

APPENDIX C - CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY

November 18, 2022

Simon Bouzaglou
55555 Amargosa, LLC
5901 South Eastern Avenue
Commerce, CA 90040

Subject: Paleontological and Cultural Resources Assessment for the Victorville Warehouse Project,
City of Victorville, County of San Bernardino, California

Dear Mr. Bouzaglou:

At the request of 55555 Amargosa, LLC (CLIENT), Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC (DUKE CRM) has prepared a paleontological and cultural resources assessment for the Victorville Warehouse Project (Project), located in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The City of Victorville (CITY) is the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of this letter report is to document efforts to comply with CEQA and to provide information to allow the CITY to determine whether the proposed Project would cause substantial impacts to paleontological, archaeological, or historical resources.

The Project is located within Section 10, Township 5 North, Range 5 West, as depicted on the *Adelanto, Calif.* USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle (see Attachment A, Map 2: Project Location). It is located at the southwest corner of Cactus Road and Mesa Linda Avenue (see Attachment A, Map 3: Project Aerial) within APNs 3128-581-05 and -06. The Project is 18.4 acres in size, and it will involve construction of a 414,800-square-foot warehouse building with associated paved parking within the Project parcels. The Project will involve 414,800 square feet of new building construction, 323,630 feet of new A/C paving and concrete hardscaping, and 63,856 square feet of new landscaping, for a total coverage of 802,286 square feet.

Research

On September 8, 2022, DUKE CRM requested that the Western Science Center (WSC) in Hemet, California perform a paleontological records search for known fossil localities within, and in the vicinity of, the Project. The WSC responded on October 17, 2022 indicating that no fossil localities were documented within the Project or the surrounding one-mile radius. The geology within the Project has been mapped by Dibblee and Minch (2008). This geologic mapping indicates that the Project is underlain by Holocene-age alluvial sand, silt, and gravel deposits. Although these units are conducive to the preservation of biological material, they are considered to have low paleontological sensitivity due to their relatively recent age.

A request for a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on September 8, 2022 to ascertain the presence of known sacred sites, Native American cultural resources, and/or human remains within the boundaries of the proposed Project. The NAHC responded on November 2, 2022, and indicated that the results of the SLF search were negative for known sacred sites within the Project.

On October 18, 2022, DUKE CRM conducted a records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC). The SCCIC is part of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) and is located at California State University, Fullerton. The records search included a review of all recorded cultural resources and reports within a 1/2-mile radius of the Project. Review of the SCCIC data indicates that no cultural resources have been previously identified within the Project. Five resources have been recorded within the 1/2-mile search radius (Table 1).

Table 1: Cultural Resources within ½ mile of the Project

Resource No.	Site Type	Description	NRHP/CRHR Eligibility	Distance
P-36-004018	Historical site	Historic trash scatter	6Y - Not eligible	0.2-mile NW
P-36-010316	Historical structure	Historic transmission line segment	2S2 - Eligible	0.1-mile W
P-36-023282	Historical site	Historic isolated artifact	Not evaluated	0.3-mile S
P-36-023318	Historical site	Historic isolated artifact	Not evaluated	0.3-mile NW
P-36-061248	Historical site	Historic isolated artifact	Not evaluated	0.35-mile S

SCCIC records indicate that one cultural resource report (SB-07056) covers an area directly adjacent to the Project, and an additional eight reports cover areas within ½-mile of the Project (Table 2). Report SB-07056 was a cultural resource study completed in 2010 for a pole replacement project. The report did not document any cultural resources.

Table 2: Cultural Resource Reports within ½ mile of the Project

Report No.	Year	Report Title	Authors	Sites within the Project area
SB-00166	1973	Archaeological Survey of the Mojave River Aqueduct and Recharge Areas	San Bernardino County Museum Association	None
SB-01734	1987	Cultural and Paleontological Resources Survey: US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project, Rialto, California to Las Vegas, Nevada	Shackley, M. Steven, Rebecca McCorkle Apple, Jan Wooley, and Robert E. Reynolds	None
SB-01907	1989	Archaeological Survey Report: Inyo-Kern-Kramer 220kv Transmission Line Conducing Project: Tower Sites, Pulling Areas, Sleeve Areas, and Wire Setups, Kern and San Bernardino Counties, California	Taylor, Thomas T.	None
SB-01909	1989	Cultural Resource Assessment: Kramer-Victor 115kv Transmission Line Project	Hampson, R. Paul	None
SB-03020	1993	(Draft) Adelanto-Lugo Transmission Project Cultural Resources Assessment	Sturm, Brad, D. McLean, K. Becker, and J. Rosenthal	None
SB-05766	1997	Cultural Resources Report: Bakersfield-Rialto Fiberoptic Line Project, Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties, California	Love, Bruce	None
SB-07056	2010	Cultural Resources Inventory of Proposed Replacement of Pole 327372S in Apple Valley, San Bernardino County, California	Chandler, Evelyn N., Melanie D. Knypstra, and Roger D. Mason	None
SB-07381	2011	Cultural Resources Class III Survey Report for the Proposed Mojave Solar Project and Lockhart Substation Connection and Communication Facilities, San Bernardino County, California	Wilson, Stacie, M.K. Meiser, and Theodore G. Cooley	None
SB-07899	2013	Cultural Resource and Paleontology Monitoring Report – SCE Sandlot (Water Valley) Project	Strudwick, Ivan	None

In addition, the California Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) was examined. The BERD includes the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California Historical Landmarks (CHL), and California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI). The BERD did not identify any cultural resources within the Project. DUKE CRM also consulted the Cultural Resources Technical Report appendix to the 2022 Environmental Impact Report for the City of Victorville General Plan Update. Review of this report did not identify any cultural resources within the Project. Finally, a review of

historical aerial photographs and historical topographic maps was conducted using the University of California, Santa Barbara's online *FrameFinder* program and the USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer. Historical aerial images from 1952 and 1960 show no development within the Project area, and the 1956 *Adelanto* 1:24,000, 1966 *San Bernardino* 1:25,000, and 1982 *Victorville* 1:100,000 historical topographic maps do not show any buildings, indicating that no development took place within the Project prior to 1982. Based on a map depicting ethnographically-known Native American villages according to accounts of Franciscan missionary explorer Francisco Garcés (Earle 2005), the nearest village to the Project was *Topipabit*, thought to be located along the Mojave River approximately 3 miles northeast of the Project.

Field Survey

DUKE CRM archaeologists Alexandria Bulato, B.A., and Lauren Biltonen, B.A., conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project boundaries on October 21, 2022. Ms. Bulato and Ms. Biltonen are both cross-trained in the identification of paleontological resources. The entirety of the 18.4-acre Project boundary (see Attachment A, Map 3: Project Aerial) was intensively surveyed using parallel transects spaced no more than 15 meters apart. Ground visibility was very good (between 90 to 100 percent) throughout most of the Project, with some minor visibility limitations due to sparse shrubbery throughout the Project and due to an abundance of modern refuse along the northern Project boundary at Cactus Road and along the eastern project boundary at Mesa Linda Road. The Project area was relatively undisturbed. Photographs depicting survey coverage are provided in Attachment B. No paleontological or cultural resources were observed during the field survey.

Conclusions

DUKE CRM assessed the proposed Project for potentially significant impacts to paleontological and cultural resources under CEQA. Research and field survey did not identify any paleontological resources within the Project, and research suggests that the Project area has a low sensitivity for paleontological resources. Based on this assessment, the Project is not likely to impact paleontological resources and no further paleontological investigation is warranted.

No cultural resources are recorded within the Project area, and no cultural resources were identified during the field survey, which suggests a low potential for cultural resources within the Project. The five cultural resources recorded within ½-mile of the Project are small historic refuse scatters and historic isolates, which are ubiquitous within the desert landscape and are not considered significant. Therefore, it is not likely that any cultural or historical resources will be impacted by the Project. DUKE CRM does not recommend any additional work for cultural resources. Project changes may have the potential to disturb sediment that are previously undisturbed and may impact previously unidentified cultural resources.

If previously unidentified cultural and/or paleontological resources are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until the qualified archaeologist/paleontologist can assess the significance of the find. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

DUKE CRM appreciates the opportunity to provide cultural and paleontological services in support of this project. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (909) 684-2713 or alexbulato@dukecrm.com.

Sincerely,

DUKE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC



Alexandria Bulato, B.A.
Archaeologist/Field Director



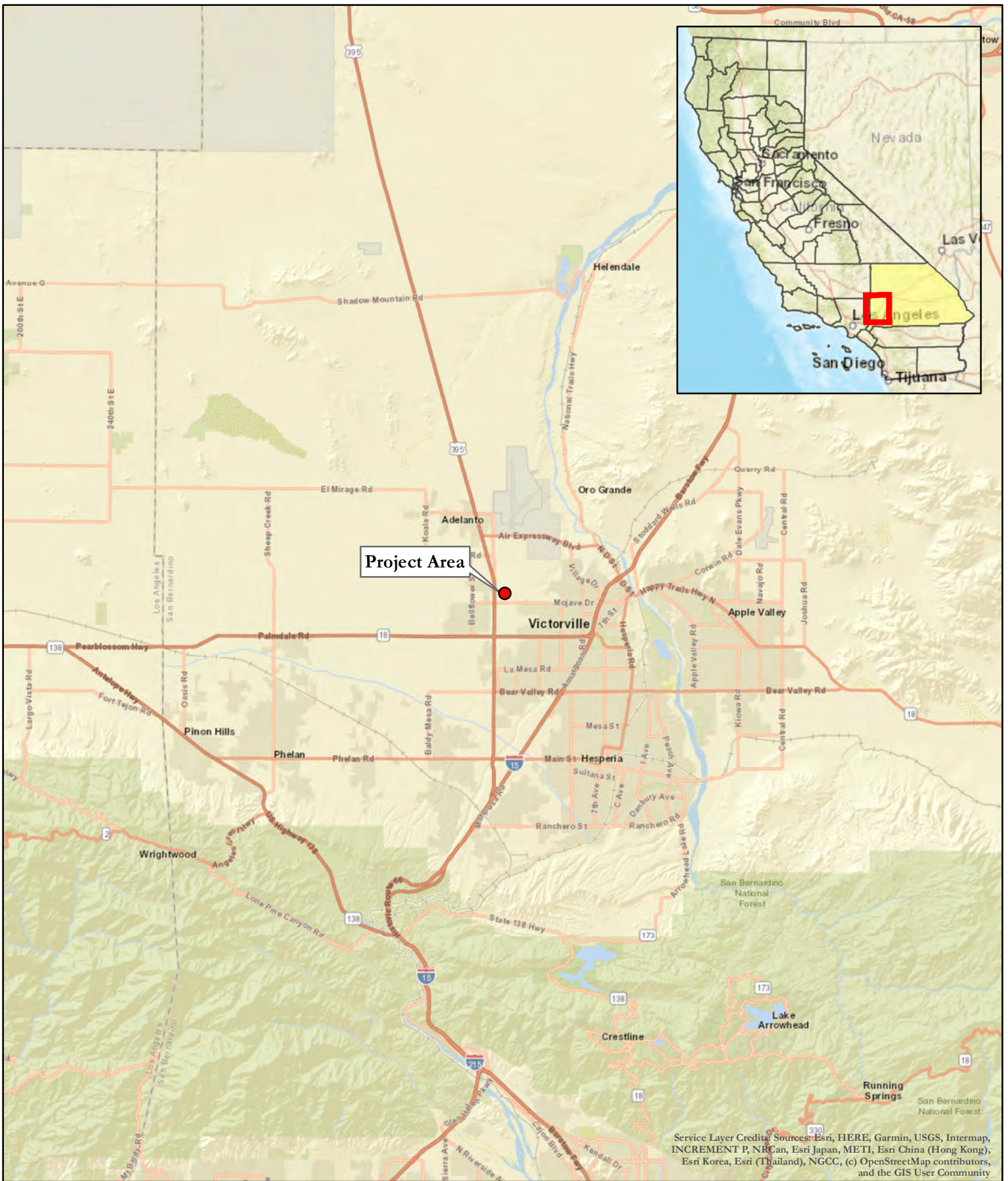
Curt Duke, M.A. RPA
Principal Archaeologist/President

Attachments

- A: Project Maps
- B: Project Photographs

ATTACHMENT A

PROJECT MAPS

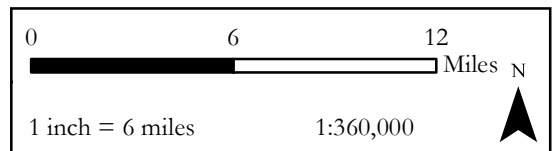


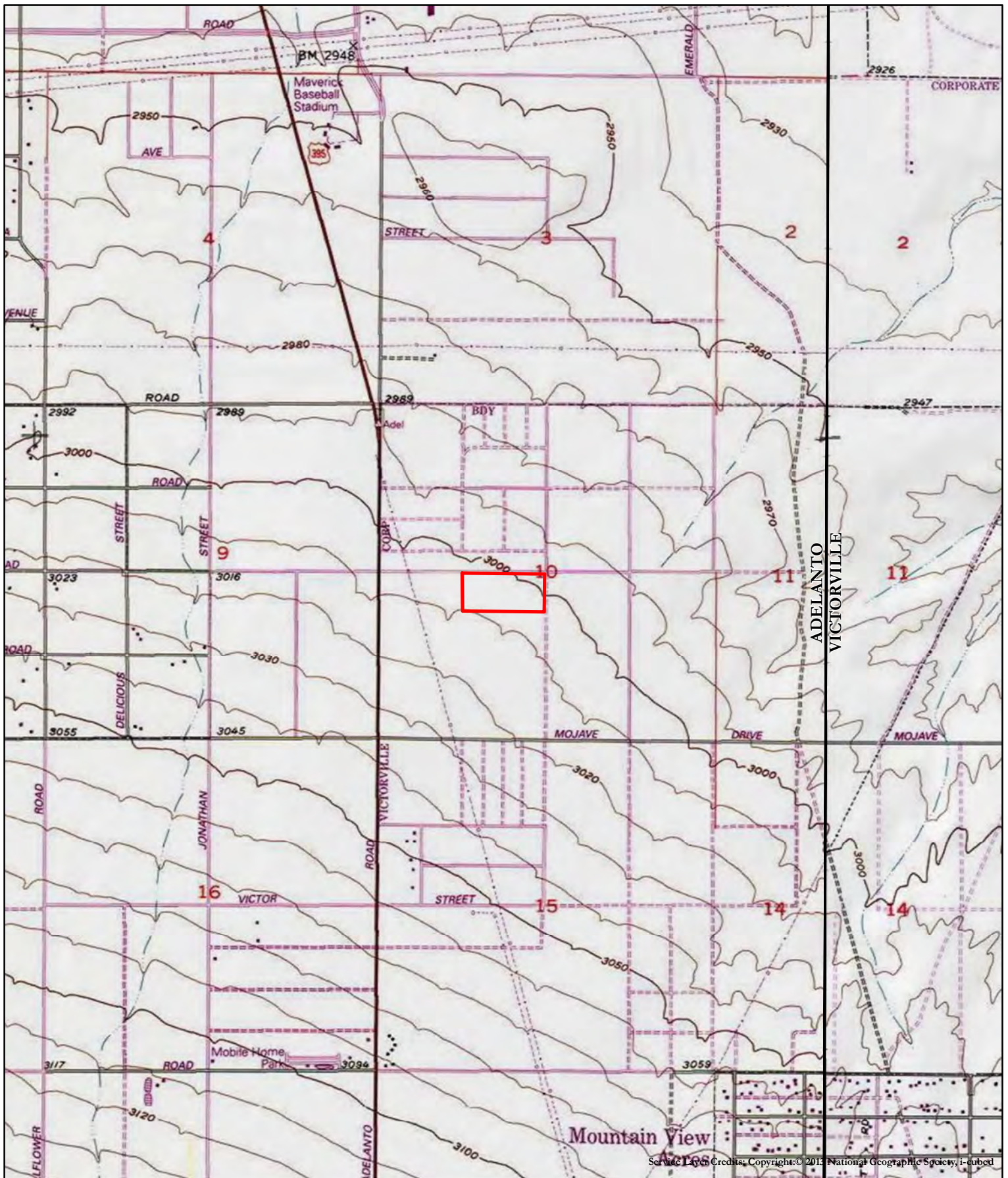
Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Map 1: Project Vicinity
Victorville Warehouse, C-0438



● Project Area





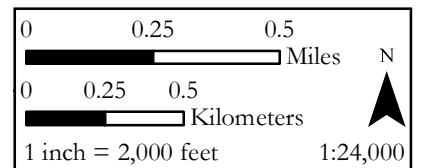
Map 2: Project Location

Victorville Warehouse, C-0438

Adelanto, Calif USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle
T5N, R5W, Section 10

Date of Map: 1956 / Photorevised: 1980

 Project Area

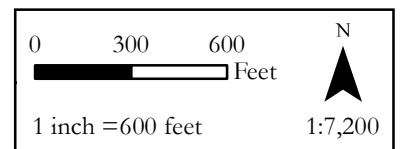




Map 3: Project Aerial Photo
 Victorville Warehouse, C-0438



Project Area



ATTACHMENT B

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Project overview from southeast corner, view to northwest.



Project overview from southwest corner, view to north.



Project overview from southwest corner, view to northeast.



Project overview from northwest corner, view to east.



Modern refuse along northern Project boundary at Cactus Road, view to west.



Project overview from northeast corner along eastern boundary at Mesa Linda Avenue, view to south.