Cultural Resource Assessment for the Fort Amethyst Self Storage Project, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California

JUNE 2023

PREPARED FOR

Westgate Plaza LLC

PREPARED BY

SWCA Environmental Consultants

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Purpose and Scope: SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) was retained by Westgate Plaza LLC (applicant) to perform a cultural resources assessment in support of the proposed Fort Amethyst Self Storage Project (Project) in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The applicant proposes to construct a new self-service storage facility on undeveloped land. As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Victorville (City) requires the assessment of potentially significant impacts to the environment caused by construction or implementation of the project.

This report documents the methods and results of the cultural resource assessment to identify historical resources within the Project area. The investigations included a confidential records search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), archival research, and an intensive pedestrian survey. Efforts were also made to assess the likelihood of encountering buried cultural resources within the Project area and inform the analysis of potential impacts in accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.

Dates of Investigation: SWCA requested a search of the SLF and list of Native American contacts through the NAHC on March 16, 2023, for the Project area. A response from the NAHC was received on April 12, 2023, and indicated positive results. The NAHC requested that the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe be contacted and provided a list of 14 tribal representatives, including from other tribes, who may have concerns or further knowledge of resources and sites within the Project vicinity. SWCA forwarded the results to the applicant and SWCA understands that that the City has been notified. SWCA completed an in person records search South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton, a branch of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), on March 21, 2023. The search examined the Project area and a 1.6-km [1.0-mile] radius around the Project area. SWCA also completed an archaeological survey of the Project area on April 19, 2023, and archival research between April 2023 and June 2023.

Summary of Findings: The CHRIS records search identified eight previously recorded cultural resources within a 1.6-km (1.0-mile) radius of the Project area. None of the cultural resources were within the Project area. Seven of the eight cultural resources identified were historic in age. The single prehistoric resource consisted of a lithic scatter (P-36-012839). The SLF search was positive for tribal cultural resources or potential tribal cultural resources and the NAHC requested that the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe be contacted. Results of an intensive pedestrian survey were negative for archaeological or historic resources.

Recommendations: SWCA conducted a CHRIS records search and an intensive pedestrian survey within the Project area. No cultural resources were identified within the Project area, the surface of which is unpaved but had poor (5-10%) ground surface visibility. It is SWCA's determination that the Project area has low to moderate sensitivity for prehistoric and historic resources and that SWCA recommends the Project area be resurveyed during vegetation removal and grubbing to identify any archaeological materials on the surface of the site that may not have been visible during the survey. Development of a Monitoring Plan and Monitoring may be required should any evidence of archaeological deposits be found. Due to the presence of a tribal cultural resource in the Project vicinity, SWCA recommends contacting the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and the other tribe contacts provided by the NAHC.

Disposition of Data: The final cultural resources survey report and any subsequent related reports will be filed with the City, Westgate Plaza LLC, SWCA's Pasadena office, and the South Central Coastal

Information Center at California State University, Fullerton. All field notes, photographs, and records related to the current study are also on file at the SWCA Pasadena office.

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INTRODUCTION

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) was retained by Westgate Plaza LLC (applicant) to perform a cultural resources assessment in support of the proposed Fort Amethyst Self Storage Project (Project) in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The applicant proposes to construct a new self-service storage facility on undeveloped land. As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Victorville (City) requires the assessment of potentially significant impacts to the environment caused by construction or implementation of the project.

This report documents the methods and results of the cultural resource assessment to identify historical resources within the Project area. The investigations included a confidential records search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), archival research, and an intensive pedestrian survey. Efforts were also made to assess the likelihood of encountering buried cultural resources within the Project area and inform the analysis of potential impacts in accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.

This report was prepared by SWCA archaeologist David K. Sayre, B.A. SWCA archaeologist Annes Kim, B.A., conducted the archaeological survey of the Project area. The report was reviewed for technical accuracy and quality assurance by SWCA Principal Investigator John J. Eddy, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA). This report and any subsequent related reports will be filed with the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) and with SWCA's Pasadena, California, office. All field notes, photographs, and records related to the current study are on file at the SWCA Pasadena office.

Project Description and Location

The Project includes the development of a new self-storage facility on an approximately 8.14-acre (122,350-square-foot) site east of Amethyst Road, about 630 feet south of Palmdale Road and bordered on the east side by Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light Road, directly west of their high-tension power lines (Project area) (Figure 2). The Project area comprises a single parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 310-529-101) in Section 24, Township 5 North, Range 5 West on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Victorville, California, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 3). The Project will include 24 new one-story buildings with a total of seven parking spaces. One of the one-story buildings is an office/apartment located in the northern portion of the Project area. The maximum depth of excavation for the subterranean parking is expected to be approximately 10 feet below ground surface (bgs). The Project area is currently undeveloped land with several two-track roads crisscrossing the parcel.

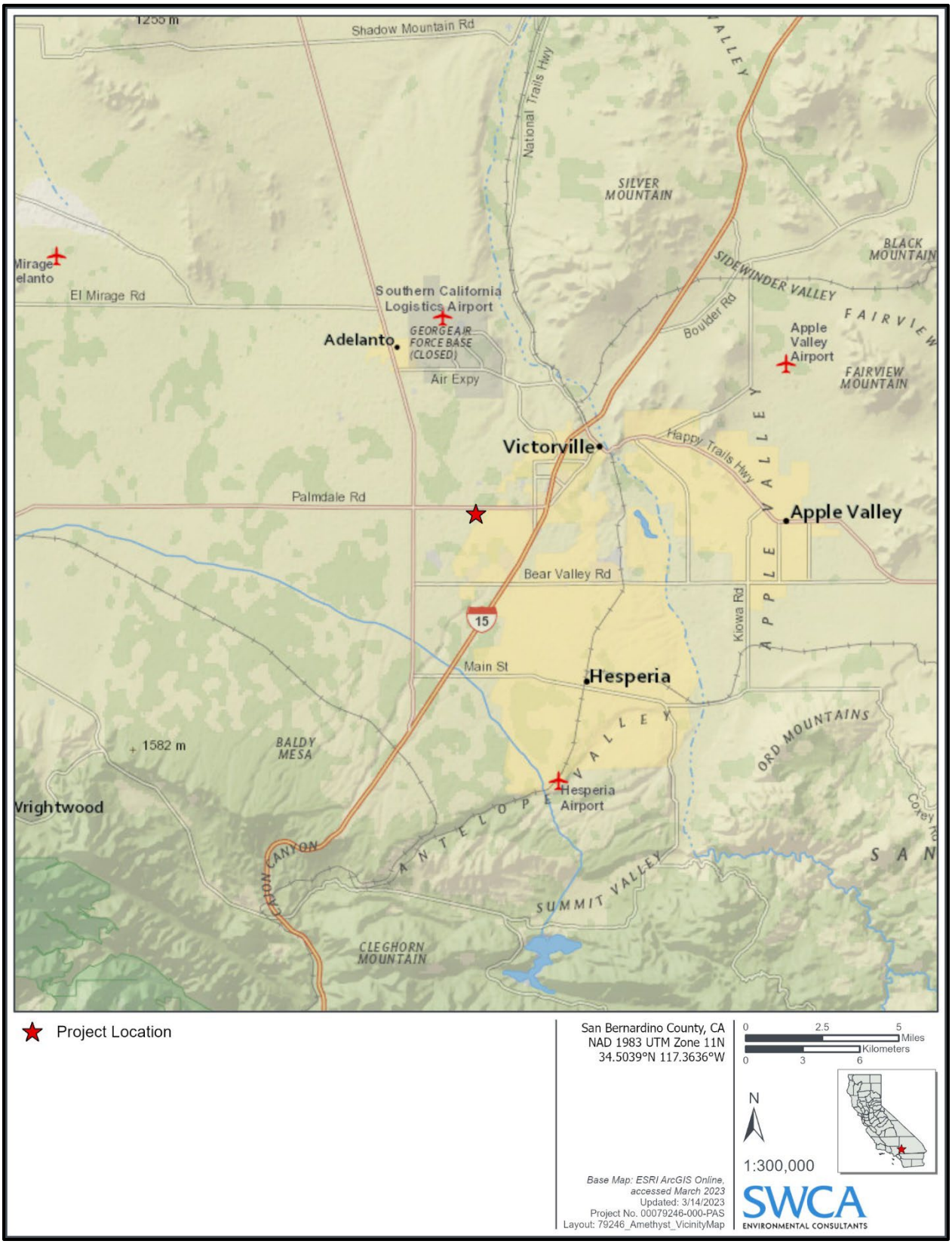

Figure 1. Project vicinity.

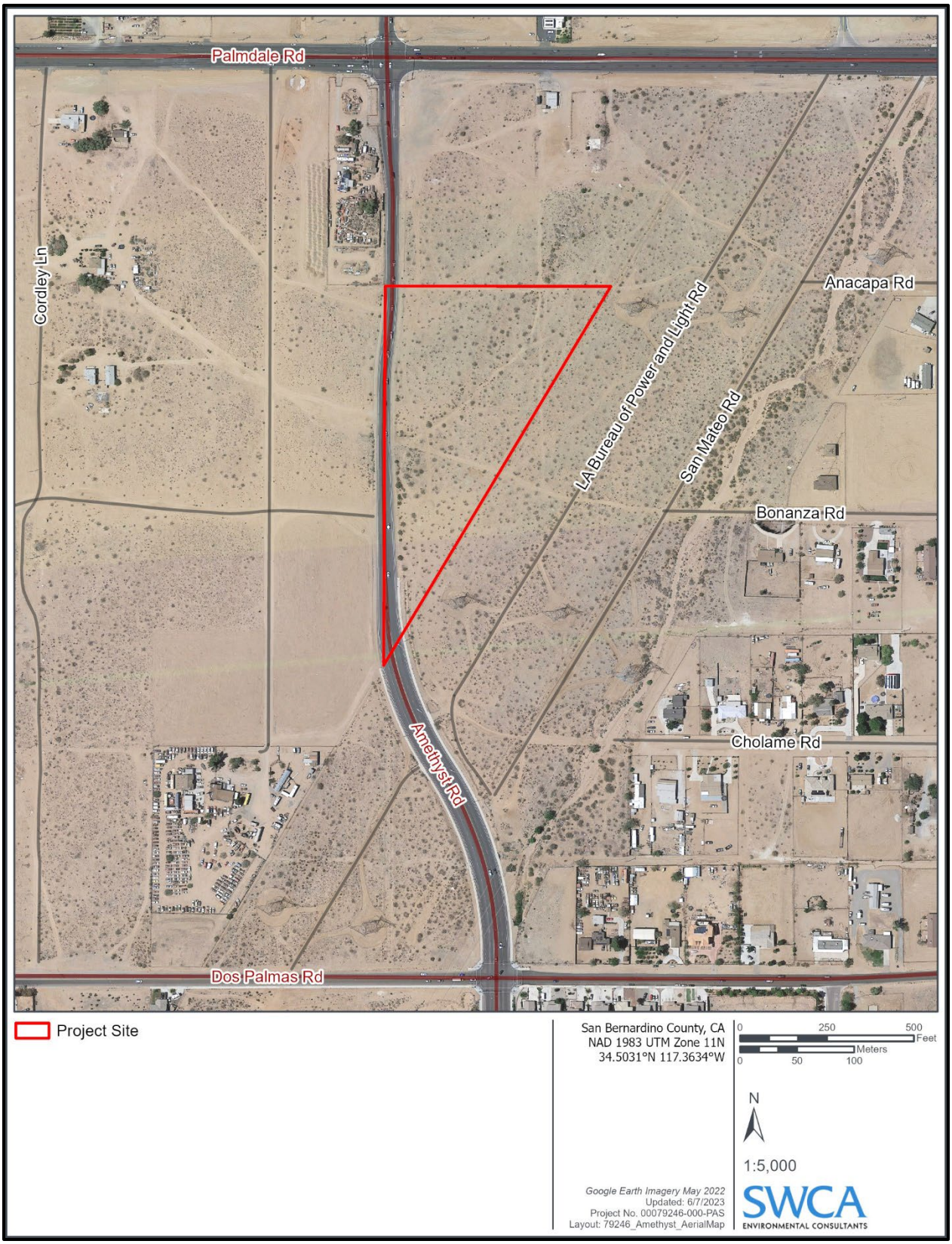

Figure 2. Project area shown on a 2020 aerial photograph.

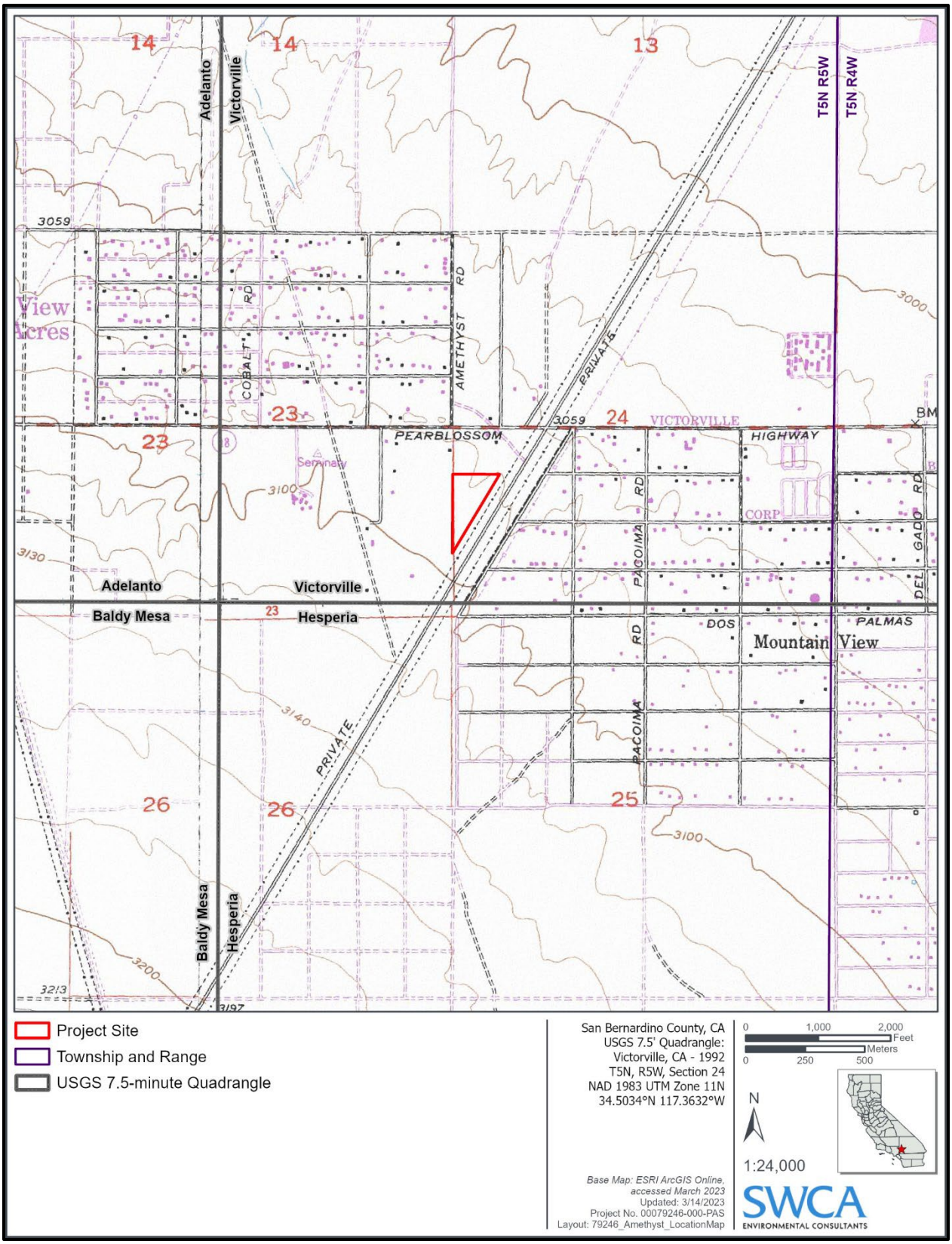

Figure 3. Project location plotted on USGS Victorville, California, 7.5-minute quadrangle.

REGULATORY SETTING

This section identifies regulations, state legislation, and local statutes, ordinances, and guidelines that govern the identification and treatment of cultural resources and analysis of project-related effects to cultural resources. The lead agency must consider these requirements in making decisions on projects that may affect cultural resources.

State Regulations

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), a division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), performs certain duties described in the California Public Resources Code (PRC) and maintains the California Historic Resources Inventory and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The state-level regulatory framework also includes CEQA, which requires the identification and mitigation, if necessary, of substantial adverse impacts that may affect the significance of eligible historical and archaeological resources.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires a lead agency to analyze whether historic and/or archaeological resources may be adversely affected by a proposed project. Under CEQA, a "project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC 21084.1). This analysis involves a two-part process: first, the determination must be made whether the proposed project involves cultural resources. Second, if cultural resources are present, the proposed project must be analyzed for a potential "substantial adverse change in the significance" of the resource.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

According to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, for the purposes of CEQA, historical resources are defined as follows:

- A resource listed in, or formally determined eligible…for listing in the CRHR (PRC 5024.1, 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 4850 et seq.).
- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC 5020.1(k) or identified as significance in a historic resources survey meeting the requirements of PRC 5024.1(g).
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that the lead agency determines to be eligible for national, state, or local landmark listing; generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be historically significant (and therefore a historic resource under CEQA) if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the CRHR (as defined in PRC 5024.1, 14 CCR 4852).

Resources nominated to the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to convey the reasons for their significance. Resources whose historic integrity (as defined above) does not meet National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

According to CEQA, the fact that a resource is not listed in or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR or is not included in a local register or survey shall not preclude the lead agency from determining that the resource may be a historical resource (PRC 5024.1). Pursuant to CEQA, a project with an effect that may

cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5[b]).

Substantial Adverse Change and Indirect Impacts to Historical Resources

CEQA guidelines specify that a "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" (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5). Material impairment occurs when a project alters in an adverse manner or demolishes "those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion" or eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP, CRHR, or local register. In addition, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.2, the "direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment shall be clearly identified and described, giving due consideration to both the short-term and long-term effects."

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

In terms of archaeological resources, PRC 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.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY BILL 52

Assembly Bill 52 of 2014 (AB 52) amended PRC 5097.94 and added PRC 21073, 21074(a) and (b), 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 21084.3.

Consultation with Native Americans

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, 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.

Tribal Cultural Resources

Section 4 of AB 52 adds Sections 21074(a) and (b) to the PRC, which address tribal cultural resources and cultural landscapes. PRC 21074(a) defines tribal cultural resources as one of the following:

1. Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
    a. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR.
    b. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.

2. 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. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

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

California Register of Historical Resources

Created in 1992 and implemented in 1998, the CRHR is "an authoritative guide in California 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 21083.2 and 21084.1). Certain properties, including those listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP and California Historical Landmarks numbered 770 and higher, are automatically included in the CRHR. Other properties recognized under the California Points of Historical Interest program, identified as significant in historical resources surveys, or designated by local landmarks programs, may be nominated for inclusion in the CRHR. According to PRC 5024.1(c), a resource, either an individual property or a contributor to a historic district, may be listed in the CRHR if the State Historical Resources Commission determines that it meets one or more of the following criteria, which are modeled on NRHP criteria.

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

Resources nominated to the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to convey the reasons for their significance. Resources whose historic integrity does not meet NRHP criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR. While all sites are evaluated according to all four of the CRHR criteria, the eligibility for archaeological resources is typically considered under Criterion 4. Most prehistoric archaeological sites are lacking identifiable or important association with specific persons or events of regional or national history (Criteria 1 and 2) or lack the formal and structural attributes necessary to qualify as eligible under Criterion 3.

An archaeological site may be considered significant if it displays one or more of the following attributes: chronologically diagnostic, functionally diagnostic, or exotic artifacts; datable materials; definable activity areas; multiple components; faunal or floral remains; archaeological or architectural features;

notable complexity, size, integrity, time span, or depth; or stratified deposits. Determining the period(s) of occupation at a site provides a context for the types of activities undertaken and may well supply a link with other sites and cultural processes in the region. Further, well-defined temporal parameters can help illuminate processes of culture change and continuity in relation to natural environmental factors and interactions with other cultural groups. Finally, chronological controls might provide a link to regionally important research questions and topics of more general theoretical relevance. As a result, the ability to determine the temporal parameters of a site's occupation is critical for a finding of eligibility under Criterion 4 (information potential). A site that cannot be dated is unlikely to possess the quality of significance required for CRHR eligibility or be considered a unique archaeological resource. The content of an archaeological site provides information regarding its cultural affiliations, temporal periods of use, functionality, and other aspects of its occupation history. The range and variability of artifacts present in the site can allow for reconstruction of changes in ethnic affiliation, diet, social structure, economics, technology, industrial change, and other aspects of culture.

Treatment of Human Remains

The disposition of burials falls first under the general prohibition on disturbing or removing human remains under California Health and Safety Code 7050.5. More specifically, remains suspected to be Native American are treated under CEQA at CCR 15064.5; PRC 5097.98 illustrates the process to be followed in the event that remains are discovered. If human remains are discovered during construction, no further disturbance to the site shall occur, and the County Coroner must be notified (CCR 15064.5 and PRC 5097.98).

Local Regulations

City of Victorville General Plan

The Resource Element of the City of Victorville 2008 General Plan recognizes cultural resources (pages R-13 through R-17) and contains a goal (Goal 5/Objective 5: pages R-28 and R-29) of "preservation of important cultural resources" and to "protect identified archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources within the planning area" of the city (City of Victorville 2008). The Resource Element includes the following objectives, policies, and implementation measures to preserve cultural resources:

> **Objective 5.1:** Preserve known and expected cultural resources.
>
> > **Policy 5.1.1:** Determine presence/absence of and consider impacts to cultural resources in the review of public and private development and infrastructure projects.
> >
> > > **Implementation Measure 5.1.1.3:** When warranted based on the findings of recon-naissance level surveys by a qualified professional archaeologist and/or transmittals from the AIC, require Phase I cultural resource assessments by qualified archaeologists, historians, and/or architectural historians, especially in areas of high sensitivity for cultural resources, as shown on the maps maintained in the City Planning Department. The scope of such a survey shall include, as appropriate, in-depth records search at the AIC, historic background research, intensive-level field survey, consultation with the Mohave Historical Society, and consultation with the appropriate Native American representatives and tribal organizations.

> **Policy 5.1.2:** Prohibit destruction of cultural and paleontological materials that contain information of importance to our knowledge of the evolution of life forms and history of human settlement in the Planning Area, unless sufficient documentation of that information is accomplished and distributed to the appropriate scientific community. Require mitigation of any significant impacts that may be identified in project or program-level cultural and paleontological assessments as a condition of project or program approval.
>
> > **Implementation Measure 5.1.2.1:** Enact a historic preservation ordinance and/or prepare a historic preservation plan to outline the goals and objectives of the City's historic preservation programs and present an official historic context statement for the evaluation of cultural resources within the City's jurisdiction. (City of Victorville 2008: R-28–R-29)

METHODS

CHRIS Records Search

On March 16, 2023, SWCA requested a confidential search of the CHRIS records from the SCCIC on the campus of California State University, Fullerton. SWCA conducted an in-person records search at the SCCIC on March 21, 2023 and SWCA used the results of this search to identify previously documented cultural resources within a 1.6-kilometer (km) (1.0-mile) radius of the Project area and to aid in the assessment of archaeological resource sensitivity. The Project area is entirely within San Bernardino County, and the CHRIS records for that county are maintained at the SCCIC. The CHRIS centers maintain records of previously documented archaeological resources and technical studies; they also maintain copies of the OHP's portion of the Historic Resources Inventory.

Confidential CHRIS results include specific information on the nature and location of sensitive archaeological sites, which should not be disclosed to the public or unauthorized persons and are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. The information included in a confidential CHRIS records search is needed to identify known resources and to assess the sensitivity for undocumented archaeological resources to inform the impact analysis. The search included any previously recorded archaeological resources within the Project area and surrounding 1.6-km (1.0-mile) area.

Sacred Lands File Search

The NAHC is charged with identifying, cataloging, and protecting Native American cultural resources, which include ancient places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans, and known ancient graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private and public lands in California. The NAHC's inventory of these resources is known as the SLF. In addition, the NAHC maintains a list of tribal contacts affiliated with various geographic regions of California. The contents of the SLF are strictly confidential, and SLF search requests return positive or negative results in addition to a list of tribal contacts affiliated with the specified location.

Archaeological Resources Survey

On April 19, 2023, SWCA archaeologist Annes Kim conducted an archaeological resources survey of the approximately 8.14-acre Project area. A. Kim walked the Project area, using parallel transects no more

than 10 meters (m) apart. A Samsung computer tablet paired with a Geode GPS antenna was used to locate the Project area boundaries and maintain transect accuracy. The ground surface was examined for the presence of prehistoric artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools), ecofacts (e.g., shell, fire-affected rock, and bone), historic-era artifacts (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics), sediment discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, depressions, and other features that might indicate the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., post holes, foundations) or occupations (e.g., hearths and bedrock milling).

Archival Research

Concurrent with the confidential CHRIS records search, SWCA also reviewed property-specific historical and ethnographic sources to identify information relevant to the Project area. Research focused on a variety of primary and secondary materials relating to the history and development of the Project area, including historical maps, aerial and ground photographs, ethnographic reports, and other environmental data. Historical maps drawn to scale were georeferenced using Esri ArcMAP v10.5 to show precise relationships to the Project area. Sources consulted included the following publicly accessible data sources: David Rumsey Historical Map Collection; Huntington Library Digital Archives; Library of Congress; Los Angeles Public Library Map Collection; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps (Sanborn maps); USGS historical topographic maps; University of California, Santa Barbara Digital Library (aerial photographs); and University of Southern California (USC) Digital Library.

Sensitivity Assessment

SWCA assessed the potential for encountering buried intact cultural resources that may exist within the below ground limits of the Project. This sensitivity assessment considers past land uses, broadly, as well as various archaeological, historical, geologic and soils datasets to assess of whether the depositional environment is physically capable of preserving buried archaeological materials (i.e., preservation potential). Specific factors are considered for historic-era and prehistoric, or Native American, archaeological sites based on.

Lacking any direct evidence confirming the presence or absence of buried archaeological materials, the resulting sensitivity assessment is by nature qualitative, ranging along a spectrum of increasing probability of "low" to "moderate" to "high" for encountering such material. In general, areas with a favorable setting for Native American habitation or temporary use, demonstrated use during the historic period, soil conditions capable of preserving buried material, and little to no disturbances are considered to have a high sensitivity. Areas lacking these traits are considered to have low sensitivity. Areas with a combination of these traits are considered to have moderate sensitivity.

In assessing the sensitivity of a Project location for archaeological resources affiliated with Native Americans, SWCA considers whether the location was favorable for Native American habitation. Indicators of favorable habitability for Native Americans are proximity to natural features (e.g., perennial water source, plant or mineral resource, animal habitat), other known sites, flat topography, and relatively dry conditions. Assessing the sensitivity for Native American–affiliated resources also considers Serrano ethnographic studies that describe the location of former Native American settlements, foraging, and other indigenous land use behaviors, as well as regional studies of archaeological site distribution. Assessing the sensitivity of historic period archaeological resources considers historical land uses through examination of available documents including maps, photographs, permits, oral histories, and other documents. Sites with developments in the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries are considered to have increased archaeological sensitivity.

Preservation potential for both types of resources considers whether the physical setting is capable of containing buried archaeological materials and whether any such materials once present have been destroyed, removed, or otherwise not preserved at the location, because of either natural causes (e.g., erosion, flooding) or historical development. The preservation potential relies on an understanding of existing soil conditions and site history. In urban settings, site-specific soil conditions are obtained through geotechnical studies. More generalized information on existing soil conditions for a given location is also assessed on the basis of soil surveys and geologic studies. For areas in which there was intensive historical use that modified the surface and near surface (e.g., from grading or large-scale excavation), or for areas where there is evidence that the preservation potential is poor, there is reduced sensitivity.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project area is situated on a broad desert plain within the High Desert region of the Mojave Desert in San Bernardino County, California. The High Desert region of the Mojave Desert has elevations ranging from 704 to 948 m (2,310 to 3,110 feet; University of California 2017). Vegetation in the region consists of Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), various desert shrubs, grasses, and annual forbs (University of California 2017). The animal species found in the area include coyote (*Canis latrans*), jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), desert cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), western diamondback (*Crotalus atrox*), Mojave rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*), whiptail lizard (*Aspidoscelis tigris*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), and red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). The climate has very hot, dry summers and mild winters. Because the area falls within a desert region, summer temperatures frequently exceed 38 degrees Celsius (°C; 100 degrees Fahrenheit [°F]). Winters are fairly cold with average highs around 10°C (50°F) and average lows around −1.11°C (30°F). Annual precipitation averages are less than 15 centimeters (6 inches). The Mojave River is approximately 4.6 miles to the northeast.

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistory

Prehistoric Overview

The prehistory of southern California is varied and rich, encompassing a period of more than 12,000 years. Numerous chronological sequences have been devised to analyze cultural changes for various areas within southern California over the past 75 years (Moratto 1984). The project is located near the intersection of the Mojave and Colorado deserts; this prehistoric overview is structured using Mojave Desert culture history (Sutton et al. 2007). The framework is divided into four major periods that derive from geologic eras: Pleistocene, Early Holocene, Middle Holocene, and Late Holocene (Sutton et. al. 2007:236). Following the conventions of this culture history, timescales referenced in the following discussion are primarily presented as calendar dates (BC or AD). The regional prehistoric cultural chronology is summarized below in Table 1.

Table 1. Prehistoric Cultural Chronology

Period	Key Characteristics	Date Range
Paleo-Indian	Diverse mixture of hunting and gathering Greater emphasis on hunting	12,000–8,000 BC
Early Holocene	Diverse mixture of hunting and gathering Highly mobile communities, or increased interaction with groups over long distances as evidenced by the presence of extralocal materials, such as stone artifacts and marine shell beads, within sites	8,000–6,000 BC
Middle Holocene	Lowland ephemeral lakes and streams began to dry up, shifting settlements to upland settings where sources of water still existed Substantial ground stone component indicating a wider use of plant foods	7,000–3,000 BC
Late Holocene	Many lakes once again rose to high stands, with a shift toward a hunting and fishing subsistence strategy, along with a use of plant foods Trend toward greater adaptation to regional or local resources Increased population size, evidenced by the appearance of major villages exhibiting bedrock milling features in addition to portable milling equipment	2,000 BC to Contact

Ethnographic Overview

The Project area is located within the traditional territory of the Serrano, who once occupied the southwestern Mojave Desert and Inland Empire region of San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties (Figure 4). The Serrano language is part of the Serran branch of the Takic family of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock (Mithun 2004). The two Serrano languages, Kitanemuk and Serrano, are closely related, with the traditional lands of the Kitanemuk located to the northwest of the Serrano. The term "Serrano" appears to have acquired an ethnic definition during the ethnohistoric period as pertaining to the Indigenous people who inhabited the San Bernardino Mountains, with the term "Serrano" meaning "mountaineers, or those of the Sierras" (Kroeber 1925:611). The traditional territory of the Serrano is believed to have encompassed much of the Mojave Desert and San Bernardino Mountains, including the base and north of the San Bernardino Mountains east of Cajon Pass near Victorville, east to Twentynine Palms, and south to the Yucaipa Valley, with the Vanyume territory extending northward along the Mojave River (Bean and Smith 1978; Bean and Vane 1994). The Serrano called themselves the Maara'yam, which included multiple clans including the Yuhaaviatam, or "People of the Pines" (San Manuel Band of Mission Indians 2021).

The Vanyume lived along the Mojave River and associated Mojave Desert areas and are also referred to as the Desert Serrano (Sutton and Earle 2017). Whether they spoke a dialect of Serrano or a separate Takic language is unclear from the few known words (Mithun 2004); however, Kroeber (1925) placed the Vanyume language closer to the Kitanemuk than to the Serrano of the San Bernardino Mountains. The traditional territory of the Vanyume was only vaguely known during the ethnohistoric period and no clear delineation was recorded but it was suggested to begin several miles east of the Mojave River sink and continue to Daggett or Barstow (Kroeber 1925).

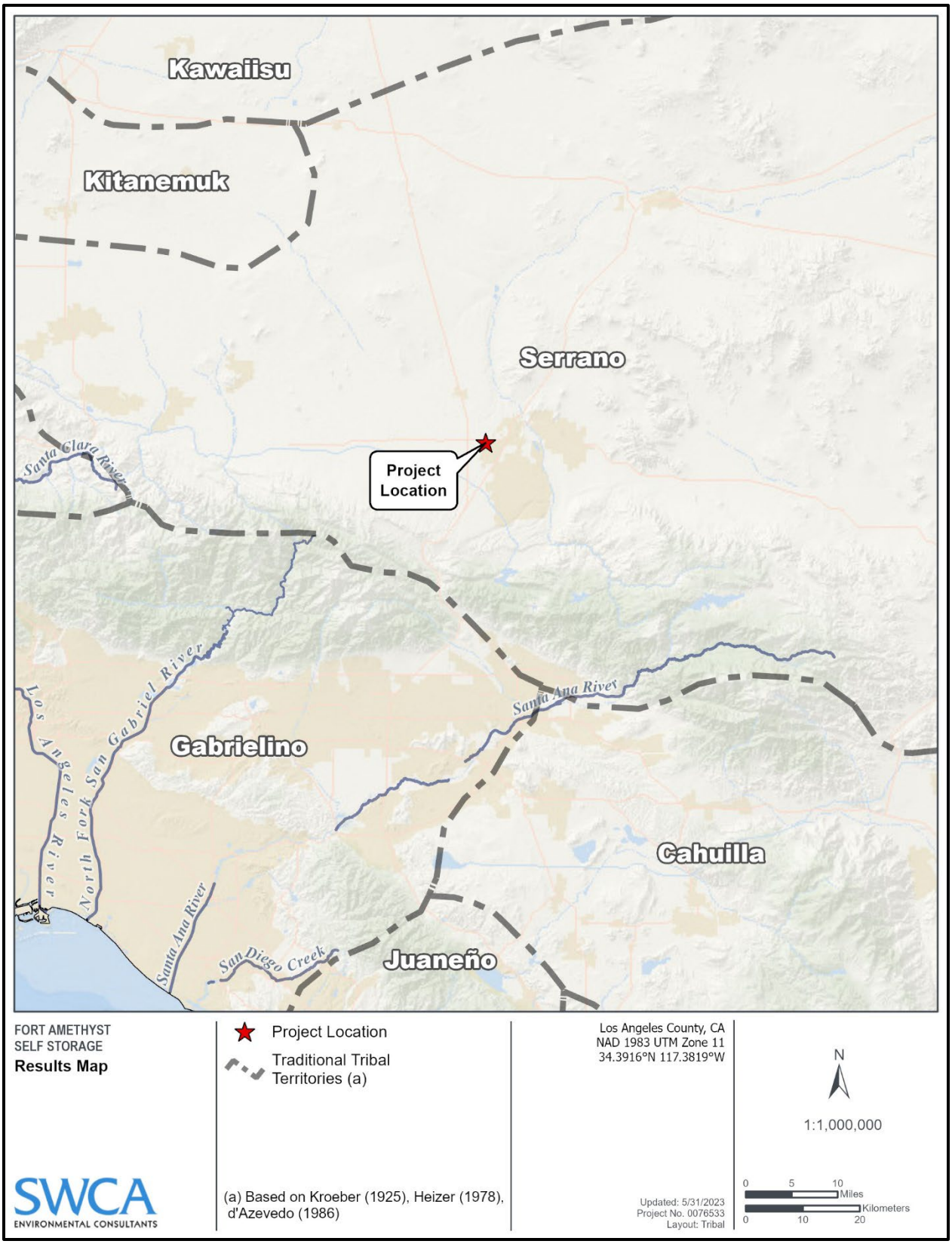

Figure 4. Native American territorial boundaries based on ethnographic and tribal sources.

According to the records of Friar Francisco Garcés, the first European to travel in this region in 1776, the name *Vanyume* is derived from the term for "them" (*Beñeme*) used by the Mojave (Coues 1900:Vol. 1:240). Very little is known of the Vanyume-speaking people because their cultural traditions and lifeways were severely disrupted by Spanish missionaries beginning in the early 1820s. By the 1900s, reports indicated that very few Vanyume people remained in their traditional territory (Bean and Smith 1978:570; Kroeber 1925:614). Therefore, much of what we know about the Vanyume is derived from accounts of the larger Serrano group. Kroeber (1925:614–615), however, suggests there were political distinctions between the Serrano and Vanyume as the Vanyume were friendly with the Chemehuevi and Mohave to the east, whereas the Serrano maintained mutual animosity with these groups. The area of combined Serrano/Vanyume occupation—the San Bernardino Mountains, the southwestern portions of the Mojave Desert, and the Mojave River area—has become known as the Serrano area, though this distinction may be a result of early historical disruptions to the Vanyume as a distinct culture group, and inherent biases of ethnographers and historians during the historic period.

Most Serrano lived in small village-hamlets in the foothills, though some resided out on the desert floor near water sources (Bean and Smith 1978:571). Kroeber (1925:617–618) considered the organization of Serrano lineage sets similar to that of political groups. He defined a lineage set as occupying one village, representing at least two moieties, and coordinating its hunting and gathering activities according to the religious deliberations and scheduling determined by two leaders (one from each of the moieties), with one leader occupying the ceremonial house and the other possessing the ceremonial bundle. Often, a lineage set had the exclusive power to forge and maintain economic ties to other villages of neighboring Serrano, Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Gabrielino, and Cupeño. Desert Serrano villages are mentioned in the 1776 account of the Spanish Franciscan missionary Fr. Francisco Garcés and in the records dating to the early 1800s by Fr. Joaquín Nuez. Fr. Garcés mentions villages along the Mojave River near today's city of Barstow and the community of Daggett (Coues 1900: Vol. 1:241–248). Beattie (1955) suggests the average village population was around 70 people, and that these settlements were generally spaced at 10-mile (16-km) intervals along the river.

The fundamental economy of the Serrano was one of subsistence hunting and collecting plant goods, with occasional fishing (Bean and Smith 1978). Serrano territory was a trade nexus between inland Tribes and coastal Tribes, and trade and exchange were important aspects of the Serrano economy. Those living in the lower-elevation desert floor villages traded foodstuffs with people living in the foothill villages who had access to a different variety of edible resources due to the considerable topographic variation and resultant differences in bio-geographic zones in the vicinity. In addition to intervillage trade, ritualized communal food procurement events, such as rabbit and deer hunts and piñon, acorn, and mesquite nut-gathering events, integrated the economy and helped distribute resources that were locally available in different ecozones.

A variety of materials were used for hunting, gathering, and processing food, many of which were also used for shelter, clothing, and ceremonial items. Technological similarities have been noted between the Serrano and their neighbors, particularly the Cahuilla (Bean and Smith 1978). Shell, wood, bone, stone, and plant fibers were used to make a variety of implements, along with highly decorated baskets (Simpson and Smith 1964). The Serrano made pottery and used it daily to carry and store water or foodstuffs; and ceramics were also used as ceremonial objects. They also made bone awls, sinew-backed bows, arrows, arrow straighteners, throwing sticks (for hunting), traps, fire drills, stone pipes, musical instruments of various types (rattles, rasps, whistles, bull-roarers, and whistles), yucca fiber cordage (for snares, nets, and carrying bags), and clothing (Bean and Smith 1978; Bean and Vane 2002). A strong tradition of basket weaving incorporated the use of multiple materials including juncus sedge, deergrass, and yucca fiber.

Mainly due to the inland territory that the Serrano occupied beyond Cajon Pass, contact between the Serrano and Euro-Americans was relatively minimal prior to the early 1800s, though European diseases began decimating Native populations in the Mojave Desert and Antelope Valley beginning in the late 1700s (San Manuel Band of Mission Indians 2021). As early as 1790, the Serrano were drawn into mission life and were involuntarily marched to the Asistencia in Redlands, an outpost of the San Gabriel Mission (Bean and Vane 2002; San Manuel Band of Mission Indians 2021). More Serrano were relocated to Mission San Gabriel Arcángel in 1811 after a failed Indigenous attack on that mission. In the 1860s, a smallpox epidemic decimated many Indigenous people from southern Californian, including the Serrano (Bean and Vane 2002). Oral accounts of a massacre in the 1860s at Twentynine Palms indicate it may have been part of a larger American military campaign that lasted 32 days (Bean and Vane 2002:10).

Some of the surviving Serrano sought shelter at Morongo with their Cahuilla neighbors, which later became a formal reservation and is currently known as the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (Bean and Vane 2002). Other survivors followed the Serrano leader Santos Manuel down from the mountains and across the valley floors, eventually settling what later became the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Reservation, which was established in 1891 (San Manuel Band of Mission Indians 2021). Although ethnographers considered the Vanyume to be a sparse and mostly unknown population during the early 1900s (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1925), recent genealogical research combined with mitochondrial DNA analysis indicates three lineages from the Fort Tejon area were originally from the village of Topipabit downstream from Victorville (California Energy Commission 2008:4.3–4.11). These lineages are currently part of the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, located in Newhall. This group, which includes Kitanemuk, Inland Chumash, Tataviam, and Vanyume, has applied for formal federal recognition (San Fernando Band of Mission Indians 2021).

Native American Communities Adjacent to the Study Area

The settlement of Native American communities in Southern California during the prehistoric period has been studied extensively by archaeologists over time (e.g., Chase 1969; Hudson 1969, 1971; Mason and Petersen 1994; Douglass et al 2016). Chace (1969) argued that coastal areas were used mainly for food procurement while villages were located inland. Hudson (1969, 1971) who that Native Americans moved seasonally between villages, established in sheltered coastal areas, inland prairies, and mountain areas, and temporary camps, on the exposed coast. Mason and Petersen (1994) argued that major estuaries in the region were territory centers for clan-based groups in Rancherias, which were occupied year-round while several smaller sites were used to gather resources during various times of the year (Douglass et al. 2016:61–62). Generally, all models share the assumption that Native American groups in the region utilized various habitats, moving throughout the region at different times throughout the year. These prehistoric subsistence and settlement patterns are generally believed to have remained the same until the first permanent Native American settlement was established at Mission San Gabriel (Douglass et al. 2016:385).

The precise location of most Native American villages in Southern California is subject to much speculation; however, maps depicting villages throughout the area show these sites along rivers or streams (Hackel et al. 2015). Native American place names referred to at the time of Spanish contact did not necessarily represent a continually occupied settlement within a discrete location, rather in at least some cases, the communities were represented by several smaller camps scattered throughout an approximate geography, shaped by natural features that were subject to change over generations (Johnston 1962:122). Further complicating any efforts to pinpoint the location of a given village site is the fact that many of the villages had long since been abandoned by the time ethnographers, anthropologists, and historians attempted to document any of their locations.

By the time any such effort was made, Native American lifeways were irrevocably changed and the former villages were impacted by urban and agricultural development. In some cases, Spanish-era Rancho grants may have bounded Indian villages, and in others the Spanish ranchos adopted Native American place names, such as Kaweenga, Tujunga, Topanga, and Cucamonga. Alternative names and spellings for communities, and conflicting reports on their meaning or locational reference further complicate efforts at determining the locations of actual village sites. Kroeber (1925:616) remarked on the difficulty of reliably locating former village sites, writing that "the opportunity to prepare a true map of village locations 'passed away 50 years ago.". Thus, even with ethnographic, historical, and archaeological evidence, it can be difficult to conclusively establish whether any given assemblage represents the remains of the former village site.

The nearest named villages to the study area are Topipabit and Atongaibit (Figure 5). Topipabit is mapped by Hackel et al. (2015) and Sutton and Earle (2017) as approximately 8.0 km (5.0 miles) northeast of the Project area and King (2004) map depicts Topipabit in modern day Barstow approximately 28.8 km (17.9 miles) to the north. Hackel et al. (2015) plots Atongaibit as approximately 11.7 km (7.3 miles) to the southwest, while King (2004) shows Atongaibit as approximately 10.5 km (6.5 miles) to the southwest. Topipabit is described as downstream from Victorville near the Lower Narrows of the Mojave River (Johnson 2001; Sutton and Earle 2017). The Lower Narrows of the Mojave River is situated north of Victorville and approximately 5.3 miles northeast of the Project area. Ethnographic documents indicate Fr. Garcés visited a settlement of approximately 70 people on the river just east or southeast of Hesperia in 1776 that was most likely the village of Atongaibit (Earle 2004). These villages are both documented along the Mojave River (Sutton and Earle 2017) and would likely have had smaller villages and seasonal camps surrounding its vicinity (Gust and Valasik 2011).

Smaller habitation sites were not typically noted by early ethnographers and Spanish colonizers; therefore, the lack of explicit data pointing to a site in the area does not indicate a lack of Native American activity in the area.

Figure 5. Native American settlements, sites, placenames, and historical points of reference.

Historic Overview

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 there were brief visits by Spanish, Russian, and British explorers from 1529 to 1769, the Spanish period in California begins with the establishment in 1769 of a settlement at San Diego. The settlement included a presidio and the first of Alta California's 21 missions, which were constructed between 1769 and 1823. Independence from Spain 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 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 Rodríquez Cabrillo stopped in 1542 at present-day San Diego Bay. With his crew, Cabrillo explored the shorelines of present-day Catalina Island, and 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 long-standing name. The Spanish crown laid claim to California based on the surveys conducted by Cabrillo and Vizcaíno (Bancroft 1886:96–99; Gumprecht 1999:35).

A major emphasis during the Spanish period in California was to build missions and associated presidios to integrate the Native American population into Christianity and communal enterprise. Inducements were also made to bring settlers to pueblos, or towns, but just three pueblos were established during the Spanish period, only two of which were successful and are now major California cities (San José and Los Angeles). 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, including San Diego, open to foreign merchants (Dallas 1955:14). During the Mexican period, the large ranchos became important economic and social centers. 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 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, beginning in 1848. California joined the United States of America with the Compromise of 1850, which also designated Utah and New Mexico (along with present-day Arizona) as U.S. territories.

During the Gold Rush, thousands of people traveled the Gila Trail or Southern Overland Trail from Texas to Arizona, then crossed the Colorado River at present-day Yuma into California and proceeded across the Colorado Desert to San José Valley. The main trail continued from that point northward to Temecula and Los Angeles. Wagon roads and railroads constructed across California's Colorado and Mojave deserts from the 1840s 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.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT AREA

The Project is located within the Victor Valley and Victorville area. Victorville started out as a small train station depot along the Santa Fe Railroad originally built in 1885 by the California Southern Railway Company. The station was named Victor for the general manager of the California Southern Railway Company at the time, Jacob Nash Victor (Wlodarski 2009:5). In 1886, the town of Victor was officially created, boasting a population of approximately 100 (Tang and Hogan 2011:13; Wlodarski 2009:5). To avoid confusion with Victor, Colorado, the town changed its name to Victorville in 1901 (Tang and Hogan 2011:13).

Agriculture played a key part in the development and settlement of the Victor Valley and Victorville area. Settlers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries attempted to grow alfalfa, fruits, and poultry, but these endeavors were largely unsuccessful. After the discovery of large deposits of limestone and granite in the early twentieth century, cement manufacturing became the most important industry in the valley (Tang and Hogan 2011:13). Route 66 ran through Victorville, which led to increased settlement and development in the area as well as regional recognition (Wlodarski 2009:5). The city was officially incorporated in 1962 with a population of approximately 8,110. The city has grown substantially since then and today has a population of approximately 135,000 (City of Victorville 2023).

RESULTS

CHRIS Records Search

Previously Conducted Studies

Results of the records search at the SCCIC indicate that 34 cultural resource studies have been conducted within 1.6 km (1.0 mile) of the Project area, of which none intersect the Project area (**Error! Reference source not found.**; Figure A-1). A confidential records search results map depicting previous cultural resource studies in and within 1.6 km (1.0 mile) of the Project area is included in Appendix A.

Table 2. Previous Cultural Resource Studies within a 1.6-km (1.0-mile) Radius of the Project area

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Author: Affiliation	Year	Proximity to Project area
SB-00252	*Six Caltrans Projects, San Bernardino County*	Smothers, C. N.: CALTRANS	1975	Outside
SB-00612	*An Archaeological - Historical Assessment for the Proposed System Improvements for a Water System Master Plan for Victor Valley County Water District*	–: San Bernardino County Museum Association	1978	Outside
SB-00614	*Final Report: Class II Cultural Resources Field Sampling Inventory Along Proposed IPP Transmission Line Corridors, Utah - Nevada - California*	Fowler, Don D., Elizabeth Budy, Dennis Desart, Joyce Banth, and Alma Smith: Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada, Reno	1978	Outside
SB-00763	*Class III Cultural Resource Survey, Victorville-Mccullough Transmission Lines 1 And 2 (2 Vols.).*	Greenwood, Roberta S., and Michael J. McIntyre: Greenwood and Associates	1979	Outside
SB-02668	*Archaeological Investigations of Well Sites and Proposed Facility Locations for the Victor Valley Water District, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California*	McKenna, Jeanette A.: McKenna et al.	1992	Outside

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Author: Affiliation	Year	Proximity to Project area
SB-02736	*Archaeological Assessment Tracts 15186-1, 15051 And Parcel 4 Of Parcel Map 2378, San Bernardino County, CA*	Breece, Laurel, Beth Padon, and Fran Goveen: LSA Associates	1993	Outside
SB-02770	*Archaeological Assessment for Tract 15186-3, San Bernardino County, CA*	Padon, Beth: Petra Resources, Inc.	1993	Outside
SB-02880	*Archaeological Assessment for Foxfire Homes Tract 15052 and Part of Tract 15050, San Bernardino County, California*	Jertberg, Patricia: Petra Resources, Inc.	1994	Outside
SB-02972	*Archaeological Assessment for Tract 15186-2 & Lot 241, San Bernardino County, CA*	Padon, Beth: Petra Resources, Inc.	1994	Outside
SB-03437	*Luna Project, Victor Elementary School District, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 14PP*	Love, Bruce: CRM TECH	1999	Outside
SB-03698	*Archaeological/Paleontological Monitoring of Earth Moving Activities Roger's Ranch Project, Victorville, CA.4PP*	Love, Bruce: CRM TECH	2000	Outside
SB-03700	*Archaeological Monitoring OF Earth Moving Activities Approximately 40 Acres in the City of Victorville, CA. 2PP*	Love, Bruce: CRM TECH	2001	Outside
SB-03799	*Cultural Resource Assessment of High Desert Power Project, Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA*	Self, William: WM Self Associates	1999	Outside
SB-03801	*Archaeological Survey of Proposed Well Sites H-N & Water Pipeline Extension, High Desert Power Project, Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 46PP*	Estes, Allen, James Allan, and William Self: WM Self Associates	2002	Outside
SB-03849	*Cultural Resources Survey of The Brentwood Planned Community, Victorville, CA. 28PP*	Cotterman, Cary, Evelyn Chandler, and Roger Mason: Chambers Group, Inc.	2003	Outside
SB-03977	*Archaeological/Paleontological Monitoring: TT 14060-1, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 5PP*	Hogan, Michael: CRM TECH	2003	Outside
SB-03981	*An Archaeological & Paleontological Mitigation-Monitoring Report for Foxfire Ranch, Tracts 15186-6 & -7, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 29PP*	Irish, Leslie Nay: L&L Environmental	2003	Outside
SB-03988	*Cultural & Paleontological Resources Monitoring for Lots 66-98, Tract 16172, the Galaxy II Development, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 20PP*	Alexandrowicz, John Stephen: Archaeological Consulting Services	2003	Outside
SB-04235	*An Archaeological & Paleontological Survey of Approximately 15 Acres for the Victorian 124 Project Located at El Evado Road & Seneca Road in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 48PP*	Budinger, Fred E.: TETRA TECH	2003	Outside
SB-04299	*Cultural & Paleontological Resources Monitoring for Tract No. 16135, The Galaxy Development, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 9PP*	Alexandrowicz, John Stephen and Barbara Loren-Webb: ACS	2001	Outside
SB-04304	*Cultural Resource Assessment for Tentative Tract No. 16524, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 15PP*	Cerreto, Richard and Christy Malan: Analytic Archaeology	2004	Outside

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Author: Affiliation	Year	Proximity to Project area
SB-04438	*Archaeological And Palaeontologic Monitoring of Brentwood Planned Community, Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 88PP*	Cotterman, Cary, Evelyn N. Chandler, Roger D. Mason, and E. Bruce Lander: Chambers Group	2004	Outside
SB-04543	*Historical & Paleontological Resources Monitoring for Tract No. 16171, The Galaxy Development, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA. 21PP*	Alexandrowicz, John Stephen: ACS	2005	Outside
SB-04781	*Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report Tentative Tract Map No. 16656 in the City of Victorville San Bernardino, California*	Tang, Bai: –	2005	Outside
SB-04973	*Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties: Victor Valley Water District Infrastructure Improvements in and near the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California.*	Weatherbee, Matthew: CRM Tech	2005	Outside
SB-05200	*Cultural Resources Assessment for APN 3105-261-03, 3105-261-05, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California*	Malan, Christy, Cerreto, Richard, and Ward, Katherine: –	2006	Outside
SB-05212	*Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report Tentative Tract No. 16684 in the City of Victorville San Bernardino County, California*	Tang, Bai, Hogan, Michael, and Encarnacion, Deidre: –	2006	Outside
SB-05374	*Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Assessor's Parcel Numbers 3104-071-03 to -06 and -08 to -10, in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California*	Hruby, Zachary X. and Thomas Melzer: CRM Tech	2006	Outside
SB-05508	*Final Cultural Resources Report: High Desert Power Project, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California.*	Estes, Allen, James Allan, and William Self: William Self Associates, Inc	2003	Outside
SB-07023	*Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for T-Mobile USA Candidate IE25921-B (Victorville WD), 14442 Dos Palmas, Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA*	Bonner, Wayne and Sarah A. Williams: MBA	2011	Outside
SB-07027	*Results of an Archaeological Monitoring Program for the El Evado Plaza Project Located at the Northwest Corner of El Evado Road and Palmdale Road (State Highway 18) in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA*	Getchell, Barbie and John E. Atwood: Past, Inc.	2010	Outside
SB-07156	*Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Water Supply System Improvements Projects, Fiscal Years 2010/2011 – 2014/2015, Victorville Water District, San Bernardino County, California.*	Tang, Bai "Tom", Daniel Ballester, and Nina Gallardo: CRM TECH	2011	Outside
SB-07915	*Archaeological Survey Report for the State Route 18 Widen Shoulders and Install Centerline and Shoulder Rumble Strips Between State Route 395 and L.A. County Line within and Near the Cities of Adelanto and Victorville, San Bernardino County, California*	Delu, Antonina: Applied EarthWorks, Inc.	2015	Outside
SB-08052	*Archaeological Survey Report for the State Route 18 Widening, Raised Curb Median, And Drainage Improvement Project*	Everson, Dicken: CALTRANS	2016	Outside

Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

The CHRIS records search for the current study identified a total of eight previously documented cultural resources within a 1.6-km (1.0-mile) radius of the Project area, none of which intersect the Project area.

The identified resources within the records search radius consist of a prehistoric lithic scatter, four historic-era refuse scatters, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Boulder transmission lines, and two historic-era isolated metal cans (Table 2; Appendix A).

Table 3. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within a 1.6-km (1.0-mile) Radius of the Project area

SCCIC Primary No.	Trinomial	Resource Age	Resource Type	Description	Year Recorded (Recorder)	Proximity to Project area
P-36-007694	CA-SBR-007694H	Historic	Structure, Site	LADWP Boulder Transmission Lines	1986 (John F. Elliott, ECOS); 1993 (D. Powers, Dames & Moore); 1995 (J. Brock, Archaeo Advisory Group); 1997 (Neal Neuenschwander, Peak & Associates, Inc); 2000 (Stephen Van Wormer, KEA Environmental); 2001 (Jeffrey Wedding, Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies); 2004 (S. Hogan-Conrad, Earth Tech Inc); 2006 (K. Crawford); 2007 (Daneil Ballester, CRM Tech); 2007 (Daniel Ballester, CRM Tech); 2008 (Jeremy Hollins, URS); 2011 (S. Kremkau, SRI); 2011 (W. Jones, ECORP); 2011 (Michael Dice, MBA); 2011 (D. Winslow, ASM); 2012 (Steph Velasquez); 2012 (Candace Ehringer, ESA); 2012 (Katherine Anderson, ESA); 2013 (G. Granger, Chambers Group, Inc); 2013 (Brad Comeau, Dudek); 2013 (C. Higgins, Far Western); 2013 (Jm Sanka & W Gillean, Atkins); 2013 (T. Fuerstenberg, Pacific legacy); 2014; 2015 (M. Vader, ESA); 2015 (M. Vader, ESA); 2016 (M. Vader, ESA); 2017 (Dicken Everson, Caltrans); 2018 (M. Connelly, HDR); 2018; 2020 (A. Canoff, SRI)	Outside
P-36-011290	CA-SBR-011290H	Historic	Site	Refuse scatter	2003 (Cotterman)	Outside
P-36-011291	CA-SBR-011291H	Historic	Site	Refuse scatter	2003 (Cotterman)	Outside
P-36-011292	CA-SBR-011292H	Historic	Site	Refuse scatter	2003 (Cary D. Cotterman, Chambers Group, Inc.)	Outside

SCCIC Primary No.	Trinomial	Resource Age	Resource Type	Description	Year Recorded (Recorder)	Proximity to Project area
P-36-012839	CA-SBR-012384	Prehistoric	Site	Lithic scatter	2006 (Cerreto and Malan)	Outside
P-36-012840		Historic	Isolate	Can	2006 (Cerreto and Malan)	Outside
P-36-029462	CA-SBR-029462H	Historic	Site	Refuse scatter	2016 (Dicken Everson, CalTrans District 8)	Outside
P-36-064592		Historic	Isolate	Can	2003 (Cary D. Cotterman, Chambers Group)	Outside

Sacred Lands File Search

SWCA submitted a letter to the NAHC on March 16, 2023, requesting a search of the SLF for the Project area. A response from the NAHC was received on April 12, 2023, and indicated positive results. The NAHC requested that the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe be contacted and provided a list of 14 tribal representatives, including from other tribes, who may have concerns or further knowledge of resources and sites within the Project vicinity. SWCA forwarded the results to the applicant and SWCA understands that that the City has been notified. The confidential NAHC SLF search results letter is included in Appendix B.

Archival Research

SWCA's archival research included a review of historical maps and aerial images for the Project area and vicinity and focused on documenting modifications to the physical setting and identifying any potential natural or artificial features with relevance to use by Native Americans (e.g., stream courses, vegetation, historical topography, roads, habitation markers) or use of the location by non-Native American people in the historic period. The closest Native American village documented through ethnographic sources was located approximately 8.0 km (5.0 miles) northeast of the Project area.

A 1932 topographic map shows the Project area in an undeveloped area southwest of Victorville. By 1952, an aerial photograph shows the present day LA Bureau of Power and Light Road and San Mateo Road to the east of the vacant Project area (Figure 6). The area east of the Project area has been subdivided by a grid of roads with sporadic development. A 1956 topographic map depicts the Project area in an area labeled "Mountain View," with subdivisions depicted to the northwest and east of the Project area. By 1959, an aerial photograph shows several developments directly north of the Project area and additional developments to the east of the Project area (Figure 6). By 1968, more development is present surrounding the Project area; however, development in the area is still sparse (Figure 7). Development continues to increase around the Project area through the 1973 aerial photograph (Figure 7). Dirt roads were observed within the Project area on aerial photographs starting in 1968, but no other development within the Project area was observed on historic topographic maps and aerial photographs. One of the dirt roads is observed that leads from the parcel directly north of the Project area curving west through the center of the Project area (Figure 7). The road is still present in a 2020 aerial photograph but appeared to be modern in age and was not recorded as a cultural resource.

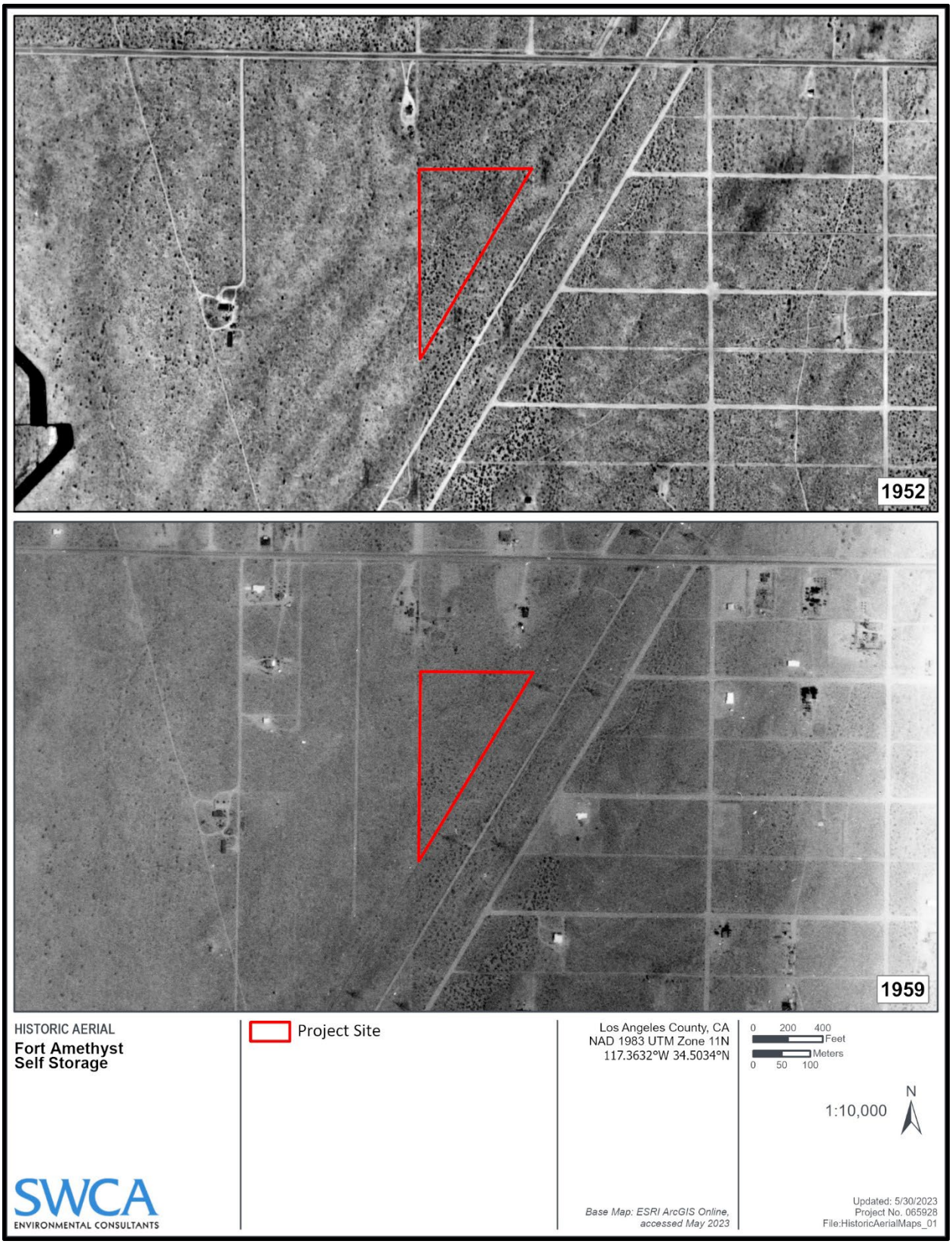

Figure 6. Project area shown on the 1952 (top) and 1959 (bottom) historic aerial photographs.

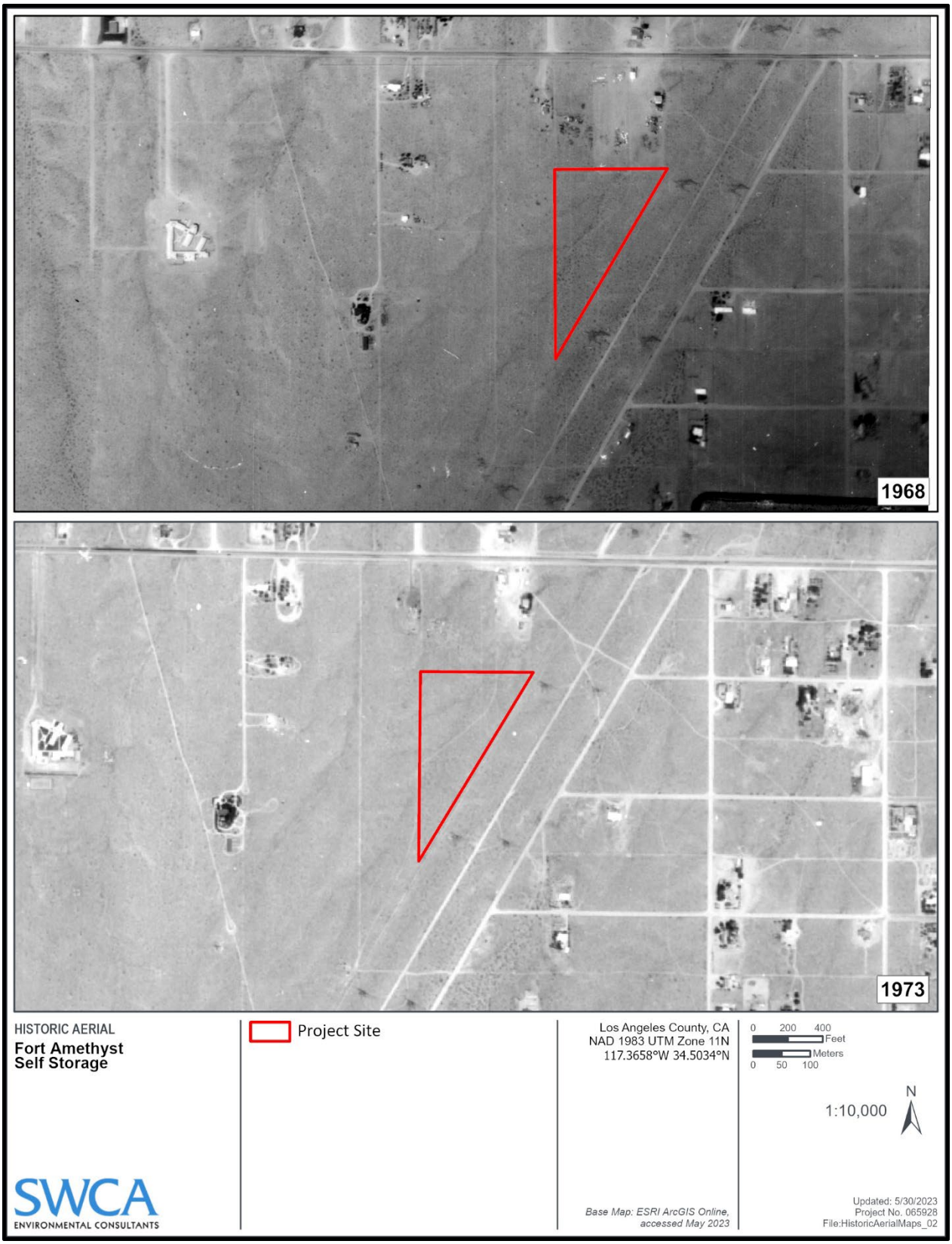

Figure 7. Project area shown on the 1968 (top) and 1973 (bottom) historic aerial photographs.

Archaeological Resources Survey

On April 19, 2023, SWCA archaeologist A. Kim conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the 8.14-acre Project area and there were no cultural resources identified. Photographs showing the conditions of the Project area are included here in Figure 8 through Figure 10. Ground surface visibility was poor (5 to 10 percent) with short seasonal grasses covering the majority of the Project area. Creosote bush was also present. Sediments consist of a brown (Munsell: 10YR 5/3) sand with pebble-sized subrounded/subangular inclusions of jasper, quartz, sandstone, and granite. Modern refuse is present throughout the Project area. A linear alignment of concrete fragments was observed in the eastern portion of the Project area, but appeared to have been placed recently, along with a piece of milled lumber (see Figure 9). Metal staples were observed in the piece of milled lumber and modern trash was observed around the alignment. The alignment is not visible on aerial photographs up to 1973. No cultural resources were identified within the Project area but visibility was poor throughout the area. As mentioned above, a dirt road that is visible in 1968 and 1973 aerial photographs and leads from the parcel directly north of the Project area before curving west through the center of the Project area appeared to be modern in age and was not recorded as a cultural resource.

Figure 8. Overview of Project area from the northwestern corner of the Project area, facing southeast.

Figure 9. Overview from northwestern portion of Project area, facing west.

Figure 10. Overview of modern alignment of concrete fragments with milled lumber, facing southwest.

Sensitivity Assessment

As described above, the CHRIS records search identified eight previously recorded resources within a 1.6-km (1.0-mile) radius of the Project area. None of the resources were within the Project area. Of the resources within the 1.6-km (1.0-mile) radius of the Project area, all but one of the resources identified were historic resources. The single prehistoric resource consisted of a lithic scatter (P-36-012839). The SLF search was positive for tribal cultural resources or potential tribal cultural resources and the NAHC requested that the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe be contacted. Results of an intensive pedestrian survey were negative for cultural resources.

The potential for encountering a buried Native American archaeological site considered: 1) broad context of prehistoric and ethnohistoric settlement patterns to assess how intensively the area may have been used by past communities; and 2) the physical setting in terms of the potential for any resources that may have once been present to have been preserved as a buried deposit.

The closest known Serrano settlement identified in a search of ethnographic literature is named Topipabit and is estimated to have been located somewhere approximately 8.0 km (5.0 miles) northeast of the Project area near the Lower Narrows of the Mojave River north of Victorville. The next nearest settlement identified in the ethnographic literature is named Atongaibit, approximately 11.7 km (7.3 miles) to the southwest, further upstream along the Mojave River from Topipabit. Generally speaking, prehistoric artifacts and sites are more likely to be found near sources of water. The closest ethnographic settlements are both situated along the Mojave River and its closest point, the Mojave River is approximately 7.6 km (4.75 miles) to the northeast. While the SLF results were positive, SWCA does not have information regarding the location or description of any tribal cultural resources and recommends consultation with the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and any other tribes listed on the NAHC contact list. Based on these considerations SWCA considers the potential for encountering significant intact archaeological deposits such as habitation sites and cemeteries to be low but cannot rule out the possibility of encountering archaeological materials including isolated artifacts due to the poor ground surface visibility and the presence of a known ethnographic settlement approximately 5.0 miles for the Project area. For this reason, SWCA finds a **low to moderate potential for encountering prehistoric and historic period Native American archaeological resources** within the Project area.

The Project area is currently vacant land that does not appear to have ever been developed other than the apparent clearing of vegetation and the leveling of existing contours within and around the Project area sometime between 1952 and 1959. No archaeological or historic resources were observed during an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project area. However, surface visibility was poor (5-10%) and the possibility that artifacts may exist on the surface of the Project area cannot be ruled out. Based on the above considerations, SWCA also finds the Project area has a **low to moderate sensitivity for containing historic period (non–Native American) archaeological resources.**

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SWCA conducted a CHRIS records search and an intensive pedestrian survey within the Project area. No cultural resources were identified within the Project area, the surface of which is unpaved but had poor (5-10%) ground surface visibility. It is SWCA's determination that the Project area has low to moderate sensitivity for prehistoric and historic resources and that SWCA recommends the Project area be resurveyed during vegetation removal and grubbing to identify any archaeological materials on the surface of the site that may not have been visible during the survey. Development of a Monitoring Plan and Monitoring may be required should any evidence of archaeological deposits be found. Due to the

presence of a tribal cultural resource in the Project vicinity, SWCA recommends contacting the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and the other tribe contacts provided by the NAHC.

The unanticipated discovery of cultural resources, including surface and/or buried artifacts, remains a possibility. In the event that cultural resources are exposed during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must stop until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find. Construction activities may continue in other areas. If the discovery is evaluated as significant under CEQA, additional work, such as testing or data recovery, may be warranted.

The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbances. State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the county coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. The county coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 24 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

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Appendix A

California Historical Resources Information System Records Search Results

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CONTENT FROM THIS SECTION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM PUBLICLY CIRCULATED DRAFTS

Archaeological and other heritage resources can be damaged or destroyed through uncontrolled public disclosure of information regarding their location. This document contains sensitive information regarding the nature and location of archaeological sites, which should not be disclosed to the general public or unauthorized persons pursuant to California Government Code 6254(r) and 6254.10.

Information regarding the location, character, or ownership of a cultural resource is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to 54 USC 307103 (National Historic Preservation Act) and 16 USC Section 470(h) (Archaeological Resources Protections Act)

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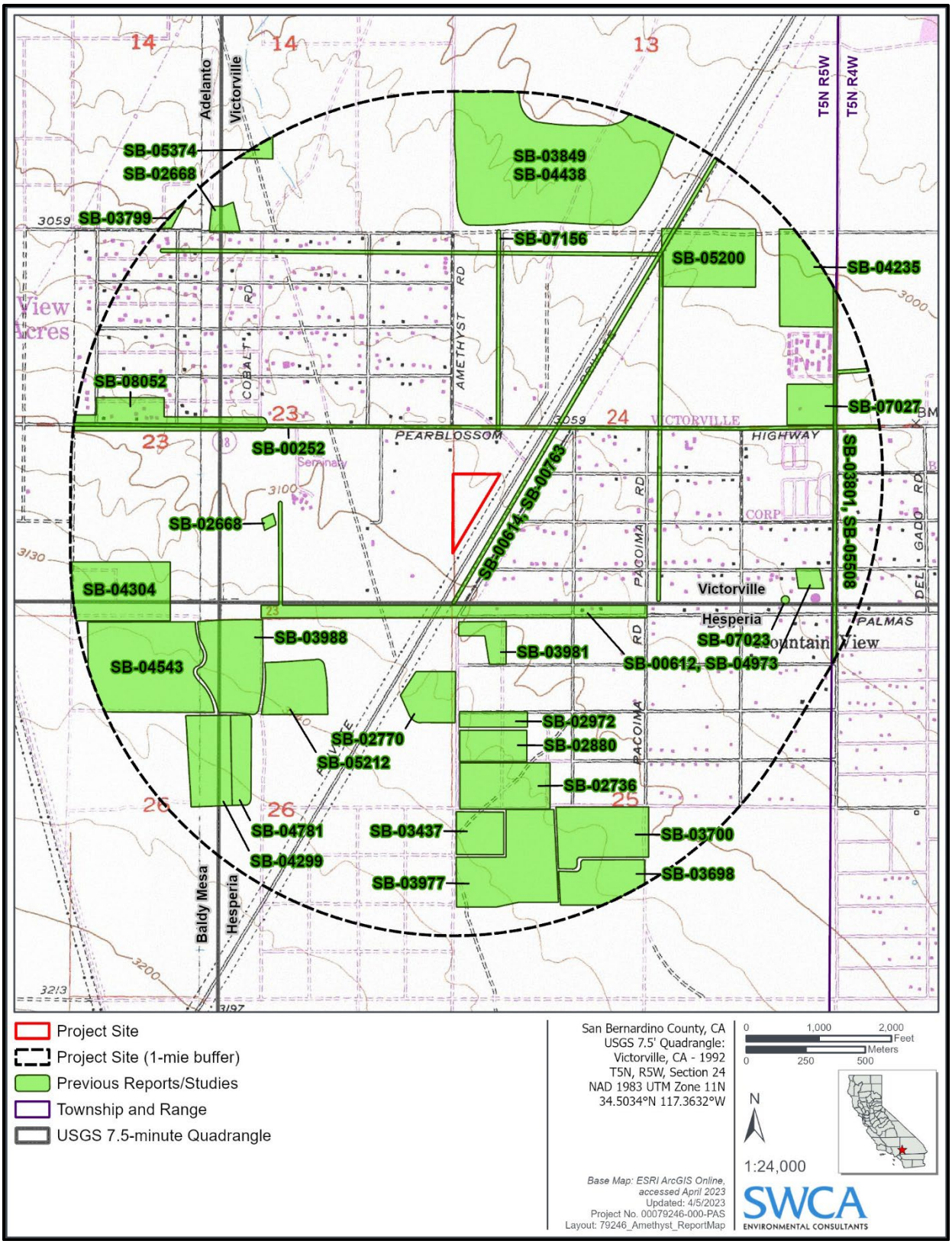

Figure A-1. CHRIS records search results: reports and studies.

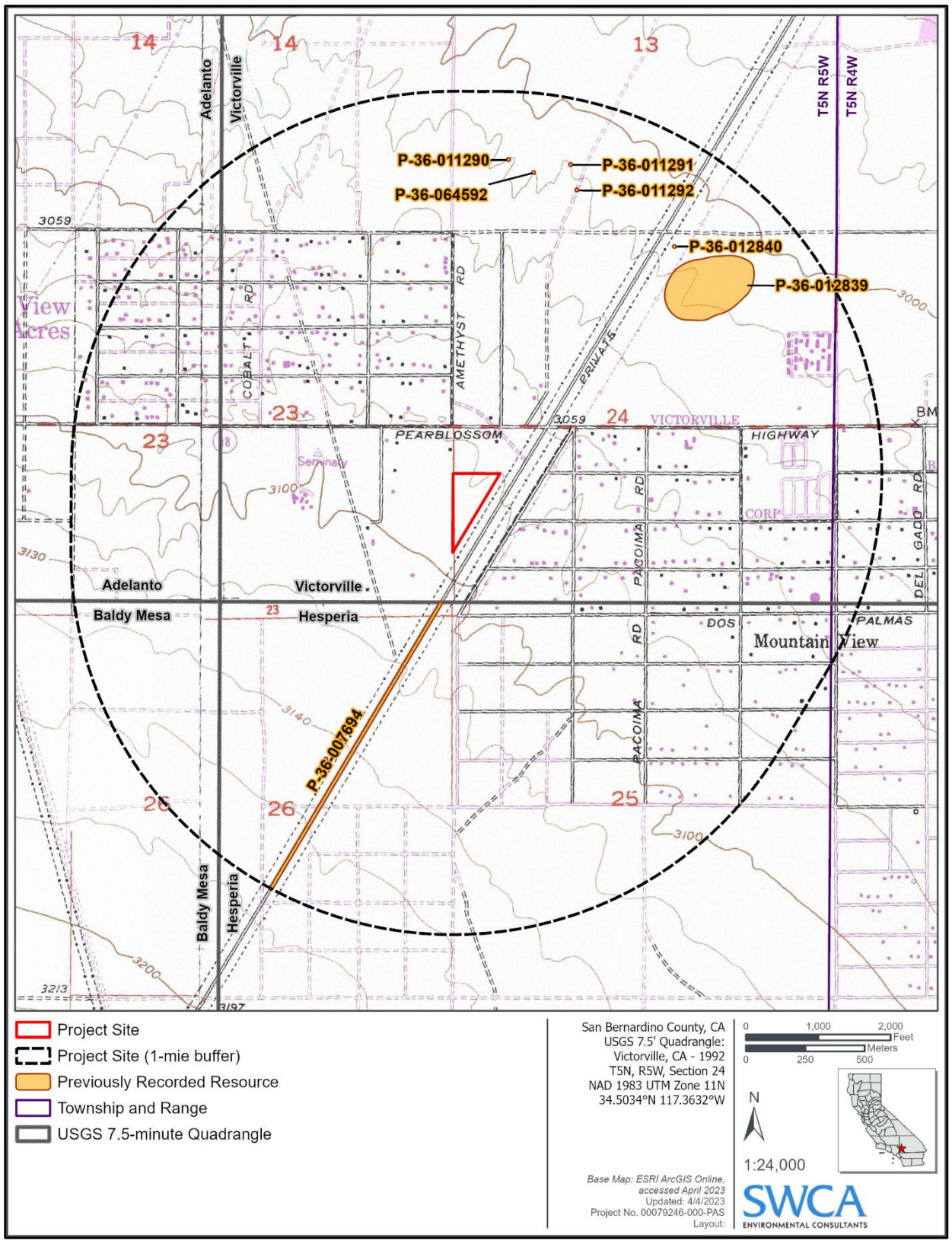

Figure A-2. CHRIS records search results: resources.

APPENDIX B

Sacred Lands File Search

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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

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

April 12, 2023

David Sayre
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Via Email to: ***david.sayre@swca.com***

Re: Fort Amethyst Self Storage Project, San Bernardino County, California (SWCA Project No. 79246), San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Sayre:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
4/12/2023

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
Sierra Pencille, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1976 1990 Palo Verde Drive — Chemehuevi
Havasu Lake, CA, 92363
Phone: (760) 858 - 4219
Fax: (760) 858-5400
chairman@cit-nsn.gov

Kern Valley Indian Community
Robert Robinson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1010 — Kawaiisu
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240 — Tubatulabal
Phone: (760) 378 - 2915 — Koso
bbutterbredt@gmail.com

Kern Valley Indian Community
Julie Turner, Secretary
P.O. Box 1010 — Kawaiisu
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240 — Tubatulabal
Phone: (661) 340 - 0032 — Koso

Kern Valley Indian Community
Brandy Kendricks,
30741 Foxridge Court — Kawaiisu
Tehachapi, CA, 93561 — Tubatulabal
Phone: (661) 821 - 1733 — Koso
krazykendricks@hotmail.com

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

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

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman
Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1899 — Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (928) 750 - 2516
scottmanfred@yahoo.com

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 1899 — Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (760) 572 - 2423
historicpreservation@quechantribe.com

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

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Alexandra McCleary, Cultural Lands Manager
26569 Community Center Drive — Serrano
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 633 - 0054
alexandra.mccleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

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

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 Fort Amethyst Self Storage Project, San Bernardino County, California (SWCA Project No. 79246), San Bernardino County.

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

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
46-200 Harrison Place Chemehuevi
Coachella, CA, 92236
Phone: (760) 775 - 3259
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Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
Darrell Mike, Chairperson
46-200 Harrison Place Chemehuevi
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