramics, fire-affected rock), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, soil depressions, features indicative of the current or former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., standing exterior walls, post holes, foundations), and historic artifacts (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics, building materials). Ground disturbances such as rodent/reptile burrows, cut banks, and drainages were also visually inspected for exposed subsurface materials.

For purposes of analysis, a minimum density of three or more artifacts in a 25-meter squared (m²) (82 ft.) area would constitute an archaeological site, as will the presence of any feature (i.e., concrete foundation). Any separation of 50 m (164 ft.) or more between artifacts was considered justification for delineation of a site boundary. A temporary site number would be assigned to all newly identified archaeological resources that met the definition of an archaeological site. Isolated finds consisting of fewer than three artifacts within a 25-m² area would be recorded separately from sites, including the use of a different numbering scheme. Based on experience in the region and the results of the CHRIS records search, anticipated site types included prehistoric artifact scatters, historic-period refuse deposits, and railroad-related structures/features.

All fieldwork was documented using field notes and iPad technology with close-scale field maps, and aerial photographs. Location-specific photographs were taken using an Apple 11th Generation iPad equipped with 8 mega-pixel (MP) resolution and georeferenced PDF maps of the API. All field notes, photographs, and records related to the 2014 study, and the current study are on file at Dudek's Encinitas, California office.

4.5 Built Environment Pedestrian Survey

Dudek architectural historians Katie Ahmanson, MHC, and Claire Cancilla, MSHP, conducted an intensive-level built environment pedestrian survey of the API on September 25, 2025. The survey entailed documenting the former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line with notes and photographs from the public right-of-way, specifically noting character-defining features, spatial relationships, and observed alterations, and examining any historic landscape features on the railroad. The result of the pedestrian survey is located in Section 6.2, Significance Evaluations for Built Environment Resources.

5 Results

5.1 Records Search Results

5.1.1 Previously Conducted Cultural Resources Studies

The SCCIC records search identified 46 previous cultural resources technical studies that have been conducted within a one-mile radius of the API. Four of these studies overlap with at least a portion of the API (Table 1). These studies include two cultural resources inventories, one cultural resources reconnaissance survey, and one records search. The complete SCCIC records search results and associated documentation are included in Confidential Appendix B.

In 2014 Dudek prepared a Cultural Resources Survey Report in support of the Mancara Project (Table 1). This report is not currently on file at the SCCIC. See below Table 1 for more information regarding this study and Confidential Appendix A for a copy of the report.

Table 1. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Studies within the API

Report Number	Year	Title	Author
LA-03659	1980	Parcel Map 12878	Romani, Gwendolyn R.
LA-04608	1989	Cultural Resources Archaeological Survey Oak Spring Canyon, California Tentative Tract Map No. 47803	Tartaglia, Louis J.
LA-06001	1989	Historical Documentation Report (brief) Oak Springs Canyon Project	Reponen, Gerald
LA-10560	2005	Final Confidential: Cultural Resources Study for the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Arundo and Tamarisk Removal Program Long-term Implementation Plan, Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment, Los Angeles County, California	Hunt, Kevin and Richard D. Schultz
—	2014	Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Mancara Project, City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California*	Wolf, Scott, Samantha Murray and Micah J. Hale

* This report was not submitted to the SCCIC (submission not required)

Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Mancara Project

Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Mancara Project (Wolf et al. 2014), documents the results of a cultural resources inventory and evaluation conducted in support of the private development of 190-acres of land located between the Santa Clara River and Oak Springs Canyon Road in the City of Santa Clarita, California. The area of study overlaps 100% with the currently proposed Project area. The 2014 efforts included an archival information and literature review, correspondence with the NAHC, an intensive-level pedestrian survey of the entire 190-acre study area, and the recordation and evaluation of one historic-era archaeological resource, Mancara-01, for eligibility as a historical resource, inclusion on the CRHR, and significance under CEQA. Ultimately, Dudek concluded that Mancara-01 does not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered a historical resource and is recommended

as not significant under CEQA and not eligible for listing in the CRHR. Dudek also recommended inadvertent discoveries protocols for archaeological resources and human remains be implemented during construction in order for the project to meet compliance with CEQA and best practice standards. More information regarding Mancara-01 is provided below in Table 2 and the report containing the results of the testing and evaluation efforts is provided as Confidential Appendix A.

5.1.2 Previously Identified Cultural Resources

The SCCIC records search identified seven previously recorded cultural resources within one mile of the API, none of which intersect with the API. However, one previously recorded historic-era resource (Mancara-01) was identified by Dudek within the Project area during a 2014 pedestrian survey in support of the Mancara Project (Wolf et al. 2014). Of the seven resources identified in the SCCIC records search, two are prehistoric resources, one is a prehistoric isolate, one is a multi-component resource, one is an historic-era residence, one is an historic-era single-family property, and the last is the Angeles National Forest, a California Registered Historical Landmark (Table 2). The complete SCCIC records search results and associated documentation are included in Confidential Appendix B. Additionally, a detailed overview of previously recorded Mancara-01 is provided below Table 2 and attached as Confidential Appendix A.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within One Mile of API

Primary Number	Trinomial	Age	Description	Eligibility Status	Distance from Project Area
Inside API					
Mancara-01*	—	Historic	Historic-era residential site	Recommended not significant under CEQA and not eligible for listing in the CRHR.	Within
Outside API					
P-19-001077	CA-LAN-001077	Prehistoric	Habitation site and midden	Not evaluated	0.60 miles
P-19-003768	CA-LAN-003768	Prehistoric	Lithic and groundstone scatter	Not evaluated	0.77 miles
P-19-004355	CA-LAN-004355/H	Multi-component	Prehistoric artifact scatter; Historic cemetery	Not evaluated	0.85 miles
P-19-004356	CA-LAN-004356H	Historic	Historic-era residential site	Not evaluated	0.90 miles
P-19-004605	CA-LAN-004605H	Historic	Single-family property, well, and foundation/pads	Not evaluated	0.75 miles
P-19-100336	—	Prehistoric	Isolate: Lithic core	Not significant	0.90 miles

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within One Mile of API

Primary Number	Trinomial	Age	Description	Eligibility Status	Distance from Project Area
P-19-186535	—	Historic	The Angeles National Forest	Registered California Historic Landmark	0.25 miles

* This site record was not submitted to the SCCIC

Mancara-01

Mancara-01 was originally recorded by Dudek in 2014. The resource consists of a historic-era residential site that includes five features: a concrete structure pad, a separate fallen chimney, a rock ring, a small fish/water pond feature, and a small deposit of historic trash/refuse. The overall site measures approximately 115 ft (N/S) x 160 ft (E/W) and is located on flat ground, partially within a small grove of mature oak trees (Wolf et al. 2014). The residence associated with Mancara-01 was first identified on the 1928 historic aerial photograph and appears to have been demolished by approximately 1974 (UCSB 2025; NETR 2024). Archival research did not yield any additional information regarding the identities or histories of the individuals who resided at Mancara-01.

Feature 1 is a building foundation that consists of several slabs of concrete in various conditions (decomposing, poor, and fair) in a rectangular shape measuring approximately 10 ft (N/S) x 10 ft (E/W). A concrete curb edge constructed approximately 6 inches above the foundation surface is located along the southern edge of the foundation pad. There is moderate volume of concrete debris and refuse scattered across the surface of the concrete pad (wire nails, milled lumber fragments, rubber tire fragments, ceramic porcelain fragments and glass fragments), however, none of the material within immediate vicinity appear diagnostic (Wolf et al. 2014).

Feature 2 consists of a small, poured concrete water feature or fishpond measuring approximately 10 ft (N/S) x 10 ft (E/W) x 1.5 ft depth. The feature is located approximately 25 ft southeast Feature 1 and is located adjacent to the grove of oak trees surrounding the site. Feature 2 is constructed from round river cobbles and concrete, has three spherical “lobes” with a possible fountain or spout located in the center of the feature (Wolf et al. 2014).

Feature 3 is a toppled over chimney measuring approximately 26 ft (L) x 5 ft (W) x 3 (H) ft. The chimney feature is located approximately 39 ft south of the building foundation pad (Feature 1). Approximately 95% of the remaining chimney has fallen (or been pushed) to the south. The chimney is made from conventional standards, using fired-clay brick, mortar, plaster and cement. The remains of the chimney are in three major sections, arrayed immediately south of the actual chimney foundation (Wolf et al. 2014).

Feature 4 consists of a circular shaped cobble rock ring measuring 5 ft in diameter. The feature is located approximately 20 ft west of the chimney feature. The pit/ring feature consists of 8 large (60 – 80 cm average) cobbles. No evidence of charcoal or ash were observed (Wolf et al. 2014).

Feature 5 consists of a small concentration of mid-twentieth century refuse deposit located on the western periphery of the site. This refuse is located along the edge of a patch of scrub vegetation in a shallow drainage depression approximately 98 ft west from Feature 1. The refuse deposit consists of both complete and fragmented items dating to the mid-twentieth century (food and household cans and bottles) (Wolf et al. 2014).

In 2014, Dudek performed an archaeological testing effort to determine if Mancara-01 presented the potential to contain significant subsurface archeological deposits (Wolf et al. 2014). The testing effort consisted of the excavation of six STPs. STP 1 was excavated and terminated at 40 cm due to being sterile for cultural materials. STP 2 was positive and yielded a total of 121 glass fragments, 116 building fragments, 47 miscellaneous metal, 10 ceramic fragments, 4 personal items, 4 faunal bone. STP 2 was terminated at 70 cm due to the bedrock layer which would not yield cultural material. STP 3 was excavated and terminated at 40 cm. STP 3 contained three historic artifacts on the ground surface including two gas lamp burner tube fragments and one wire nail, however, no subsurface artifacts were recovered. STP 3 was terminated at 40 cm due to being sterile for cultural materials. STP 4 was terminated at 40 cm due to being sterile for cultural materials. STP 5 was located within Feature 5. STP 5 was positive and yielded a total of 17 glass fragments, 11 miscellaneous metal, and 6 cans. STP 5 was terminated at 50 cm due to a bedrock layer and did not yield cultural material (Wolf et al. 2014).

The results of this testing effort concluded that Mancara-01 does not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered a historical resource and is recommended as not significant under CEQA and not eligible for listing in the CRHR. The results of this effort are attached as Confidential Appendix A.

5.2 Archival Research

In addition to the SCCIC records search, Dudek conducted an online review of Bureau of Land Management records, historic aerial photographs (historic aerials or aerial images) and historic topographic maps (historic topos) to better understand the historic development of the API and surrounding vicinities over time.

An 1877 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) General Land Office Map for Township 4 North and Range 15 West shows a wagon road, as well as a building labeled “T. Thompson’s House” at the location of BSC-DF-S-006 (BLM 2025a). Historic aerials of the API are available from 1928 to 2020 (UCSB 2025; NETR 2024). The first available historic aerial from 1928 depicts two small buildings extant within the central portion of the northern parcel at the location of BSC-DF-S-006, as well as a building extant within the northern portion of the southern parcel at the location of Mancara-01. Additionally, the 1928 historic aerial depicts a railway alignment (BSC-RB-S-001) bisecting the southern parcel of the Project area on an east to west axis. Sand Canyon Road and Lost Canyon Road are also depicted in the 1928 historic aerial, adjacent to the Project area and within the API (UCSB 2025). The next available historic aerial from 1954 reveals another railway alignment to the north, running on an east to west axis between the northern and southern parcels, but not contained within the Project area. By 1959, the aerial image shows grading activity in the northwestern portion of the northern parcel. Overall, the 1959 aerial image shows a steady increase in residential and informal roadway development within the general API and surroundings (including within and adjacent to Lost Canyon Road and Sand Canyon Road). By 1974, the aerial imagery shows the residential property once contained within the northern portion of the southern parcel now demolished. Between 1978 to 1985, there are no substantial changes to the Project area as evidenced by the historic aerials. By 1985, there is construction activity immediately west of the southern parcel. Between 1968 to 1992, there are no substantial changes to the Project area as evidenced by the historic aerials. By 1994, the aerial imagery reveals evidence of grading in the western portion of the northern parcel. By 1997, the aerial image shows the residential property once located in the central portion of the northern parcel now demolished. Both the 1999 and 2000 aerial images show more grading activity in the central portion of the southern parcel as well as the development of a golf course within the proposed J Street. The aerial imagery from 2005 shows no substantial changes to the API. The current condition of the API and general vicinity are similar to that as seen in the 2009 aerial image (NETR 2024).

Historic topographic maps of the API are available from 1900 to 1995 (USGS 2024). The first available historic topo from 1900 reveals the presence of a railway alignment bisecting the southern parcel of the Project area on an east to west axis. This alignment is labeled on the historic topo as the “Southern Pacific Railroad” (BSC-RB-S-001). By 1940, Sand Canyon Road is also depicted running on a north to south axis adjacent to the Project area and within the API. There are no significant changes to the Project area as depicted in the historic topos until 1955. By 1955, the historic topo reveals a residential property contained within the central portion of northern parcel. The next available historic topo from 1961 shows an additional residential property contained within the northern portion of the southern parcel, and an additional railway alignment bisecting the northern and southern parcels and within the API (SPRR Soledad Canyon Line). This alignment is now labeled as the “Southern Pacific Railroad” and the older alignment first identified in the historic topo from 1900 is now labeled “Old Railroad Grade” (BSC-RB-S-001) (USGS 2024). There are no observable changes in the Project area as evidenced in the historic topographic maps from 1961 to the last available in 1995.

Overall, Dudek’s review of historic aerial photographs and historic topographic maps reveals that approximately 10% of the API has been subject to past disturbances associated with residential development, roadway development, and various earth moving activities. Additionally, the historic aerial imagery provides evidence that two now-demolished residences were once contained within the Project area. The residence within the central portion of the northern parcel appeared in the first available historic aerial from 1928 and was demolished circa (ca.) 1997. Evidence from BLM records indicates that this residence likely dated back to ca. 1877. This historic-era residence is likely associated with the newly identified resource BSC-DF-S-006. The residence within the northern portion of the southern parcel first appeared in the 1928 historic aerial and was demolished ca. 1974. This historic-era residence is likely associated with the previously identified resource Mancara-01. Additionally, the now decommissioned railway alignment identified in the first available historic topo from 1900 remains within the Project area. This old railroad grade is of the former Southern Pacific Railroad alignment and is directly associated with the embankment and floodplain culvert identified as part of newly recorded resource BSC-RB-S-001. This review also indicated that the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line, in its current alignment, was relocated from BSC-RB-S-001 between 1955 and 1959. BSC-DF-S-005 was not visible in any of the historic aerials nor identified in the historic topographic maps.

5.3 Review of Geomorphological Context

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture, there are a total of six soil types found within the Project area: Hanford sandy loam, Metz sandy loam, Oak Glen gravelly sandy loam, Riverwash, Sandy alluvial, and Saugus loam (USDA 2024). Hanford sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes, are located in the central portion of the Project area, generally occur at elevations ranging from 2,600 ft to 4,200 ft amsl in alluvial fans and are comprised of granite. Metz sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes, are located in the western portion of the Project area, generally occur at elevations ranging from 30 ft to 2,500 ft amsl in alluvial fans and flood plains and are comprised of alluvium. Oak Glen gravelly sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes, are located in the south-central portion of the Project area, generally occur at elevations ranging from 3,400 ft to 5,200 ft amsl in alluvial fans and are comprised of alluvium. Sandy alluvial deposits are located in the northeastern portion of the Project area, generally occur in floodplains, and are comprised of alluvium. Riverwash series soils are located in the northern portion of the Project area, generally occur in drainageways, and are comprised of alluvium. Saugus loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes, are located in the northwestern and the southern portion of the Project area, generally occur at elevations ranging from 600 to 2,500 ft amsl and are comprised of weakly consolidated alluvium. Reoccurring alluvial action and flooding serve to support

the development and presence of cultural deposits in the area. Alluvial soils are present within the Project area, which have a moderate potential for supporting the presence of subsurface archaeological deposits.

5.4 Built Environment Literature Review and Background Research

This section provides a summary of the background research methods used to investigate the presence of built environment resources within the API.

5.4.1 Built Environment Resource Directory

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) maintains the Built Environment Resource Directory, an inventory of built environment cultural resources that are processed through OHP's office. On September 17, 2025, a Dudek architectural historian reviewed the Built Environment Resource Directory to determine if there were previously recorded or evaluated resources from the study area were listed. The SPRR Soledad Canyon Line was not listed in the BERD.

5.4.2 Calisphere

Calisphere provides access to 2,000 collections contributed by more than 300 cultural heritage organizations in California, including universities, libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies. Dudek searched for information regarding the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line on Calisphere on September 17, 2025. This search did not identify any materials pertaining to the railroad.

5.4.3 Online Archive of California

The Online Archive of California provides free public access to detailed descriptions of primary resource collections maintained by more than 300 contributing institutions including libraries, special collections, archives, historical societies, and museums throughout California and collections maintained by the 10 University of California campuses. A Dudek architectural historian searched for information associated with the subject properties on the Online Archive of California on September 17, 2025, and did not identify any relevant materials.

5.4.4 City of Santa Clarita List of Historic Structures

As part of the background research for this study, Dudek reviewed the City of Santa Clarita List of Historic Structures. The inventory includes a list of properties throughout the City that have been determined significant within the City's criteria for listing as a historic resource. The SPRR Soledad Canyon Line is not included in the City's inventory (City of Santa Clarita 2013).

5.4.5 County of Los Angeles Register of Landmarks and Historic Districts

The County Register is the County of Los Angeles' official list designated landmarks and historic districts in the unincorporated areas of the county. The County Register is maintained by the Historical Landmarks and Records Commission. Dudek reviewed the County Register on September 17, 2025. The SPRR Soledad Canyon Line was not included on the County Register (Los Angeles County 2025).

5.4.6 Historic Aerials

A review of historic aerial photographs was conducted as part of the archival research effort for the proposed project. Dudek reviewed historical aerial photographs from 1948, 1952, 1954, 1959, 1969, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1985, 1986, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022. The aerial photographs provided a general idea of growth of the area. Information from these photographs is integrated into Section 3.4, Historic Setting, and discussed in Section 5.6, Survey Results (NETR 2024a).

5.4.7 Historic Maps

Dudek reviewed historical topographic maps from 1900, 1905, 1910, 1914, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1945, 1946, 1955, 1961, 1964, 1975, 1988, 1994, 1999, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2022. The topographic maps are a historical source that can be used to document the prior use of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line and surrounding area. Information from these maps is integrated into Section 3.4, Historic Setting, and discussed in Section 5.6, Survey Results (NETR 2024b).

5.5 Native American Coordination

On April 17, 2024, Dudek requested a search of the NAHC SLF. The SLF consists of a database of known Native American resources. These resources may not be included in the SCCIC database. The NAHC emailed a response letter on May 6, 2024; Results were negative. The NAHC additionally provided a list of Native American tribes and individuals/organizations with traditional geographic associations that might have knowledge of cultural resources in this area.

Please note that TCRs (as defined by PRC Section 21074(a)) represent an independent, albeit often related, resource type under CEQA. Dudek is not aware of any TCRs that would be impacted by the Project as presently designed. While this report made every effort to identify potential impacts to TCRs based on currently available information, ultimately, the formal identification of TCRs as well as the documentation of cultural values attributed to such TCRs, are determined through the AB 52 government-to-government process of project noticing and consultation, if requested, conducted by the lead agency in coordination with culturally affiliated Native American tribes. Information derived from the City's tribal consultation process is not addressed in this report.

5.6 Survey Results

Updated cultural resources pedestrian surveys of the API were completed by Dudek archaeologists David Faith and Shane McDonnell on April 8, 2024, and April 9, 2024, Roshanne Bakhtiary on November 21, 2024, and Dudek architectural historians Katie Ahmanson and Claire Cancilla on September 25, 2025. The API consists of two pieces of undeveloped land, a portion of an operational railway, a portion of a golf course, and formal roadways. The topography of the API is a mixture of flat landscape and undulating hills. Visibility of the ground surface was poor (10-20%) throughout the entire API due to dense vegetation coverage and hardscape. Vegetation within the API primarily consists of sagebrush, golden currant, tall grasses, chamise, oak, eucalyptus, and other desert flora including cacti. The ground soil consists of light brown sandy loam with angular and subangular gravels. There were several notable disturbances within the API, including a significant amount of single-lane hiking and biking trails, two-track dirt roads (including built up road embankments), formal roadways, culverts and other irrigation features, underground utilities, riprap from the railway, and piles of dirt. Additionally, modern debris (e.g., appliances, tires, automobile parts, plastic fragments, irrigation pipes, glass fragments, concrete, sandbags, nondescript refuse) were strewn throughout the API. The entire API appears to be a place where people regularly dump modern refuse.

Overall, Dudek revisited one previously recorded historic-era archaeological resource (Mancara-01) and recorded three newly identified historic-era archaeological resources during the 2024 pedestrian survey (BSC-DF-S-005, BSC-DF-S-006 and BSC-RB-S-001). Additionally, one historic-era (over 45 years of age) built environment resource, The SPRR Soledad Canyon Line, was recorded during 2025 survey efforts. The survey of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line was conducted from the public right-of-way. A Cultural Resources Overview Map as well as DPR site forms for all resources are included in Confidential Appendix D. All resources are discussed in detail below.

5.6.1 Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources

Mancara-01

Mancara-01 was originally recorded as a historic-era residential site by Dudek in 2014 (Wolf et al. 2014). The resource consists of five features: a concrete structure pad, a separate fallen chimney, a rock ring, a small fish/water pond feature, and a small deposit of historic trash/refuse (Exhibit 2-4). In 2014, Dudek performed an archaeological testing effort to determine if Mancara-01 presented the potential to contain significant subsurface archeological deposits. The results of this testing effort concluded that Mancara-01 does not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered a historical resource and is recommended as not significant under CEQA and not eligible for listing in the CRHR.

Dudek revisited Mancara-01 during the 2024 pedestrian survey and was observed to be in the same condition as originally recorded in 2014. No additional artifacts or features were observed.

5.6.2 Newly Recorded Archaeological Resources

BSC-DF-S-005

This historic-era resource is a square-shaped concrete and mortar structure measuring 3 ft (L) x 3 ft (W) x 3.5 ft (H). The concrete and mortar walls measure 3 1/8 inches thick (Exhibit 5). The feature is located in the northeastern most corner of the northern parcel of the Project area. There are four openings visible at the bottom interior of the

resource, which appear to be inlets for pipes. These all measure about 12 inches in diameter. The resource has some debris inside, such as vegetation, sediment, and one piece of milled lumber. BSC-DF-S-005 is situated less than 25 ft south of the Santa Clara River riverbed. There were no associated artifacts observed in the vicinity of BSC-DF-S-005. Additionally, there were no obvious dates/markings visible on the structure upon in-field inspection.

BSC-DF-S-006

This historic-era resource consists of four features (Feature 1, Feature 2, Feature 3, Feature 4), all located in proximity within the central aspect of the northern parcel of the Project area.

Feature 1 is characterized as a concrete pad measuring approximately 7 ft L (N/S) x 7 ft W (E/W) x 3 inches thick, and contains two vertical iron pipes, and a wood post. There are no other associated artifacts or features observed in the immediate vicinity of Feature 1. Additionally, there were no obvious dates/markings on the feature upon in-field inspection.

Feature 2 is a nearly square concrete structure measuring 5 ft L (N/S) x 4 ft W (E/W) x 26 inches H. The concrete walls are 6 inches thick. There are no other associated artifacts or features observed in the immediate vicinity of Feature 2. Additionally, there were no obvious dates/markings on the structure upon in-field inspection.

Feature 3 is a square-shaped concrete structure measuring 3 ft (L) x 3 ft (W) x 3 ft (H). It is situated about 6 ft south of an east-west trending hiking/dirt bike trail. The concrete walls measure 4 ½ inches thick. There are no other associated artifacts or features observed in the immediate vicinity of Feature 3. Additionally, there were no obvious dates/markings on the structure upon in-field inspection.

Feature 4 is a tall standing concrete structure measuring 7 ½ ft L (N/S) x 7 ½ ft W (E/W) x 12 ft H (Exhibit 7). There is an opening on the west side of it for a door. The opening measures 3 ½ ft W x 6 ½ ft H. The concrete walls are approximately 9 inches thick. The feature is located in the central aspect of the northern parcel. There are no other associated artifacts or features observed in the immediate vicinity of Feature 4. Additionally, there were no obvious dates/markings on the structure upon in-field inspection (Exhibit 6).

BSC-RB-S-001

This resource consists of four historic-era features (Features 1, 2, 3, and 4) associated with a former railroad alignment that once ran on an east to west axis through the center of the southern parcel of the Project area. Dudek's archival research indicates that this embankment was the former alignment of the Southern Pacific Railroad, which has since been bypassed by its current grade, now located to the north between the northern and southern parcels of the Project area. Dudek's archival research further indicates that this alignment predates 1900 and was abandoned for its current grade between 1955 and 1959 (USGS 2024).

Feature 1 consists of an earthen embankment that runs on an east to west axis and is comprised of built-up earthwork ballasted with imported gravel and soil. Feature 1 is approximately 2,700 (feet) ft in length. The basal width of the embankment varies from 15-25 ft and the top width varies from 7-15 ft (Exhibit 7). At the western end of the embankment, the grade height is diminished, and it is difficult to discern the alignment due to poor structural integrity. Towards the eastern end of the project area the embankment rises 20 ft above the native ground surface (Exhibit 8). In-field recordation utilized a metal detector to perform systematic transects across the top of the embankment to determine the potential for buried metallic deposits (i.e. tracks and/or ties). Overall, survey efforts failed to identify any additional features, railroad-associated artifacts, or buried components of the railway segment

(negative scan) that once existed atop the embankment. At several points, the grade has been disturbed by erosion and appears to be uneven and overgrown with vegetation.

Features 2, 3, and 4 are associated with a historic-era floodplain culvert that is situated under Feature 1, the earthen railway embankment.

Feature 2, the southern end wall of the culvert, is partially buried and measures 8.5 ft (L) x 1.5 ft (H). No width measurement was recorded due to the amount of debris and overburden covering the feature. Inscribed within the southern wall of Feature 2 is “1923”.

Feature 3, the northern end wall of the culvert, is located north of Feature 2 across the earthen railway embankment (approximately 20 ft in width) and measures 8.5 ft (L) x 1.5 ft (W) x 2 ft (H) (Exhibit 9).

Feature 4 is the associated shallow sloping drainage swale located to the north of Features 1, 2, and 3. Feature 4 is trapezoidal in shape and is approximately 150 ft (N/S) by 212 ft (E/W) at its widest point.

Exhibit 2. Mancara-01, Feature 1, foundation, view to the east.



Exhibit 3. Mancara-01, Feature 3, chimney, view to the east.



Exhibit 4. Mancara-01, Feature 4, rock ring, view to the northeast.



Exhibit 5. BSC-DF-S-005, concrete cistern, view to the northwest.



Exhibit 6. BSC-DF-S-006, Feature 4, standing structure, view to the southeast.



Exhibit 7. BSC-RB-S-001, Feature 1, earthen embankment, view to the east.



Exhibit 8. BSC-RB-S-001, Feature 1, earthen embankment, view to the southeast.



Exhibit 9. BSC-RB-S-001, Feature 3, concrete water conveyance system, view to the south.



5.6.3 Newly Recorded Built Environment Resources

Southern Pacific Railroad Soledad Canyon Line

Description

The former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment within the API consists of an approximately 1-mile segment along the south side of Soledad Canyon Road (Exhibit 10). The segment travels northeast through the API, beginning where the railroad intersects Oakspring Canyon Road to the west, and ending to the east in the southwest portion of Section 18 within the Township 4 North and Range 15 West. The railway is composed of a double-track railway with standard gauge rails resting on a combination of timber and concrete ties and a raised bed of crushed stone. The former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment contains associated infrastructure such as traffic signals, a railroad switch, and a point machine. It does not contain any sidetracks, bridges, trestles, or drainage features. The present tracks have been replaced over the years to maintain the railway's continuous operation since 1876, and were realigned between 1955 and 1959 (Exhibit 12). Overall, the railroad segment appears in good condition. The SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment is bounded by undeveloped rural land and surrounded by scattered single-family residences to the south and west, Interstate-14 and Soledad Canyon Road to the north, and mountains to the east.

Exhibit 10. View of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment, view looking northeast. 9/25/2025.



Source: Dudek 2025 (IMG_2142).

Exhibit 11. View of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment, view looking west. 9/25/2025.



Source: Dudek 2025 (IMG_2152).

Exhibit 12. View of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment, view looking west. 9/25/2025.



Source: Dudek 2025 (IMG_9348).

Building Permits and Identified Alterations

The City of Santa Clarita does not have any permits on file for the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line. The following alterations were identified through archival research and during the survey conducted on September 25, 2025:

- **Between 1898 and 1901:** the addition of a second track and spur lines at some point (USGS 2025: 1898 Pomona Quadrangle; USGS 2025: 1901 Southern California Quadrangle).
- **Between 1955 and 1959:** realignment of the subject segment of the railroad in Sections 24 and 18 within the Township 4 North and Range 15 West (NETR 2025a; NETR 2025b)
- **Between 1953 and 1964:** increased modern urban development began to replace the original rural and agricultural setting through which the railroad originally traversed (NETR 2025a)
- **Unknown date:** Replacement of original steel rails, ballast, wooden ties as part of routine maintenance (observed)

6 Significance Evaluation Findings

This section summarizes the results of the significance evaluations conducted for the newly identified cultural resources within the API.

6.1 Significance Evaluations for Archaeological Resources

6.1.1 Resource Mancara-01 Evaluation Concurrence

NRHP/CRHR Eligibility

In 2014, Dudek conducted sub-surface testing in support of evaluation efforts for Mancara-01. Overall, Dudek recommended that Mancara-01 as not significant or a unique archaeological resource under CEQA, and ineligible for inclusion in the CRHR. This study concurs with Dudek's 2014 conclusion that Mancara-01 does not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered a historical resource and is recommended ineligible for listing on the NRHP, CRHR and not significant or unique archaeological resources under CEQA. The 2014 study (including the results of the testing and evaluation efforts) is attached as Confidential Appendix A.

It is unlikely that Mancara-01 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history and cultural heritage (Criterion A/1). Additionally, Mancara-01 is likely not associated with the lives of persons important in our past (Criterion B/2). Mancara-01 does not contain components of individual distinction. Therefore, it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values (Criterion C/3). It is unlikely that additional significant information could be gathered from further investigation of Mancara-01. Additionally, no significant associated artifacts or historic-era debris were identified during 2014 testing efforts at Mancara-01. As such, Mancara-01 does not have the potential to provide information important to the history of the country, state, or region (Criterion D/4). Therefore, Dudek recommends that Mancara-01 is not significant or a unique archaeological resource under CEQA and not eligible for listing in the NRHP and CRHR.

City of Santa Clarita Eligibility

Mancara-01 was also evaluated for eligibility under the City of Santa Clarita's local Criteria (A-E). Mancara-01 is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the historical, cultural, or architectural development of the City, State, or Nation (Criterion A), nor is it associated with persons significant in local, state, or national history (Criterion B). Mancara-01 does not embody distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, or represent a valuable example of indigenous materials or craftsmanship (Criterion C). Mancara-01 does not possess a unique location, singular physical characteristics, or represent an established or familiar visual feature of the community (Criterion D). Finally, Mancara-01 has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important to the history or prehistory of the City, State, or Nation (Criterion E). Therefore, Mancara-01 is recommended ineligible for listing on the City of Santa Clarita List of Historic Resources.

6.1.2 Resource BSC-DF-S-005 Evaluation

NRHP/CRHR Eligibility

BSC-DF-S-005 is characterized as an historic-era standing concrete and mortar structure that is located directly adjacent to the southern edge of the Santa Clara riverbed. This structure was likely used as a residential water storage tank, or cistern, and is inoperative. Although there is no direct evidence to indicate when this resource was constructed, it is likely associated with the historic-era residences that once existed within the Project area, dated to the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries, respectively. Overall, there are no defining and/or diagnostic markings/structural features on this resource, nor is the make and material representative of a particular style or period in time.

It is unlikely that BSC-DF-S-005 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history and cultural heritage (Criterion A/1). Additionally, BSC-DF-S-005 is not associated with the lives of persons important in our past (Criterion B/2). BSC-DF-S-005 does not contain components of individual distinction, and cisterns of this construction are common throughout California and the Nation. Therefore, it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values (Criterion C/3). It is unlikely that additional significant information could be gathered from further investigation of BSC-DF-S-005. Additionally, no associated artifacts or historic-era debris were identified within the vicinity of BSC-DF-S-005. As such, BSC-DF-S-005 does not have the potential to provide information important to the history of the country, state, or region (Criterion D/4). Therefore, Dudek recommends that BSC-DF-S-005 is not significant or a unique archaeological resource under CEQA and not eligible for listing in the NRHP and CRHR.

City of Santa Clarita Eligibility

BSC-DF-S-005 was also evaluated for eligibility under the City of Santa Clarita's local Criteria (A-E). BSC-DF-S-005 is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the historical, cultural, or architectural development of the City, State, or Nation (Criterion A), nor is it associated with persons significant in local, state, or national history (Criterion B). BSC-DF-S-005 does not embody distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, or represent a valuable example of indigenous materials or craftsmanship (Criterion C). BSC-DF-S-005 does not possess a unique location, singular physical characteristics, or represent an established or familiar visual feature of the community (Criterion D). Finally, BSC-DF-S-005 has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important to the history or prehistory of the City, State, or Nation (Criterion E). Therefore, BSC-DF-S-005 is recommended ineligible for listing on the City of Santa Clarita List of Historic Resources.

6.1.3 Resource BSC-DF-S-006 Evaluation

NRHP/CRHR Eligibility

BSC-DF-S-006 consists of four features within proximity to each other, all located in the central aspect of the northern parcel of the Project area. Feature 1 is characterized as a concrete pad that contains two vertical iron pipes and a wooden post. Feature 2 and Feature 3 are both characterized as small concrete structures and Feature 4 is characterized as a tall standing concrete structure with an opening for a door. Dudek's review of BLM records, historic aerial photographs and historic topographic maps indicate that BSC-DF-S-006 is likely the remains of a historic-era residence dated ca. 1877. An 1877 BLM General Land Office Map for Township 4 North and Range 15

West shows a wagon road, as well as a building labeled “T. Thompson’s House” at the location of BSC-DF-S-006 (BLM 2025a). Land patents from the BLM indicate that Thomas Christopherson Thompson obtained a patent for lands within the area in 1881 (BLM 2025b). Thompson was born in Norway in 1847 and according to the 1920 census, worked as a carpenter. By the time of the 1920 census, he had moved to Pasadena, California where he lived with his wife, Cecelia Thompson (Ancestry.com 1920). Thompson died in 1927 (Pasadena Post 1927). Dudek’s archival research did not identify any additional occupants associated with the residence following Thompson’s departure, until the structures were demolished ca. 1997.

Overall, it appears that the building associated with the Thompson residence remained in the same footprint and configuration from 1928 until 1997, when the buildings were demolished and the area graded and cleared. There appear to be no other associated artifacts, historic-era debris, or features observed in the general vicinity of BSC-DF-S-006.

It is unlikely that BSC-DF-S-006 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history and cultural heritage (Criterion A/1). Additionally, BSC-DF-S-006 is likely not associated with the lives of persons important in our past (Criterion B/2). BSC-DF-S-006 does not contain components of individual distinction, as many of the features lack the defining characteristics to derive use, original form, and function. Therefore, it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values (Criterion C/3). It is unlikely that additional significant information could be gathered from further investigation of BSC-DF-S-006. Additionally, no associated artifacts or historic-era debris were identified within the vicinity of BSC-DF-S-006. As such, BSC-DF-S-006 does not have the potential to provide information important to the history of the country, state, or region (Criterion D/4). Additionally, and due to the grading and clearing that occurred within the general area, BSC-DF-S-006 lacks the integrity to convey its significance as an historic-era residence. Therefore, Dudek recommends that BSC-DF-S-006 is not significant or a unique archaeological resource under CEQA and not eligible for listing in the NRHP and CRHR.

City of Santa Clarita Eligibility

BSC-DF-S-006 was also evaluated for eligibility under the City of Santa Clarita’s local Criteria (A-E). BSC-DF-S-006 is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the historical, cultural, or architectural development of the City, State, or Nation (Criterion A), nor is it associated with persons significant in local, state, or national history (Criterion B). BSC-DF-S-006 does not embody distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, or represent a valuable example of indigenous materials or craftsmanship (Criterion C). BSC-DF-S-006 does not possess a unique location, singular physical characteristics, or represent an established or familiar visual feature of the community (Criterion D). Finally, BSC-DF-S-006 has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important to the history or prehistory of the City, State, or Nation (Criterion E). Therefore, BSC-DF-S-006 is recommended ineligible for listing on the City of Santa Clarita List of Historic Resources.

6.1.4 Resource BSC-RB-S-001 Evaluation

NRHP/CRHR Eligibility

BSC-RB-S-001 consists of four features associated with an earthen embankment that once functioned as grade to the former alignment of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Though historic topographic maps indicate this segment was constructed prior to 1900 (USGS 2024), further research indicates a construction date ca. the 1870s, when the

Southern Pacific Railroad's Soledad Canyon Line was under construction (Kelly 1984). The line was completed in 1876, marking a decades long effort by Southern Pacific to connect Los Angeles and San Francisco via their San Joaquin Valley Route. Lang Station, located approximately two miles from the recorded segment of BSC-RB-S-001, was the final connection point of the route, memorialized by a golden railroad spike laid in 1876, and later by a California Historic Landmark designation (No. 590) in 1957 (California Historic Landmarks 2016; Jonhstone 2005; Lang Station: Recalling a Forgotten Monument 1993). Lang Station was torn down when passenger service ended in 1971. A monument in its former location reads: "On September 5, 1876, Charles Crocker, president, Southern Pacific Railroad, drove a gold spike here to complete his company's San Joaquin Valley Route, first rail connection of Los Angeles with San Francisco and transcontinental lines" (Lang Station: Recalling a Forgotten Monument 1993). Though BSC-RB-S-001 once functioned as grade for a segment of Southern Pacific's seminal Soledad Canyon Line, archival research indicates it was bypassed between 1955 and 1959 for its current grade, now located to the north between the northern and southern parcels of the Project area (USGS 2024). This realignment was likely due to the many flooding events that affected the Soledad Canyon Line throughout the 1940s and 1950s (Kelly 1984).

Features 2, 3, and 4 are also distinctly associated with a historic-era floodplain culvert that is situated under Feature 1, the larger earthen railway embankment described above. Floodplain culverts are commonly set under roads, trails, or other infrastructure that cross floodplains. They are typically designed to allow runoff to remain in the natural floodplains during a flooding event instead of confining flow to a main channel as often found in traditional culvert design (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2017). Feature 2, 3, and 4 were likely developed to accommodate seasonal flooding of the nearby Santa Clara River and allow runoff from the hillsides into the riverbed without otherwise flooding the now decommissioned railway.

BSC-RB-S-001 lacks integrity which is an important component of a resource's significance. A metal detector was utilized to perform systematic transects across the top of the embankment to determine the potential for buried metallic deposits (i.e. tracks and/or ties). Overall, survey efforts failed to identify any additional features, railroad-associated artifacts, or buried components of the railway segment (negative scan) that once existed atop the embankment. At several points, the grade has been disturbed by erosion and appears to be uneven and overgrown with vegetation. Additionally, towards the west, the grade is greatly diminished in height, and it is difficult to discern the alignment due to its poor structural integrity.

Although BSC-RB-S-001 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California history and cultural heritage, BSC-RB-S-001 lacks the physical characteristics that could convey its significance as a segment of the Soledad Canyon Line of the Southern Pacific Railroad's San Joaquin Valley Route (Criterion A/1). Additionally, BSC-RB-S-001 is likely not associated with the lives of persons important in our past (Criterion B/2). BSC-RB-S-001 does not contain components of individual distinction, as the embankment lacks any character-defining features that embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values (Criterion C/3). It is unlikely that additional significant information could be gathered from further investigation of BSC-RB-S-001 as no associated artifacts or historic-era debris were identified atop or within the vicinity of the embankment. As such, BSC-RB-S-001 does not have the potential to provide information important to the history of the state or region (Criterion D/4). Therefore, Dudek recommends that BSC-RB-S-001 is not significant or a unique archaeological resource under CEQA and not eligible for listing in the NRHP and CRHR.

City of Santa Clarita Eligibility

BSC-RB-S-001 was also evaluated for eligibility under the City of Santa Clarita's local Criteria A through E. Although BSC-RB-S-001 is associated with events that contributed to the historical development of the City and State, it lacks the physical characteristics necessary to convey its significance as a segment of the Soledad Canyon Line of the Southern Pacific Railroad's San Joaquin Valley Route (Criterion A). BSC-RB-S-001 is not associated with persons significant in local, state, or national history (Criterion B). BSC-RB-S-001 does not embody distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, nor does it represent a valuable example of indigenous materials or craftsmanship (Criterion C). BSC-RB-S-001 does not possess a unique location, singular physical characteristics, or represent an established or familiar visual feature of the community (Criterion D). Finally, BSC-RB-S-001 has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important to the history or prehistory of the City, State, or Nation (Criterion E). Therefore, BSC-RB-S-001 is recommended ineligible for listing on the City of Santa Clarita List of Historic Resources.

6.2 Significance Evaluations for Built Environment Resources

The following section provides an evaluation of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment under NRHP, CRHR, and City of Santa Clarita significance criteria and integrity considerations.

6.2.1 SPRR Soledad Canyon Line Evaluation

NRHP/CRHR Eligibility

Under NRHP and CRHR Criteria A/1, the segment of the former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line evaluated for this study appears to possess a direct and important association with the SPRR's San Joaquin Valley Route connecting Los Angeles and San Francisco. The final connection point of the route was memorialized by a golden railroad spike laid in 1876 at Lang Station. Santa Clarita developed along the route after its completion because of its access to larger transportation systems across the state, such as the northern California portion of the first transcontinental railroad in Sacramento. Access to a transcontinental railroad from the Soledad Canyon line opened new markets across the United States to mining and oil companies in Santa Clarita. Due to its location approximately two miles from Lang Station, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment appears to have a direct and significant association with the San Joaquin Valley Route. With the completion of the transcontinental railroad via the SPRR Sunset Route from Los Angeles to New Orleans in 1883, Los Angeles County experienced a period of rapid population growth, commercial agriculture expansion, and economic development that was directly attributed to the new railroad line. The SPRR Sunset Route provided a catalyst for the area's growth and development during the early twentieth century, before the development of the Angeles Forest Highway in 1941 and the federal highway system in the 1950s. Under Criterion A/1, the potential period of significance for the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line would be from 1876, when it was completed, to 1883, when the SPRR Sunset Route was constructed in Los Angeles as a direct route to the transcontinental railroad in the Los Angeles region. Because of the important contribution to the economic development of Santa Clarita during the period between 1876 and 1883, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line appears to possess associative significance under NRHP Criterion A and CRHR Criterion 1.

Under NRHP and CRHR Criteria B/2, the segment of the former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line lacks a significant association with the productive life of any person important in local, state, or national history. The railroad was owned and operated by SPRR from its construction circa 1873 until it was purchased by the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission in 1992, and control of the railroad was transferred to Metrolink. As of 2025, Metrolink continue to operate the railroad as a commuter line. Although the directors of the SPRR, Charles Crocker, Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins, and Collis P. Huntington (known collectively as the “Big Four”), were prominent and influential figures in the transportation history of California, none of these individuals are known to have had a direct involvement in the construction or operation of the subject segment. The subject segment was essentially a corporate undertaking representing the collective decisions of its board of directors, managers, and engineers, rather than the distinctive contributions of any single individual. Additionally, research uncovered no other individual associated with this railroad who made a demonstrably and singularly important contribution to history at the local, state, or national level. Due to a lack of identified significant associations with any persons important in our past, the subject railroad is recommended not eligible under NRHP Criterion B and CRHR Criterion 2.

Under NRHP and CRHR Criteria C/3, the segment of the former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a particular type, a period, or a method of railroad construction, nor does it represent the work of a master engineer, possess high artistic value, or contribute to the significance of a potential or existing historic district. The subject railroad segment exemplifies common, standardized railroad designs and construction methods characteristic of those used during the late nineteenth century, as well as throughout the twentieth century and even today. These design and construction methods include standard-gauge steel tracks with an overall width of 4 feet, 8.5 inches, steel tie plates and pins, timber cross ties, and a raised bed of gravel ballast. Since railroad designs and construction methods during this period have not changed substantially, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment does not qualify as an important representation of the variation, evolution, or transition of railroad development under Criterion C/3. As an undistinguished and undifferentiated example of standardized railroad infrastructure, the subject railroad is recommended not eligible under NRHP Criterion C and CRHR Criterion 3.

Under NRHP and CRHR Criteria D/4, the subject property is not significant as a source, or likely source, of important historical information, nor does it appear likely to yield important information about historic construction methods, materials, or technologies. This technology is well understood through contemporary trade journals and scientific monographs. As such, the subject property lacks significance under NRHP Criterion D and CRHR Criterion 4.

City of Santa Clarita Eligibility

As discussed under NRHP/CRHR Criteria A/1, research indicates that the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line conveys significance as an important contribution to the economic development of Santa Clarita between 1876 and 1883. Therefore, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line is eligible for City of Santa Clarita Criterion A.

As discussed in NRHP/CRHR Criteria B/2, research did not indicate that the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment is associated with the directors of the SPRR who were important to the past. Due to a lack of identified significant associations with any persons important in our past, the subject railroad is recommended not eligible under City of Santa Clarita Criterion B.

As discussed in NRHP/CRHR Criterion C/3, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment is not distinctive in terms of a particular type of railroad, a period, or a method of railroad construction, nor is it a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship. The railroad is a common, standardized example of a railroad. As such, the railroad segment is recommended not eligible under City of Santa Clarita Criterion C.

Under Santa Clarita Criteria D, the segment of the former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line does not have a unique location or singular physical characteristic, nor is it a view or vista representing established and familiar visual features of the neighborhood, community, or city. Research did not reveal that the subject property is included in a unique location possessing a concentration of historic or scenic properties (i.e., a district). The railroad was constructed by 1876 before the development of the area. Historic Aerials indicate that much of the surrounding area was developed with modern urban properties that replaced the original rural and agricultural setting between 1953 and 1964 and no longer retains its historic appearance. As such, it is not recommended eligible under City of Santa Clarita Criterion D.

As discussed in NRHP/CRHR Criterion D/4, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment is not likely to yield information important to the history or prehistory of the City, State, or nation. As such, the subject property lacks significance under City of Santa Clarita Criterion E.

Integrity

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. Because the concept of integrity is based on significance, the assessment of a property's integrity can only proceed after its significance has been fully established. In addition to meeting at least one of the significance criteria discussed above, the assessment of integrity requires consideration under the following seven aspects or qualities: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. To retain integrity, a property will always possess several, and generally most, of these aspects. Determining which aspects are most important requires an understanding of why, where, and when the property is significant.

- Location is the place where elements of the railroad were constructed and operated. A railroad segment that has been realigned will not retain its integrity of location. Locational elements of the railroad include the route's horizontal alignment (the general route and the degree of the route's curves) and the vertical alignment (the degree of the route's gradient). To retain integrity of location, the route must conform to the horizontal and vertical alignment that was present at the end of the railroad's period of significance, or potential period of significance, which in the specific case of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment would be 1883. The subject segment was realigned between 1955 and 1959 to avoid seasonal flooding in the surrounding area. Therefore, it does not retain integrity of location.
- Design is the combination of planned, developed, and constructed elements of the railroad that created its form, plan, and structure. The railroad's design includes its alignment, the configuration of its tracks (single or double tracked), the gauge of its tracks (narrow or standard), the type of ballast used in the roadway bed, and the incorporation of fill, cuts, and ditches. The SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment does not retain its original alignment, and its configuration was modified after the end of its potential period of significance (1876-1883) with the addition of a second track and spur lines between 1898 and 1901. As such, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment does not retain integrity of design.
- Materials are the physical elements that were combined to form the railroad during its period of significance. The materials associated with the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment include the rock ballast, steel tracks, steel tie plates and pins, and timber cross ties. While the replacement of these elements represents a loss of historic materials, it has not resulted in a complete loss of the railroad's integrity of materials, since the original materials have been largely replaced in-kind with materials that appear nearly identical to their historic counterparts. One visible exception consists of the modern concrete

cross ties that have replaced the historic timber ties. Overall, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment has diminished integrity of materials.

- Setting is the physical environment of the railroad and includes properties adjacent to the right-of-way, as well as rural or urban landscapes that characterize the area. To retain integrity of setting, the existing general land uses adjacent to the railroad must be similar to those that existed historically during the railroad's period of significance. In the specific case of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment, none of the current surrounding buildings or modern infrastructure existed during the railroad's potential period of significance (1876-1883). The SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment's original setting consisted of an open, undeveloped rural landscape. After World War II, the rural character of the area surrounding the railroad was replaced by a modern urban landscape defined by industrial, residential, and commercial uses. As such, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment no longer retains its integrity of setting.
- Feeling is conveyed through the railroad's ability to express its historic function and feel from its period of significance. Feeling represents the cumulative presence of the railroad's character defining features and a compatible setting that conveys the feeling of traveling on a railroad during its period of significance. The extent to which a railroad corridor retains its integrity of feeling is based on the extent to which it retains other aspects of its integrity. In the specific case of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment, it no longer retains its integrity of feeling due to its incompatible setting and modern intrusions.
- Association is the direct link between the railroad and the significant transportation it provided. A railroad retains its integrity of association if it retains its integrity of location, materials, and design. In the specific case of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment, the railroad no longer retains its integrity of location or design and has diminished integrity of materials. Additionally, the segment has not been associated with the SPRR since its closure in 1979. Therefore, it no longer retains integrity of association.
- Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Workmanship is not a meaningful factor in evaluating the integrity of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment due to its utilitarian nature and the standardized design of its components.

Although when looking at it as a whole, the railroad meets NRHP Criterion A and CRHR Criterion 1 this is a small segment of the former SPRR Soledad Canyon Line lacks sufficient integrity to convey its significance. Integrity of location, an important aspect of the integrity of a linear feature such as this, is significantly compromised. Its realignment and the change in ties, ballast, and going from a single-track to a double-track have altered integrity of design and materials. Integrity of association is lost because the alterations and changes in ownership have rendered it unable to convey its historic character. Lastly, integrity of the setting is altered by the highway and residential development. For these reasons, the resource lacks the integrity necessary to convey its significance and is not eligible for NRHP Criterion A and CRHR Criterion 1.

7 Summary and Management Recommendations

7.1 Summary

Dudek conducted a cultural resources inventory and evaluation in support of the Belcaro at Sand Canyon Project. Efforts included a records search, an archival information and literature review, correspondence with the Native American Heritage Commission, a cultural resources pedestrian survey of the API, the recordation and evaluation of three newly identified historic-era archaeological resources and one newly identified historic-era built environment resource, and an evaluation concurrence of one previously identified historic-era archaeological resource under the NRHP, the CRHR, and the City of Santa Clarita criteria.

Though the SCCIC records search results indicated that no previously recorded cultural resources intersected with the API, one previously recorded resource, Mancara-01, was recorded within the Project area by Dudek in 2014. A NAHC SLF search was also requested for the proposed Project, and results were negative for Native American cultural resources within one mile of the Project area.

Mancara-01 is characterized as an historic-era residential site containing various building features and an associated refuse deposit. Archival research indicates that the residence associated with Mancara-01 was constructed in the late-1950s and demolished ca. 1974. Ultimately, Dudek's 2014 testing efforts at Mancara-01 concluded that the resource does not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered a historical resource and is recommended as not significant or a unique archaeological resource under CEQA and not eligible for listing in the CRHR. This study concurs with Dudek's 2014 conclusion that Mancara-01 does not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered a significant or unique archaeological resource under CEQA and is recommended ineligible for listing on the NRHP, CRHR, and the City of Santa Clarita's List of Historic Resources.

2024 and 2025 cultural resources pedestrian surveys of the API identified an additional three historic-era archaeological resources (BSC-DF-S-005, BSC-DF-S-006, and BSC-RB-S-001) and one newly identified historic-era built environment resource (SPRR Soledad Canyon Line) within the API. BSC-DF-S-005 is characterized as a water storage tank, or cistern. BSC-DF-S-006 is comprised of four concrete features (three structures and a concrete pad) and was likely associated with an historic-era residence once located within the Project area. Archival research indicates that this residence was likely ca. 1877 and demolished ca. 1997. BSC-RB-S-001 is characterized as a historic-era earthen embankment and associated floodplain culvert was also identified within the Project area. RSB-RB-S-001 runs on an east to west axis through the Project and is the former alignment of the Southern Pacific Railroad dated pre-1900. Additionally, the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line is characterized as an operational double-track railway constructed between 1955 and 1959.

Archival research indicates that the vast majority of the API remained undeveloped throughout the twentieth century, though a small portion of the API was subject to past grading activities associated with ground and structure clearance, roadway development, and small-scale agriculture practices. A review of the geomorphological context of the Project area further indicates the presence of underlying alluvial deposits, which in general, have a moderate potential for supporting the presence of subsurface archaeological deposits. Given the Project's location near the Santa Clara River, the API would have likely been used by indigenous Native American inhabitants prior to Euromerican contact.

BSC-DF-S-005, BSC-DF-S-006, BSC-RB-S-001 and a segment of the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line were evaluated as part of the current study. Dudek concludes that all three historic-era archaeological resources do not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered significant or unique archaeological resources under CEQA and are recommended ineligible for listing on the NRHP, CRHR, and the City of Santa Clarita's List of Historic Resources. Although the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line was found to possess significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1 and the City of Santa Clarita's List of Historic Resources under Criterion A due to its association with the San Joaquin Valley Route and its contribution to the economic development of the Santa Clarita during the period between 1876 and 1883, the subject railroad segment lacks the integrity necessary to convey its significance and, therefore, is recommended ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP, CRHR, and the City of Santa Clarita's List of Historic Resources.

7.2 Archaeological Resources Findings

Based on the presence of various historic-era archaeological resources within and adjacent to the API, the Project's location directly adjacent to the Santa Clara River, and in consideration of the lack of previous disturbances within Project area, there is a moderate potential for the inadvertent discovery of subsurface archaeological resources (prehistoric and historic) during Project implementation. Dudek recommends archaeological monitoring during initial ground disturbing activities for the Project. If disturbed sediments (e.g., fill) or other sediments and formations are identified that do not have the potential to contain archaeological resources, then monitoring may be reduced or terminated.

The requirement for a Native American monitor shall be determined by the lead agency based on government-to-government consultation pursuant to AB 52.

Cultural Resources Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Protocols

Archaeological monitors shall be present during all initial ground-disturbing activities occurring within 50 feet of the previously recorded resources Mancara-01, BSC-DF-S-005, and BSC-DF-S-006. Areas of lower sensitivity shall be subject to weekly spot checks. Archaeological monitoring may be adjusted (increase, decreased, or discontinued) at the recommendation of the archaeological principal investigator based on inspection of exposed cultural material and the observed potential for soils to contain intact cultural deposits or otherwise significant archaeological material. The archaeological monitor shall be provided a copy of this technical report and its pertinent appendices to inform their monitoring efforts. The archaeological monitor shall have the authority to temporarily halt work to inspect areas for potential cultural material or deposits. The requirement for a Native American monitor shall be determined by the lead agency based on government-to-government consultation pursuant to AB 52.

In the event that unanticipated archaeological deposits or features are exposed during construction activities, all construction work occurring within 50 feet of the find shall immediately stop until the archaeological principal investigator, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for archaeology, is provided access to the Project area and can assess the significance of the find and determine whether or not additional study is warranted. The work exclusion buffer may be adjusted as appropriate to allow work to feasibly continue at the recommendation of the archaeological principal investigator. Should it be required, temporary flagging shall be installed around this resource in order to avoid any disturbances from construction equipment. The potential for avoidance should be the primary consideration of this initial process. Significance of the find shall be assessed as outlined by CEQA (14 CCR 15064.5[f]; PRC Section 21082). If the archaeological principal investigator observes the discovery to be potentially significant under CEQA or Section 106 of the NHPA, additional efforts, such as

preparation of an archaeological treatment plan, testing, and/or data recovery, may be warranted prior to allowing construction to proceed in this area.

In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if potential human remains are found, the county coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery. The coroner shall provide a determination within 48 hours of notification. No further excavation or disturbance of the identified material, or any area reasonably suspected to overlie additional remains, shall occur until a determination has been made regarding if the find is human in origin. If the county coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, the coroner shall notify the NAHC within 24 hours. In accordance with PRC Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendent from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent shall then recommend to the lead agency their preferred treatment of the remains and any associated grave goods.

Reporting Requirements

An on-site archaeological monitor shall complete monitoring logs for each day they are present to observe ground-disturbing activities on the Project. Within 60 days following completion of construction, the qualified archaeological principal investigator shall provide an archaeological monitoring report to the City. This report shall include the results of the cultural monitoring program (even if negative), including a summary of any findings or evaluation/data recovery efforts, and supporting documentation that demonstrates all mitigation measures defined in the environmental document were appropriately met. Appendices shall include archaeological monitoring logs and documentation relating to any newly identified or updated cultural resources. This report shall be submitted to the SCCIC once considered final.

7.3 Built Environment Findings

Dudek's archival research and pedestrian survey identified one historic-era built environment resource within the API that required consideration as a historical resource under CEQA. The SPRR Soledad Canyon Line was evaluated under NRHP, CRHR, and City of Santa Clarita criteria and was found to meet NRHP/CRHR Criteria A/1 and City of Santa Clarita Criteria A any for its association with the SPRR San Joaquin Valley Route during the period between 1876 and 1883. However, because the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line segment lacks the integrity necessary to convey its significance, it does not appear to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, CRHR, or City of Santa Clarita's List of Historic Resources either individually or as a contributing element to an existing historic district or a potential linear historic district such as the SPRR Soledad Canyon Line (which are presumed to be NRHP, CRHR, and City of Santa Clarita eligible for the purposes of the analysis). Therefore, the recommended CHRS Code for the property is 6Z, meaning it was found ineligible for the NRHP and CRHR through survey evaluation, and the proposed project would not cause an impact to historical resources. No further study is recommended.

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CONFIDENTIAL Appendix A

Cultural Resources Survey Report for the
Mancara Project, City of Santa Clarita,
Los Angeles County, California

CONFIDENTIAL Appendix B
South Central Coastal Information Center
Record Search Results

Appendix C

Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File Search Results

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: Belcaro at Sand Canyon Project (PN# 15388)

County: Los Angeles County

USGS Quadrangle Name: 7.5-Minute Series Mint Canyon Quadrangle

Township: 4N **Range:** 15W **Section(s):** 24

Company/Firm/Agency: Dudek

Street Address: 605 Third Street

City: Encinitas **Zip:** 92024

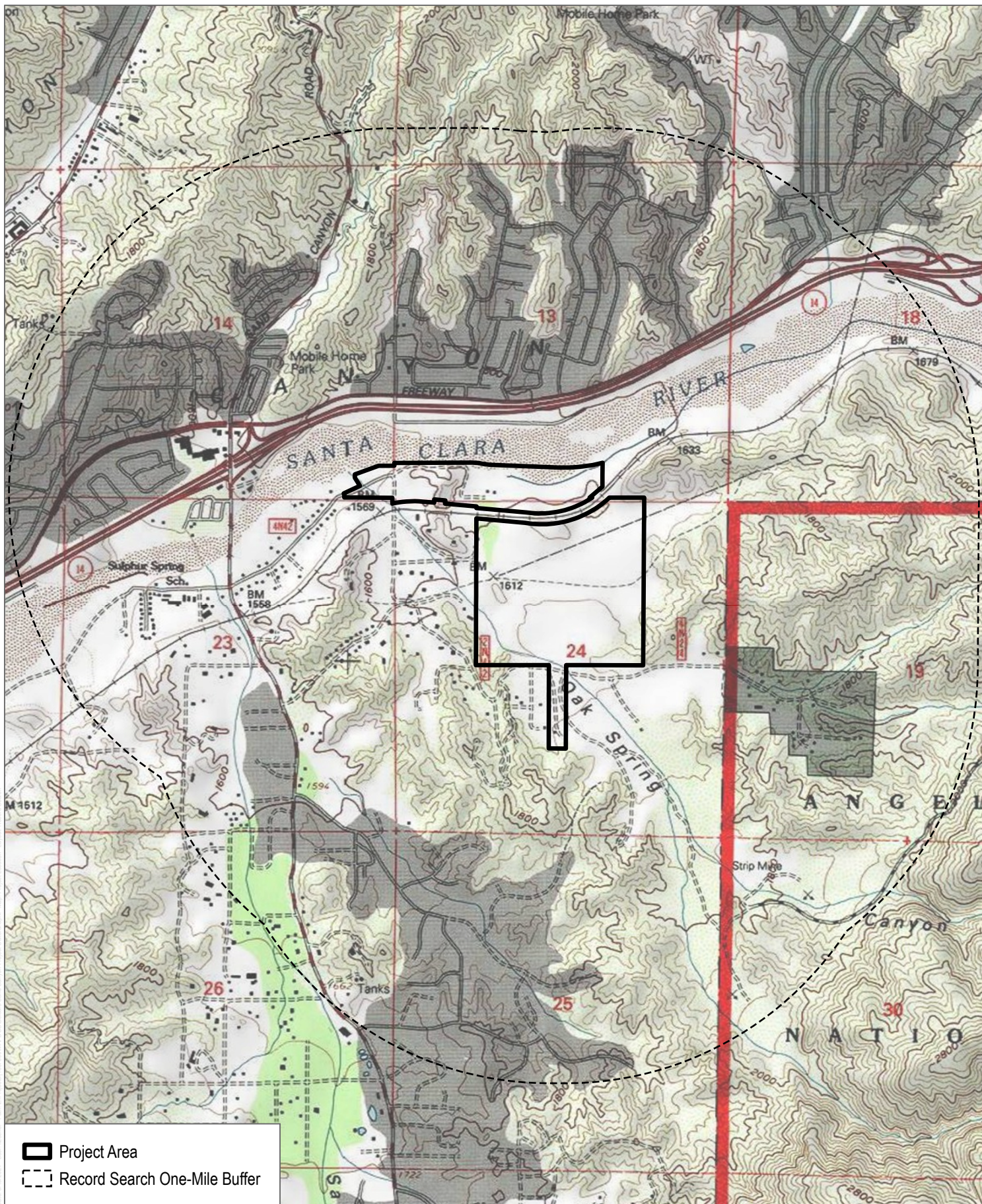
Phone: 760.479.4827

Fax: 760.632.0164

Email: mmurillo@dudek.com & rbakhtiarydudek.com

Project Description:

The project includes development of a residential community for a 55+ year old/deed restricted active adult community containing 359 detached residential units, a three-acre private recreation center, and approximately 92-acres of open space. The project area is located south of the Santa Clara River and SR-14, north/east of Oak Springs Canyon Road on Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs): 2840-015-025, -031, -032, -033, -034, -035, -045, -047, and 2840-001-118.



SOURCE: USGS Topo 7.5-Minute Series
 Mint Canyon Quadrangle - Township 4N Range 15W Section 24



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

May 6, 2024

Makayla Murillo
Dudek

Via Email to: mmurillo@dudek.com & rbakhtiar@dudek.com

Re: Belcaro at Sand Canyon Project, Los Angeles County

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Laurena Bolden
Serrano

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Bennae Calac
Pauma-Yuima Band of
Luiseño Indians

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
**Raymond C.
Hitchcock**
Miwok, Nisenan

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

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Los Angeles County
5/6/2024

Tribe Name	F/ N	Contact Person	Contact Address	P#	Email Address	Aff.	Counties	Last Updated
Barbareño/ Ventureño Band of Mission Indians	N	Cultural Resource Committee,	P.O. Box 364 Ojai, CA, 93024	(805) 746- 6685	CR@bvbmi.com	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	6/19/2023
Chumash Council of Bakersfield	N	Julio Quair, Chairperson	729 Texas Street Bakersfiel d, CA, 93307	(661) 322- 0121	chumashtribe@sbcglobal.net	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	
Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation	N	Gabe Frausto, Chairman	P.O. Box 40653 Santa Barbara, CA, 93140	(805) 568- 8063	fraustogabriel28@gmail.com	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	8/28/2023
Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians	N	Sarah Brunzell, CRM Manager	1019 Second Street San Fernando, CA, 91340	(818) 837- 0794	CRM@tataviam-nsn.us	Tataviam	Kern, Los Angeles, Ventura	5/25/2023
Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation	N	Christina Swindall Martinez, Secretary	P.O. Box 393 Covina, CA, 91723	(844) 390- 0787	admin@gabrielenoindians.org	Gabrieleno	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura	8/18/2023
Gabrieleno Band of Mission	N	Andrew Salas, Chairperson	P.O. Box 393 Covina,	(844) 390- 0787	admin@gabrielenoindians.org	Gabrieleno	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San	8/18/2023

Tribe Name	F/ N	Contact Person	Contact Address	P#	Email Address	Aff.	Counties	Last Updated
Indians - Kizh Nation			CA, 91723				Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura	
Gabrieleno/ Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians	N	Anthony Morales, Chairperson	P.O. Box 693 San Gabriel, CA, 91778	(626) 483- 3564	GTTribalcouncil@aol.com	Gabrieleno	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura	12/4/2023
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council	N	Robert Dorame, Chairperson	P.O. Box 490 Bellflower , CA, 90707	(562) 761- 6417	gtongva@gmail.com	Gabrielino	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura	3/16/2023
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council	N	Christina Conley, Cultural Resource Administra- tor	P.O. Box 941078 Simi Valley, CA, 93094	(626) 407- 8761	christina.marsden@alumni.u sc.edu	Gabrielino	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura	3/16/2023
Gabrielino/ Tongva Nation	N	Sandonne Goad, Chairperson	106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St., #231 Los Angeles, CA, 90012	(951) 807- 0479	sgoad@gabrielino- tongva.com	Gabrielino	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura	3/28/2023
Gabrielino- Tongva Tribe	N	Charles Alvarez, Chairperson	23454 Vanowen Street West Hills, CA, 91307	(310) 403- 6048	Chavez1956metro@gmail.c om	Gabrielino	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura	5/30/2023

Tribe Name	F/ N	Contact Person	Contact Address	P#	Email Address	Aff.	Counties	Last Updated
Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe	N	Sam Dunlap, Cultural Resource Director	P.O. Box 3919 Seal Beach, CA, 90740	(909) 262-9351	tongvatcr@gmail.com	Gabrielino	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura	5/30/2023
Northern Chumash Tribal Council	N	Violet Walker, Chairperson	P.O. Box 6533 Los Osos, CA, 93412	(760) 549-3532	violetsagewalker@gmail.com	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	6/5/2023
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians	N	Donna Yocum, Chairperson	P.O. Box 221838 Newhall, CA, 91322	(503) 539-0933	dyocum@sfbmi.org	Kitanemuk Vanyume Tataviam	Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura	5/8/2023
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Vanessa Minott, Tribal Administrator	P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 659-2700	vminott@santarosa-nsn.gov	Cahuilla	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	4/8/2024
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Steven Estrada, Tribal Chairman	P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 659-2700	sestrada@santarosa-nsn.gov	Cahuilla	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	4/8/2024
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Crystal Mendoza, Elders' Council Administrative Assistant	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460	(805) 325-5537	cmendoza@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	2/27/2024
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Sam Cohen, Government & Legal Affairs Director	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460		scohen@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023

Tribe Name	F/ N	Contact Person	Contact Address	P#	Email Address	Aff.	Counties	Last Updated
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Nakia Zavalla, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460		nzavalla@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Wendy Teeter, Cultural Resources Archaeologist	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460	(805) 325- 8630	wteeter@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 654- 5544	ivivanco@soboba-nsn.com	Cahuilla Luiseno	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	7/14/2023
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663- 6261	jvaldez@soboba-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Luiseno	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	7/14/2023
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Joseph Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663- 5279	jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Luiseno	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	7/14/2023

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 Belcaro at Sand Canyon Project, Los Angeles County.

CONFIDENTIAL Appendix D

Cultural Resources Overview Map and Department of
Parks and Recreation Site Forms