Appendix D
Cultural Resources Technical Report

Cultural Resources Technical Report

Trails at Lyons Canyon Project, Santa Clarita Valley

NOVEMBER 2023

Prepared for:

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with contributions to the prehistoric section made by Loukas Barton, PhD and Micah Hale, PhD and to the Valencia Oak Movie Ranch and The Old Road context sections made by Kate Kaiser, MSHP and Erin Jones, MA

DUDEK

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Project Information Page

Report Type: DRAFT Cultural Resources Technical Report

Project Name: Trails at Lyons Canyon Project

APN: 2826-041-039, 2826-023-014, 2826-022-026, 2826-022-027 and 2826-022-035

Lead Agency: Los Angeles County - Department of Regional Planning

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Report Date: October 2023

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USGS Quads: Oat Mountain

Resources: Within the Project Site: P-19-101350. P-19-101351, P-19-192297; within 1-mile radius: P-19-000802, P-19-001592, P-19-001593, P-19-003989, P-19-004424, P-19-100356, P-19-100357, P-19-100358, P-19-101201, P-19-101350, P-19-101351, P-19-120065, P-19-192297; newly identified: Dudek-Lyons-CYN-001 though 004

Acreage: Approximately 233

Keywords: Cultural Resources Technical Report, Pedestrian Survey, Lyons Canyon, Sanford and Cyrus Lyon; Warner Brothers Valencia Oaks Movie Ranch

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
amsl	average mean sea level
BP	before present
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
cm	centimeters
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
ESA	Environmental Science Associates
HPO	Historic Preservation Ordinance
LACFCD	Los Angeles County Flood Control District
MLD	Most Likely Descendent
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
RTF&A	R.T. Frankian & Associates
SCCIC	South Central Coast Information Center
SLF	Sacred Land Files
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resources
TMZ	thirty-mile zone
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WEAP	Workers Environmental Awareness Program
WPLT	Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition

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Executive Summary

New Urban West, Inc, retained Dudek to conduct a cultural resources assessment documented by a Cultural Resources Technical Report for the Trails at Lyons Canyon Project (Project) located in the unincorporated Los Angeles County (County), California (APN 2826-041-039, 2826-023-014, 2826-022-026, 2826-022-027 and 2826-022-035). Dudek was retained to update original efforts performed by Environmental Services Associates (ESA); as such, there are sections of this report that include quotations with clear citation from the ESA's unfinished report and field notes. This report includes the following components: results of a California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search of the Project area plus a 1-mile radius; results of background research including a literature, archival and historic map and aerial photograph review; results of the intensive-level pedestrian survey of the Project area for cultural resources; an assessment of impacts to historical resources in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and management recommendations. This investigation was conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements for CEQA and County of Los Angeles.

This investigation had the following goals: to better understand the potential for cultural resources to exist within the Project site through extensive background research and an intensive pedestrian survey and consideration of the potential for any known or unknown cultural resources to be impacted by Project ground disturbances. An archaeological literature and records search of the California Historical Resource Information System (CHRIS) database at the South Central Coast Information Center (SCCIC), California State University, Fullerton, determined that 13 cultural resources have been previously recorded within 1-mile of the Project site and offsite improvements locations. The identified cultural resources include two (2) prehistoric archaeological sites, four (4) historic archaeological sites, one (1) prehistoric isolate, two (2) historic isolates, and four (4) built environment resources. Of these, three (3) are located within the Project Site: one (1) prehistoric isolate (P-19-101350), one (1) historic artifact (P-19-101351), and one (1) built environment resource (P-19-192297). Thirty cultural resource studies have been conducted within 1-mile of the Project site and at offsite improvement locations between 1974 and 2015. Of these studies, seven (7) address portions or a large entirety of the Project site and offsite improvement locations. A geotechnical investigation was performed to determine subsurface conditions of the Project site employing the findings of previous studies and newly conducted testing (RFT&A 2023). The results indicate that geologic units within the Project site consist of bedrock of the Pico and Saugus formations, alluvium and colluvium deposits, landslide and debris flow deposits and man-made or artificial fill located only on a narrow strip of land immediately adjacent to The Old Road along the eastern border of the Project site.

The Project site was intensively surveyed by Environmental Science Associates (ESA) in 2021 and Dudek staff archaeologists in 2022. The surveys encompassed the entirety of the Project site, with some exceptions in areas greater than 30 percent slope or vegetation dense enough to prevent access, as well as focused efforts to revisit, assess and when appropriate, evaluate previously and newly identified cultural resources. Ground surface visibility, within the Project site, varied from none to excellent, and special attention was given to barren ground including at the base of trees, within dirt roads and paths, as well as to subsurface soils exposed by burrowing animals. Four cultural resources were newly identified by ESA as a result of their surveys. All resources were assessed with comparative analysis using topographic maps, photographic aerials, and archival documents. None of the identified resources met the criterion for significance in accordance with CEQA. Nor were the identified resources eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Proposed ground disturbance includes significant grading and terracing of the hillside areas surrounding the valley floor, minimal cut grading as well as significant fill grading within the valley floor as well as construction of 510

dwelling units, a recreational center, and associated utility installation, landscaping and paving. Additionally, ground disturbance would be required for off-site improvements. These would include: fuel modification zones; manufactured slopes and installment of a retaining wall; stormwater infrastructure; roadway ingress/egress, sidewalk, curbs, and gutters along The Old Road; a private entrance road; and water infrastructure improvements. The offsite water infrastructure improvements include: 1) new Zone Valve between Newhall and Valencia in The Old Road, 2) construct approximately 4,000 linear-feet of pipe in The Old Road; and (3) upgrade two existing pump stations east of I-5 (Pump Station 4 and Pump Station 5). Within focused areas of the hillside portions of the Project site, the proposed ground disturbance is anticipated to extend up to 140 feet below current ground surface. Within focused areas of the valley floor portion of the Project site, proposed ground disturbance is anticipated to extend no more than 10 feet below current ground surface. Since significant fill soil is proposed to be deposited from the hillside portions to the current valley floor, no ground disturbance within native soils is expected to occur within a large portion of the Project areas proposed for building construction, utility, and retaining wall installation, landscaping and paving. Geotechnical studies have documented the Project site does not contain fill soils, with exception of the narrow area along The Old Road; as such, proposed ground disturbances occurring below current grade are expected to occur within native soils (RFT&A 2023). Considering the cultural sensitivity of the general area, documented by archival documents and resources located within and surrounding the Project area, and the presence of potentially intact native soils, the potential for unknown prehistoric and historic cultural resources to exist within the Project is possible. It is unlikely that unknown prehistoric and historic cultural resources exist within the off-site improvement areas because they are proposed to occur within current utility footprints. This is the case for off-site water infrastructure improvements, as well as for the documented fill soil improvements along The Old Road.

No built environment historical resources of significance were identified on the Project site. Dudek found that the Warner Brothers Valencia Oaks Ranch (Lyons Canyon Ranch) did not meet the thresholds for eligibility as a significant historical resource under any NRHP or CRHR criteria due to falling outside the established period of significance (ranch was established in 1981) and not meeting the "exceptionally important" thresholds for consideration of resources that are less than 50 years in age. Dudek also found that none of the other built environment resources on the property met the age threshold for consideration as historical resources under CEQA under the theme of the Entertainment Industry or other historic events in the area's history. Therefore, changes to Warner Brothers Valencia Oaks Ranch will not cause a substantial adverse change to built environment historical resources.

No known significant cultural resources, as defined by CEQA 15064.5, exist within the Project site. However, if yet unknown cultural resources, possessing the characteristics outlined in CEQA as significant, exist and are inadvertently encountered during implementation of the Project, there is potential for a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource to occur. Therefore, the following two measures are recommended to ensure that the potential for impacts to unknown cultural resources during proposed ground disturbing construction activities would be appropriately addressed consistent with CEQA and County of Los Angeles requirements and guidelines: (1) Retainment of a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior standards responsible for the development and implementation of a Cultural Resource Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan, and a (2) development and presentation of a Workers Environmental Awareness Program Training to the Project's construction personnel. Implementation of these measures would ensure that cultural resources encountered inadvertently are treated properly and in accordance with CEQA resulting in less than significant impacts to cultural resources.

1.0 Introduction

New Urban West, Inc, retained Dudek to conduct a cultural resources assessment documented by a Cultural Resources Technical Report for the Trails at Lyons Canyon Project (Project) located in the unincorporated Los Angeles County (County), California (APN 2826-041-039, 2826-023-014, 2826-022-026, 2826-022-027 and 2826-022-035). Dudek was retained to update original efforts performed by ESA; as such, there are sections of this report that include quotations, with clear citation, from ESA's draft report and field notes. This report includes the following components: results of a CHRIS records search of the Project area plus a 1-mile radius; results of background research including a literature, archival and historic map and aerial photograph review; result of the intensive-level pedestrian survey of the Project area for cultural resources; an assessment of impacts to historical resources in compliance with the CEQA and management recommendations. This report satisfies all applicable requirements for the CEQA and Los Angeles County.

This report was prepared by Dudek Archaeologist, Heather McDaniel McDevitt, MA, RPA, who meets Secretary of the Interior's standards. Ms. McDaniel McDevitt managed the field and research tasks for this study, composed the report, and reviewed all tasks for quality assurance/quality control. The following Dudek archaeological staff contributed to this study: Kira Archipov, BS and Dana Taggart, MA conducted fieldwork and contributed to the survey section of the report; Kira Archipov and Brenda Rogers, BA contributed to research tasks and to various sections of the report; Micah J. Hale, PhD, RPA composed portions of the prehistoric and ethnohistoric setting contexts with edits by Loukas Barton, PhD, RPA and Ms. McDaniel McDevitt. The following Dudek architectural historians contributed to this study: Kate G. Kaiser, MSHP composed the Valencia Oak Movie Ranch and The Old Road setting contexts as well as those findings pertaining to the same in the Assessment of Recorded Resources and Evaluation of Potential Project Effects sections with support from Erin Jones, MA.

1.1 Project Location and Description

The Project site, which totals 233.49 acres, is located in unincorporated Los Angeles County (County), in the northern foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains at the westerly perimeter of the Santa Clarita Valley. The Project site consists of assessor parcel numbers (APNs) 2826-041-039, 2826-023-014, 2826-022-026, 2826-022-027 and 2826-022-035. Surrounding properties include Stevenson Ranch, a master-planned community in the unincorporated County, located immediately to the north; a small linear county-owned parcel and The Old Road run northwest to southeast along the eastern boundary City of Santa Clarita is located just east of the Project site; the Santa Susana Mountains are located to the west and south; and unincorporated County land and City of Santa Clarita land (specifically, Rivendale Park and Open Space) are located to the south. The Project site is bordered by open space on its western, southern, and southeastern boundaries. Regional access to the Project site is provided by the northbound/southbound Interstate-5 (I-5) Freeway to the east, with freeway access ramps via Lyons Avenue or Calgrove Boulevard, each located approximately 1.0 mile from the Project site. Direct access to the Project site is currently provided by The Old Road on the east.

The Project would include the development of 510 dwelling units with a mix of attached and detached dwelling units, and affordable senior housing within approximately 41 acres, as well as a recreational center within a 1.13-acre lot, and approximately 176 acres of natural and improved open space. Project infrastructure would include internal roadways, trails and a new trailhead, a new water tank, and three Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) lots with debris and desilting basins.

Off-site improvements of the Project include fuel modification zones and construction of an 8-foot-wide sidewalk and widening on The Old Road within the linear County-owned parcel (APN 2826-022-901 at The Old Road) located between the Project's eastern boundary and The Old Road. Property included within APN 2826-022-901 would contribute to the development of lots within the northeastern portion of the site, allowing the Project to develop the required manufactured slopes, retaining wall, stormwater infrastructure (V-ditches along slopes), roadway ingress/egress and curb/gutter where the Project site connects to The Old Road, and roadway ingress/egress for the gated private access road. These off-site improvements along The Old Road would occur on 3.52 acres. The Old Road would be improved as required by the conditions of approval imposed by Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works). The existing portion of The Old Road adjacent to the Project's northeastern boundary within APN 2826-022-901 is approximately 21 feet wide, with a curb and gutter on the east side of the road and an asphalt edge on the western side of the road. Off-site improvements of the Project would include widening The Old Road by 47 feet (including 45 feet of asphalt and 2 feet of concrete curb and gutter) within APN 2826-022-901 to create a total 68-foot-wide curb to curb road within an 80-foot right of way. A new 8-foot-wide concrete sidewalk would be installed along the western frontage of the Project site and an approximately 4-foot-tall retaining wall would be constructed adjacent to the sidewalk. In addition to improvements to The Old Road, the Project includes off-site utility infrastructure components, including utility water line, upgrades of two pump stations, and water tank infrastructure improvements. Each of these elements were addressed within this investigation.

Within focused areas of the hillside portions of the Project site, the proposed ground disturbance is anticipated to extend up to 140 feet below current ground surface. Within focused areas of the hillside valley floor portions of the Project site, proposed ground disturbance is anticipated to extend no more than 10 feet below current ground surface. Since significant fill soil is proposed to be deposited from the hillside portions to the current valley floor, no ground disturbance within native soils is expected to occur within a large portion of the Project areas proposed for building construction, utility, and retaining wall installation, landscaping and paving. Proposed offsite improvements would occur within current utility footprints in the case of the water infrastructure improvements and documented fill soils in the case of improvements within the linear County-owned parcel (APN 2826-022-901) located between the Project's eastern boundary and The Old Road, and within The Old Road. Additionally, off-site improvements would include upgrades to Pump Stations 4 and 5 within the Newhall service district.

1.2 Natural Setting

The Project site is located within the western portion of the Santa Clarita Valley within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Series Oat Mountain Quadrangle, Township 3N; Range 16W; Sections 4.9. It is situated within the foothills of the Santa Susanna Mountains, approximately 7 miles south of the Sierra Pelona Mountains, and approximately 4.5 miles west of the San Gabriel Mountains. The Project site includes rugged terrain, steep ridgelines, and dense vegetation surrounding the north, south and west perimeter of a valley floor interlaced by a series of small ephemeral creeks running generally downslope from the foothills into the valley floor. The closest year-round water source is the Santa Clarita River located approximately 3.6 miles north. Elevation within the Project site varies from its highest of 1,654 feet above mean sea level (msl) at the southwest corner to approximately 1,300 feet above msl at the northeast corner. Vegetation within the general area consists of chaparral including sage scrub and nonnative low-lying grasses on the hillsides and ridges with clusters of coast live oaks throughout. With the exception of the non-native species, vegetation present prior to development in the region was similar to what was present at the time of this study.

Soils in the Project site are characterized as predominantly Castaic and Saugus soils, Yolo loam, and Castaic-Balcom silty clay loams (USDA 2022). Castaic and Saugus soils and Castaic-Balcom silty clay loams exist at greater

than 30 percent slopes within the foothills and along the ridges, whereas Yolo loam exists at 0 to 9 percent slopes within the valleys and alluvial planes. The series profiles are described individually below:

- Castaic and Saugus soils: 0 to 26 inches silty clay loam; 26 to 30 inches weathered bedrock. Typically found in the landform hills with steeper slopes on the backslope or sideslope.
- Yolo loam: 0 to 72 inches of loam. Typically found within alluvial fans.
- Castaic-Balcom silty clay loam: 0 to 26 inches silty clay loam; 26 to 30 inches weathered bedrock. Typically found in the landform hills on the backslope or sideslope.

The site is underlain by sedimentary rock units of the Plio-Pleistocene age Saugus Formation and the Pliocene age Pico Formation. The Saugus formation is comprised of interbedded light brown to reddish-brown siltstone and sandstone and characterized as moderately cemented, indurated, and generally poorly exposed (RTF&A 2022). The Pico formation is comprised of dark yellowish orange to yellowish gray fine-to-medium grained sandstones, coarse-grained pebbly sandstones, yellowish gray to olive brown siltstones, and some silty claystone interbedded and characterized as thinly bedded, soft, and moderately weathered (RFT&A 2023).

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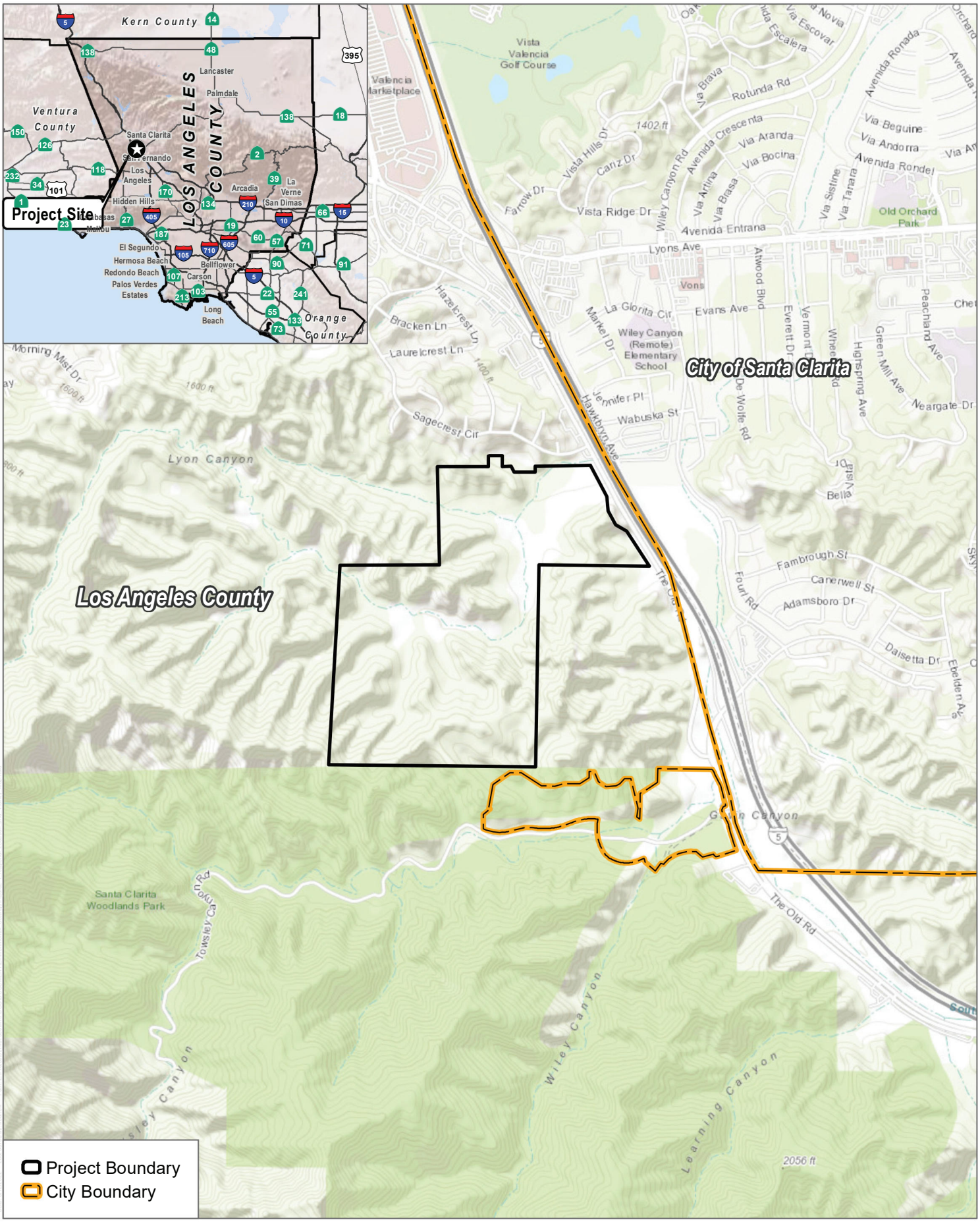

SOURCE: ESRI World Topographic Map

DUDEK

0 800 1,600 Feet

FIGURE 1

Project Vicinity

Trails at Lyons Canyon Project

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LEGEND:

- BOUNDARY LINE
- EXISTING CONTOURS
- EXISTING SEWER
- EXISTING WATER
- DRAINAGE FLOW DIRECTION
- PROPOSED LOT LINES
- ZONE BOUNDARY LINE
- PROPOSED GRADING CONTOUR
- PROPOSED STREET GRADES
- PROPOSED RETAINING WALL
- PROPOSED MANUFACTURED SLOPE
- EXISTING EASEMENTS
- PROPOSED EASEMENTS
- LIMIT OF GRADING LINE
- PROPOSED STORM DRAIN
- PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER
- PROPOSED WATER
- LOT X — LOT NUMBER
- EXISTING OAK TREE (SEE PROTECTED TREE REPORT AND SHEET 2 & 3)
- EXISTING NON-OAK PROTECTED TREE (SEE PROTECTED TREE REPORT AND SHEET 2 & 3)
- MWS — MODULAR WETLAND STORM WATER TREATMENT DEVICE

EASEMENTS BASED ON FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY PRELIMINARY TITLE REPORT, ORDER NO. NHSC-6837868(RA), DATED MAY 4, 2022

TITLE REPORT ITEM NO.	OWNER	PURPOSE	REFERENCE	FUTURE DISPOSITION	TENTATIVE MAP SHEET NO.
EXISTING EASEMENTS					
(4)	SO. CAL. EDISON	ELECTRICAL LINES & INCIDENTAL PURPOSES	JULY 25, 1945 BOOK 30616, PAGE 283	TO BE REALIGNED WITH FINAL SCE DESIGN	N/A CANNOT BE PLOTTED
(5)	AYERS EASEMENT	INGRESS/EGRESS	JULY 12, 1977 INSTR. NO. 77-746808 JULY 13, 1977 INSTR. NO. 77-754792 APRIL 4, 1978 INSTR. NO. 78-352178 FEBRUARY 27, 1979 INSTR. NO. 79-227247	TO BE REALIGNED WITH "A" STREET AND "B" STREET	2
PROPOSED EASEMENTS					
(X)	TWENTY FOOT WIDE MULTI-USE(HIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, EQUESTRIAN) TRAIL EASEMENT TO BE DEDICATED TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES APPROPRIATELY ALONG THE EXISTING VARIABLE WIDTH TRAIL ALIGNMENTS		TO LA COUNTY PARKS AND REC. DEPARTMENT	2
(Y)	MINIMUM TWENTY EIGHT FOOT WIDE ACCESS EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS PURPOSES TO BE GRANTED TO ADJACENT PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS			PRIVATE ACCESS EASEMENT (TO BE MAINTAINED BY HOA)	2
(Z)	STORM DRAIN EASEMENT FOR ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY OWNED BASIN, PIPS, AND STRUCTURES			TO LA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL	2
	TEN FOOT WIDE SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT, CENTERLINE BEING PROPOSED SEWER MAIN WHERE SEWER MAIN IS OUTSIDE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY			TO LA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS	

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 50 100 200

(IN FEET)

1 inch = 100 ft.

UNITED CIVIL INC
30141 Agoura Road, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
PH: (818) 707-8648

SIEW HUAT NG R.C.E. 46026 09/05/2023
DATE

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER SIEW HUAT NG NO. 46026 EXP. 12-31-24 CIVIL STATE OF CALIFORNIA

OWNER/APPLICANT:

NUWI LYONS CANYON, LLC
2001 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 401
SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
TEL: (310) 864-2427

NO.	DATE	REVISIONS	BY	APPR

THE TRAILS AT LYONS CANYON
MAJOR LAND DIVISION
VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT NO. 83301
(FOR CONDOMINIUM PURPOSES)

LOCATED IN THE UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DATE: SEPTEMBER 05, 2023

SHEET 2 OF 5

Q:\Santa Clarita\Lyons Canyon Ranch\UCI\VTTM\20338_TENTATIVE-MAP_Sheets.dwg

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LANDSCAPE KEY

1. COMMUNITY REC. CENTER
2. COMMUNITY ENTRY MONUMENTS
3. TRAIL GATEWAY
4. LYONS CANYON TRAIL
5. SLOPE BUFFER LANDSCAPE
6. DETENTION BASIN

SOURCE: Land Concept, 2024

NUWI LYONS CANYON, LLC

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Conceptual Landscape Plan **FIGURE 3**

Conceptual Site Plan

Trails at Lyons Canyon Project

0 50 100 200

SCALE: 1" = 100'

THE TRAILS AT LYON'S CANYON

UNINCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNA

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2.0 Regulatory Setting

2.1 Federal Regulations

National Register of Historic Places

Since CEQA views any property considered eligible or listed in the National Register as a historical resource, this report utilizes the NRHP designation criteria. Should the proposed Project consider a federal undertaking, which would initiate Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act compliance requirements, then this evaluation could be utilized.

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

NRHP guidelines for the evaluation of historic significance were developed to be flexible and to recognize the accomplishments of all who have made significant contributions to the nation's history and heritage. Its criteria are designed to guide state and local governments, federal agencies, and others in evaluating potential entries in the NRHP. For a property to be listed in or determined eligible for listing, it must be demonstrated to possess integrity and to meet at least one of the following criteria:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

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

In addition to these basic evaluation criteria, the NRHP outlines further criteria considerations for significance. Moved buildings or structures; birthplaces; cemeteries; reconstructed buildings, structures, or objects; commemorative properties; and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are generally not eligible for the NRHP. The criteria considerations are exceptions to these rules, and they allow for the following types of resources to be NRHP eligible (NPS 1995, p. 25):

A a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance;
B a building or structure removed from its original location, but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event;
C a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life;

D a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, from association with historic events;

E a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived;

F a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or

G a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

Once the significance of a resource has been determined, the resource then must be assessed for integrity. Integrity is 1) the ability of a property to illustrate the history and 2) possession of the physical features necessary to convey the aspect of history with which it is associated (NPS 1995, p. 44). The integrity evaluation is grounded in understanding a property's physical features and how they relate to the property's significance. Historic properties must retain integrity (in order to convey their significance). To maintain integrity, a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the seven aspects of integrity (NPS 1995, pp. 44-45):

1. **Location** is where the historic property was constructed or where the historic event occurred.
2. **Design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style.
3. **Setting** is the physical environment of a historic property.
4. **Materials** are the physical elements combined or deposited during a particular period and in a specific pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
5. **Workmanship** is the physical evidence of crafts of a particular culture or people during any period in history or prehistory.
6. **Feeling** is the property's expression of a particular period's aesthetic or historic sense.
7. **Association** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

2.2 State Regulations

2.2.1 California Environmental Quality Act

The California Register of Historical Resources

In California, the term "historical resource" includes but is not limited to "any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California" (California Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(j)). In 1992, the California legislature established CRHR "to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state's historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change" (California Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(a)). A resource is eligible for listing in the CRHR if the State Historical Resources Commission determines that it is a significant resource and that it meets any of the following NRHP criteria (California Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c):

8. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.

9. Associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
10. 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.
11. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Resources less than 50 years old are not considered for listing in the CRHR but may be considered if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand the historical importance of the resource (see 14 CCR, Section 4852(d)(2)).

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

Native American Historic Cultural Sites

The Native American Historic Resources Protection Act (California Public Resources Code Section 5097, et seq.) addresses the disposition of Native American burials in archaeological sites and protects such remains from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction; establishes procedures to be implemented if Native American skeletal remains are discovered during construction of a project; and establishes the NAHC to resolve disputes regarding the disposition of such remains. In addition, the Native American Historic Resource Protection Act makes it a misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year in jail to deface or destroy an Indian historic or cultural site that is listed or may be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

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

California Environmental Quality Act Statutes and Guidelines

As described further below, the following CEQA statutes and CEQA Guidelines are relevant to the analysis of archaeological and historic resources:

1. California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g): Defines “unique archaeological resource.”
2. California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a): Defines historical resources. In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) defines the phrase “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource. It also defines the circumstances when a project would materially impair the significance of a historical resource.
3. California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e): These statutes set forth standards and steps to be employed following the accidental discovery of human remains in any location other than a dedicated ceremony.

4. California Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2(b)-(c) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4: These statutes and regulations provide information regarding the mitigation framework for archaeological and historic resources, including options of preservation-in-place mitigation measures; identifies preservation-in-place as the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to significant archaeological sites.

Under CEQA, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it may cause "a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource" (California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)). An "historical resource" is any site listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR. The CRHR listing criteria are intended to examine whether the resource in question: (a) is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage; (b) is associated with the lives of persons important in our past; (c) embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or (d) has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

The term "historical resource" also includes any site described in a local register of historic resources or identified as significant in a historical resources survey (meeting the requirements of California Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(q)).

CEQA also applies to "unique archaeological resources." California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g) defines a "unique archaeological resource" as any 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.

All historical resources and unique archaeological resources – as defined by statute – are presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of CEQA (California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)). The lead agency is not precluded from determining that a resource is a historical resource even if it does not fall within this presumption (California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)). A site or resource that does not meet the definition of "historical resource" or "unique archaeological resource" is not considered significant under CEQA and need not be analyzed further (California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(a); CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)(4)).

Under CEQA a significant cultural impact results from a "substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource [including a unique archaeological resource]" due to the "physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(1); California Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(q)). In turn, the significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project:

1. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register; or

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

Section 21074 of the Public Resources Code states that "tribal cultural resources" are:

> (1) sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a tribe that are listed, or determined to be eligible for listing, in the national or state register of historical resources, or listed in a local register of historic resources; or
>
> (2) resources that the lead agency determines, in its discretion, are tribal cultural resources.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(2)

Pursuant to these sections, the CEQA first evaluates whether a project site contains any "historical resources," then assesses whether that project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource such that the resource's historical significance is materially impaired.

When a project significantly affects a unique archeological resource, CEQA imposes special mitigation requirements. Specifically, "[i]f it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a unique archeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts to be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. Examples of that treatment, in no order of preference, may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:"

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

California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(b)(1)-(4)

If these "preservation in place" options are not feasible, mitigation may be accomplished through data recovery (California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(d); CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C)). California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(d) states that "[e]xcavation as mitigation shall be restricted to those parts of the unique archeological resource that would be damaged or destroyed by the project. Excavation as mitigation shall not be required for a unique archeological resource if the lead agency determines that testing or studies already completed have adequately recovered the scientifically consequential information from and about the resource, if this determination is documented in the environmental impact report."

These same requirements are set forth in slightly greater detail in CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), as follows:

(A) Preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archeological sites. Preservation in place maintains the relationship between artifacts and the archeological context. Preservation may also avoid conflict with religious or cultural values of groups associated with the site.

(B) Preservation in place may be accomplished by, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Planning construction to avoid archeological sites;
2. Incorporation of sites within parks, greenspace, or other open space;
3. Covering the archeological sites with a layer of chemically stable soil before building tennis courts, parking lots, or similar facilities on the site [; and]
4. Deeding the site into a permanent conservation easement.

(C) When data recovery through excavation is the only feasible mitigation, a data recovery plan, which makes provision for adequately recovering the scientifically consequential information from and about the historical resource, shall be prepared and adopted prior to any excavation being undertaken.

Note that, when conducting data recovery, "[i]f an artifact must be removed during project excavation or testing, curation may be an appropriate mitigation." However, "[d]ata recovery shall not be required for an historical resource if the lead agency determines that testing or studies already completed have adequately recovered the scientifically consequential information from and about the archeological or historic resource, provided that determination is documented in the EIR and that the studies are deposited with the California Historical Resources Regional Information Center" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(D)).

California Health and Safety Code

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 assigns special importance to human remains and specifies the protocols to be followed in the case of a discovery of Native American human remains including the roles and responsibilities of the coroner, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the individual identified by the NAHC as the most likely descended from the deceased Native American, and the landowner of whose land the discovery was made. As described below, these procedures are detailed in California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The California Public Resources and Health and Safety codes consist of the regulatory, penal, and administrative ordinances for the State of California. A summary of the California codes that are applicable to the subject of the discovery of human remains are identified below.

- HSC § 7050.5 – This code is to ensure that human remains are not knowingly mutilated or disinterred, wantonly disturbed, or willfully removed from any location other than a dedicated cemetery without authority of law. The codes specifically provides exception to any person carrying out an agreement developed pursuant to subdivision (l) of Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code or to any person authorized to implement Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code. The code also provides protocols to be followed in the case of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery and stipulates the role of the coroner. Finally, the code provides the protocols to follow in the case the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority and if the coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American as well as the role of the Native American Heritage Commission.

- PRC § 5097.94 – This code establishes the powers and duties bestowed on the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). As they relate to those powers and duties that apply to human remains, this code states that the NAHC has the responsibility to: identify and catalog places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans, and known graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private lands; make recommendations relative to Native American sacred places that are located on private lands; mediate disputes arising between landowners and known descendants relating to the treatment and disposition of Native American human burials, skeletal remains, and items associated with Native American burials; provide protection to Native American human burials and skeletal remains from vandalism and inadvertent destruction; and assist interested landowners in developing agreements with appropriate Native American groups for treating or disposing, with appropriate dignity, of the human remains and any items associated with Native American burials.

- PRC § 5097.98 – This code outlines the protocols to be followed in the case of a discovery of Native American human remains including the roles and responsibilities of the coroner, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the individual identified by the NAHC as the most likely descended from the deceased Native American, and the landowner of whose land the discovery was made. The code defines the manner of "conferral" or "discuss and confer" as "the meaningful and timely discussion and careful consideration of the views of each party, in a manner that is cognizant of all parties' cultural values, and where feasible, seeking agreement" and states that all parties involved "shall recognize the other's needs and concerns for confidentiality of information provided to the other".

- PRC § 5097.99. - This code is intended to protect by prohibiting obtaining or possessing Native American artifacts or human remains taken from grave or cairn on or after January 1, 1984 and states that "any person who removes, without authority of law, any Native American artifacts or human remains from a Native American grave or cairn with an intent to sell or dissect or with malice or wantonness is guilty of a felony which is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison".

- PRC § 5097.991 – This code establishes the policy of the state that Native American human remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated.

2.3 Local Regulations – Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan

Chapter 9, the Conservation and Natural Resources Element of the Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan, Section VIII. Historic, Cultural, and Paleontological Resources provides the following goals and policies potentially relevant to the Project (County of Los Angeles 2015): The following summarizes Goals and Policies specific to cultural and historical resources:

Goal C/NR 14 Protected historic, cultural, and paleontological resources.
Topic: Historic, Cultural, and Paleontological Resource Protection

Policy C/NR 14.1 Mitigate all impacts from new development on or adjacent to historic, cultural, and paleontological resources to the greatest extent feasible.

Policy C/NR 14.2 Support an inter-jurisdictional collaborative system that protects and enhances historic, cultural, and paleontological resources.

Policy C/NR 14.3 Support the preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings.

Policy C/NR 14.4 Ensure proper notification procedures to Native American tribes in accordance with Senate Bill 18 (2004).

Policy C/NR 14.5 Promote public awareness of historic, cultural, and paleontological resources.

Policy C/NR 14.6 Ensure proper notification and recovery processes are carried out for development on or near historic, cultural, and paleontological resources.

Los Angeles County Historic Preservation Ordinance

On September 1, 2015, the Board of Supervisors recognized the importance of preserving the County's distinctive architectural and cultural history by adopting the Historic Preservation Ordinance ("HPO") that:

- Specifies criteria and procedures for the designation of landmarks and historic districts.
- Specifies criteria and procedures for reviewing proposed work on designated landmarks or on property within historic districts.
- Establishes penalties for unauthorized work, including demolition, on landmarks or historic district contributors.
- Requires maintenance of landmarks and historic district contributors to prevent deterioration.
- Prohibits work, including demolition, on property nominated but not yet designated as a landmark or historic district.
- Encourages adaptive reuse of landmarks and historic district contributors by providing relief from parking requirements.
- Provides for the enhancement of historic districts by the establishment of development guidelines and standards, and by allowing streetscape improvements that are compatible with the areas historic character.

Section 22.124.070, Criteria for Designation of Landmarks and Historic Districts.

Included here are the relevant sections of Los Angeles County Code Section 22.124.070, which summarizes applicable criteria for landmark and historic district designation.

A structure, site, object, tree, landscape, or natural land feature may be designated as a landmark if it is 50 years of age or older and satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;
2. It is associated with the lives of persons who are significant in the history of the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, architectural style, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose work is of significance to the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located; or possesses artistic values of significance to the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;
4. It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, significant and important information regarding the prehistory or history of the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;

5. It is listed, or has been formally determined eligible by the United States National Park Service for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, or is listed, or has been formally determined eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing, on the California Register of Historical Resources;
6. If it is a tree, it is one of the largest or oldest trees of the species located in the County; or
7. If it is a tree, landscape, or other natural land feature, it has historical significance due to an association with a historic event, person, site, street, or structure, or because it is a defining or significant outstanding feature of a neighborhood.

The County provides for the protection and preservation of Archaeological/Paleontological/Historic Cultural Resources under Zoning Code Section 22.44.1570, Additional Development Standards):

A. Purpose. The intent of these provisions is protect and preserve archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources from destruction, and avoid impacts to such resources where feasible. Where avoidance is not feasible, impacts to resources shall be minimized to the maximum extent feasible.

B. Definitions. The following definitions shall only apply to this section. This portion of the County's approach to the protection and preservation of Archaeological/Paleontological/Historic Cultural Resources under Zoning Code Section 22.44.1570 includes a glossary of applicable terms. Please refer to Zoning Code Section 22.44.1570 for complete language.

C. Applicability. A Cultural Resource Review pursuant to this section shall be required for all projects prior to the issuance of a planning approval, coastal development permit, geological/geotechnical exploratory excavation permit, sewer permit, building permit, grading permit, or prior to the commencement of government-initiated or funded works except those projects necessary for emergency purposes.

D. Cultural Resource Review. This portion of the County's approach to the protection and preservation of Archaeological/Paleontological/Historic Cultural Resources under Zoning Code Section 22.44.1570 includes a comprehensive description of how cultural resource reviews should be conducted. Please refer to Zoning Code Section 22.44.1570 for complete language.

E. Cataloging and Filing of Information. This portion of the County's approach to the protection and preservation of Archaeological/Paleontological/Historic Cultural Resources under Zoning Code Section 22.44.1570 includes a comprehensive protocol for the curation and filing of data and findings. Please refer to Zoning Code Section 22.44.1570 for complete language.

F. Archaeological Discoveries. Any person who discovers important cultural resources during the course of construction for a project shall notify the Director of the discovery. Once important cultural resources are discovered, no further excavation shall be permitted without approval of the Director.

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3.0 Cultural Setting

3.1 Background Context

3.1.1 Prehistoric Setting

The Project area is located within a part of California that is poorly understood regarding aboriginal occupation. The few significant archaeological studies in the area (e.g., Waugh 1999) have not fully defined local culture history and as a result, researchers have imposed cultural historical schemes developed in adjacent regions onto the Santa Clarita Valley. Even the most recent published archaeological summaries casually lump the Santa Clarita Valley into neighboring cultural historical schemes of the southern California coast (i.e., Glassow et al. 2007). The same is true of the ethnohistoric record, which is based wholly on second-hand accounts of descendants claiming traditional ties to the area (see Section 3.2, below).

Note also that one artifact type defined for one region may or may not represent the same time period or human behavior in another. The simple correlations of artifact types or styles does not necessarily indicate a direct functional or causal relationship. That is, the presence of coastal or desert-derived artifacts in Santa Clarita Valley does not necessarily indicate cultural or socioeconomic relationships with inhabitants of those areas. Such relationships must be demonstrated in the archaeological record by ruling out other functional interpretations as less plausible.

To avoid the pitfalls of extending culture histories from adjacent regions into the Santa Clarita Valley, the following sections discuss major archaeological trends in southern California according to a geologic time scale: Terminal Pleistocene (pre-10,000 years before present—BP), Early Holocene (10,000 – 7500 BP), Middle Holocene (7500 – 4000 BP), and Late Holocene (post – 4000 BP). Regional culture historical frameworks are then discussed within these categories as appropriate, providing an opportunity to consider their local application.

Terminal Pleistocene (pre – 10,000 BP)

The terminal Pleistocene period has been the subject of much research in North America, although it remains hotly debated in terms of human adaptations. A few things are certain: terminal Pleistocene environments were rapidly changing at the end of the Wisconsonin glaciation period after 18,000 BP; definitive evidence places humans in North American by at least 12,500 BP.

The last major glaciation period (Wisconsonin) ended by about 18,000 BP, marked by a warming and drying trend that started at this time, lasting until at least 15,000 BP (Grayson 1993). Glaciers that covered most of northern North America began to melt forming pluvial lakes; Pleistocene Lake Lahonton being one of the largest covering the Great Basin of western North America (Grayson 1993). In southern California, many of the vegetation communities found at high elevations today were found at lower elevations then. Wood rat middens from the Mojave Desert indicate that the area was covered by a coniferous forest characterized by juniper and sage by 15,000 BP (Spaulding 1983, 1990). As the Pleistocene came to a close by about 10,000 BP, the warming trend continued and upward migration of vegetation communities occurred, firmly establishing desert sage scrub communities and coastal chaparral from 10,000 to 8,000 BP. Ocean core sediment analysis of oxygen isotopes and pollen indicate much cooler ocean surface temperatures. Coupled with rising sea levels at a rate of about

one meter per century through close of the Pleistocene (Inman 1983), the early Holocene was set to be much more moderate in climatic stability than the Pleistocene.

These environmental changes have been often cited as a key agent in cultural adaptation. A very unique technology defined by fluted projectile points and a highly formal lithic tool kit with almost no processing equipment is recognized as the earliest evidence of human adaptation to North America. Widely known as "Clovis," regional manifestations of this toolkit show important variability both in projectile point styles and tool kit composition. In western North America, fluted points and related items are most often found near or along pluvial lakeshores, leading to the definition of the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition (WPLT, Bedwell 1973). The WPLT holds as its primary tenet that human adaptive strategies in the terminal Pleistocene were evolved to exploit the rich flora and fauna located along pluvial shorelines. Emma Lou Davis' (1978) work at China Lake near the Coso Range is one of the more well-known examples of a pluvial association with fluted points. Indeed, there is good evidence that Pleistocene megafauna persisted alongside modern fauna and tended to cluster around pluvial lakeshores (Grayson 1993). However, recent research questions the reality of the WPLT through discoveries of Paleoindian toolkits, including fluted points in areas far removed from pluvial lakeshores (Basgall et al. 2002). Moreover, the variability in terminal Pleistocene tool kits is just beginning to be understood as various kinds of stemmed projectile points are being reliably assigned to pre-10,000 BP contexts, such as Great Basined Stemmed and Lake Mojave projectile point forms (Basgall et al. 2002; Basgall 2000; Warren 2004).

Whether or not terminal Pleistocene humans focused on hunting large animals or not is also debated. Most hold Clovis and other fluted point-dominated assemblages as a highly specialized large animal hunting complex, but others interpret these technological complexes as generalized, allowing for rapid movement across large areas with flexibility (i.e., Kelly and Todd 1988). Resolution to this issue has yet to come, but strong evidence suggests on either side with direct evidence of megafauna procurement using fluted and other stemmed points (see Meltzer 1993), as well as direct evidence of stemmed projectile points for cutting and grinding, indicating a more generalized intent of use (see Basgall 1993). The truth probably rests in regional variation where localized climatic and environmental patterns affect the resources humans exploit and as a result, their response to changes in the availability of those.

Further complicating the picture is the realization that vegetal processing technology was being intensively used prior to 10,000 BP. The discovery in La Jolla of a robust assemblage of millingstones, handstones, and battered implements, with virtually no formal flaked lithic items associated with dozens of human burials and radiocarbon dates in excess of 10,000 BP indicates at the very least that socioeconomic adaptation was occurring rapidly among California hunter-gatherers during the terminal Pleistocene (Hale 2010a; see also Ike et al. 1979). Assemblages of this nature are often attributed to the Milling Stone pattern that has been interpreted as a response to punctuated middle Holocene aridity (see middle Holocene discussion, below). Regardless, discoveries of artifacts, such as fluted points that are exclusive to terminal Pleistocene cultural adaptations associated with pre-10,000 BP radiocarbon dates indicates that humans reached the coastal margins of western North America during this period (see Erlandson 1988, 1991; Erlandson et al. 2008; Fitzgerald and Jones 2000; Rogers 1938; Warren 1968).

Initial efforts to parse out archaeological components somewhat arbitrarily ascribed the "Early Man" phase to southern California (Wallace 1955). Wallace's Early Man phase (10,000 – 6000 B.C. (12,000 – 8000 BP) was allocated to the terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene, but without the benefit of radiocarbon dates. The Early Man phase was ill-defined and based off of Rogers (1938) work with San Dieguito collections—a hunting-related toolkit defined at the Harris Site containing stemmed projectile points similar to Lake Mojave points located in

desert regions to the north. Other fluted point discoveries to the north near Pleistocene Lake Tulare certainly biased Wallace's (1955) efforts to define an early phase of human occupation, especially since his primary region of study (Los Angeles and Ventura Counties) was nestled in between San Dieguito and Lake Tulare archaeological discoveries.

Regardless of early efforts to define a terminal Pleistocene cultural chronology, the upper Santa Clarita River Valley has yielded no evidence of terminal Pleistocene human occupation. Earliest radiocarbon dates extend only into the middle Holocene, and these are also rare. Given the early timeframe, that preservation of organic materials dramatically decreases with time, and that the accretional and degradational depositional context of the upper Santa Clarita River Valley has obscured or wiped out any such evidence, it is unlikely that a terminal Pleistocene component will ever be identified there.

Early Holocene (10,000 – 7500 BP)

Human occupation of southern California during the early Holocene period (10,000 – 7500 BP) is better understood than the terminal Pleistocene, although archaeological evidence for early Holocene human occupation still tends to be regionally clustered. Early Holocene environments continued the warming and drying trend initiated during the terminal Pleistocene, but most of the major pluvial lake systems were fully desiccated, with periodic recharge of some basins provided by seasonal precipitation rather than melting glaciers (Basgall 1993; Waters 1991). Most studies converge on the idea that the early Holocene was noticeably more arid since desert vegetation communities appear strongly established in composition and distribution by 9000 BP (Spaulding and Graumlich 1986; Van Devender et al. 1987). All megafauna (i.e., elephants, camelids, sloths, etc.) were all but gone by 10,000 BP, however with modern fauna attaining their modern vegetation associations by this time.

Most cultural chronologies have their roots in the early Holocene, save for the WPLT, San Dieguito, and other stemmed and fluted point traditions noted earlier. David Banks (D.B.) Rogers (1929) was the first to propose a cultural chronology, though his age estimates suffered from the lack of absolute dating techniques and data at the time. D.B. Rogers (1929) proposed Oak Grove as the earliest robust cultural tradition beginning just after the Pleistocene and early Holocene transition at around 10,000 BP. Later known as the Milling Stone Horizon (Wallace 1955), or Encinitas Tradition (Warren 1968), Oak Grove was recognizable by the large amounts of processing equipment dominated by basined millingstones and handstones, along with a general lack of formal flakedstone hunting tools. Wallace (1955) built on D.B. Roger's work, with Oak Grove representing the Milling Stone Horizon, but the interpretation was the same: an economy dominated by vegetal processing and a general lack of hunting. Warren (1968) sought to clarify regional variability during the early Holocene and proposed the Encinitas Tradition, comprised of various local manifestations of the Milling Stone Horizon assemblages that had locally specific environmental agents driving the development of the processing economies. Warren, however significantly added to the discourse by better defining the San Dieguito complex as preceding the Milling Stone pattern and being comprised of stemmed projectile points and bifacial knives, with few processing tools (see Warren 2004). San Dieguito appeared to be a coastal southern California manifestation of what is known as Lake Mojave in the northern high deserts.

Coastal evidence for early Holocene human occupation is increasingly common, mostly in the form of pre – 7500 BP radiocarbon dates (Byrd 1997; Curtis 1965; Erlandson 1988, 1991, 1997; Erlandson et al. 1993, 2008; Gallegos and Kyle 1988; Glassow et al. 2007; Hale 2009, 2010a, 2010b; Hale and Becker 2006; Kaldenberg 1982; Levulett et al. 2002; Salls 1991; True 1980). Since the definition of the Milling Stone pattern by Wallace

(1955) and Warren (1968), extensive archaeological work in regulatory settings has generated a robust database of radiocarbon dated sites resulting in a clear picture that the Milling Stone pattern is firmly rooted in the early Holocene, by as much as 10,000 BP (see Hale 2010a). In fact, early Holocene radiocarbon dates have come to be expected in certain depositional contexts along the southern California coast because of their commonality and the consistency of the associated archaeological deposit (Hale 2009). Early Holocene dates along the coastal plain of southern California and interior ranges are currently considered part of the "Archaic" pattern; an umbrella term synonymous with Milling Stone.

Desert regions to the north and interior Peninsular Ranges (and intervening valleys) to the east also have relatively robust early Holocene records. To the east, the early Holocene continues to align with the Archaic or Milling Stone pattern (see Hale 2009; Hale and Comeau 2009; Sutton 2011). In the Mojave Desert, traditional early Holocene chronologies are being revised. The Lake Mojave (11,000 – 7500 BP) complex still appears to be the oldest stemmed point tradition that followed fluted point toolkits. Lake Mojave assemblages are characterized by weak shouldered stemmed projectile points and large amounts of formed flake tools with lesser amounts of expedient flaked tools and groundstone. However, recent evidence is pushing back dates for the Pinto complex to as much as 8000 BP, presenting an overlap problem with Lake Mojave (Basgall 2000; Sutton et al. 2007). The significance here is that Pinto sites are dominated by large amounts of ground and battered stone with relatively small amounts of formed flakedstone tools (Basgall and Hall 1993, 1994; Campbell and Campbell 1935; Giambastiani and Basgall 1999; Hall 1992; Schroth 1994; Warren 1968, 1980); Pinto is the first robust processing economy that appears in California deserts and is similar in many respects to the Milling Stone pattern of southern California, though not as old as Milling Stone. The similarities with the Milling Stone pattern include settlement that was characterized by serial occupation of specific sites producing robust assemblages through tool reuse (Hale 2001).

The early Holocene is not represented in Santa Clarita Valley by direct archaeological evidence, despite being known in adjacent desert and coastal regions. No doubt prehistoric populations took advantage of the natural travel corridors linking interior areas to the coast and southern coastal plain. However, as with archaeological deposits of later periods, damaging erosion and flooding have either destroyed or obscured any such deposits that may have existed. Attempts to locate buried deposits using hollow stem augers (i.e., core samples) in other parts of southern California, such as the Las Flores watershed (Hale and Becker 2006) or Otay River floodplain (Cook and Andrews 2003; Comeau et al. 2014) focused on floodplains with a gradual sedimentation sequence and less frequent and less destructive erosional events. It is no surprise then that intact archaeological deposits dating to the early Holocene (and later) were identified in those areas. The same is not true for the Santa Clarita River floodplain and surrounding geologic landscape that has seen frequent intervals of violent flooding that eroded any riverbed or nearby terrace deposits.

Middle Holocene (7500-4000 BP)

The middle Holocene (7500-4000 BP) witnessed a continuation of archaeological patterns defined in the early Holocene. However, the middle Holocene was marked by periods of extreme aridity collectively termed the Altithermal by Ernst Antevs (1953). After much research since Antevs' (1953) original work the Altithermal is better understood as having variable effects at a subregional scale. Southern California was already characterized as an arid landscape by the inception of the middle Holocene, thus notable changes include adjustments in the elevation and density of existing vegetation communities and related fauna (Mehringer 1967; Spaulding 1985, 1990; Wells 1983). To be sure, humans respond to changes in the resources they exploit, and it is plausible that plants and animals that were the focus of subsistence either decreased in abundance or

congregated in more favorable areas. Warren (1968) postulates as much, suggesting that the Encinitas Tradition (i.e., Milling Stone pattern) was adapted in the coastal plain to the margins of lagoons that were magnet locations for vegetation and fauna, and as a result, human occupation.

Whatever the regional environmental differences were, it was clear that humans have been present in southern California throughout the middle Holocene with widespread evidence of humans hunkering down and increasing vegetal processing intensity, rather than depopulating whole areas. In fact, the origin of Milling Stone pattern itself was thought to be a response to Altithermal conditions (Wallace 1955; see Hale 2001, Erlandson 1997). The early Holocene appearance of Milling Stone adaptations, however, runs counter to this explanation, suggesting instead that Milling Stone economies were the first socioeconomic adaptation to stable California environments after the waning of terminal Pleistocene transitions (Hale 2010a, 2011). Regardless, processing economies were apparently well-suited to the arid middle Holocene conditions, based on the ubiquity of Milling Stone assemblages.

Regional cultural histories adjacent to the upper Santa Clarita River Valley continue in the same nomenclature. In the deserts to the north, the Pinto period reigns until at least the end of the middle Holocene (4000 BP); although, Gypsum period assemblages characterized by contracting stem dart points, larger numbers of small flake tools, and some mortar/pestle technology have pushed their 4000 BP inception date to some degree (Hale 2011). Southern coastal regions such as San Diego County and parts of Orange and Los Angeles Counties also retain Milling Stone assemblage dominance, including at the Tank Sites (CA-LAN-1 and -2) in Topanga Canyon that date as late as 2000 BP (see Hale 2001). The middle Holocene is one of the best represented periods in San Diego County and keeping with the Milling Stone or Archiac pattern (Masters and Gallegos 1997; see Hale 2009 for assemblage summaries).

Real socioeconomic change during the middle Holocene appears first in the Santa Barbara Channel with the abrupt appearance of bowl mortars by at least 5500 BP at sites such as CA-SBA-53, CA-SBA-54, CA-SBA-75, and CA-SBA-84 to name a few (Hale 2009; see also Erlandson et al. 2008, Harrison and Harrison 1966; Levulett et al. 2002). Mortars are costly to manufacture (mortar surfaces are manufactured, rather than mostly accruing depth through use), and thus their manufacture in noticeable quantities necessarily signals a shift to a more intensive processing economy (Hale 2010b). It is thought that mortars in the Santa Barbara Channel were used to intensively process nuts such as acorn and buckberry that have substantial nutritional value when processed in mass quantities (Bettinger et al. 1997; Bettinger and Tushingham 2013). Moreover, the complex ecology of acorn masting requires storage for it to be an efficient economic pursuit of humans (Hale 2009; 2010a). The attendant social shifts that must occur to make an acorn economy economically viable are no less complex, requiring defense of territories containing acorn producing oaks and storage facilities; concepts not altogether welcoming to hunter-gatherer societies that have evolved social institutions precisely to cull such behavior (Bettinger 1999).

Other refinements to culture historical frameworks are based on King's (1981) chronology of burial patterns and related artifacts. Minor refinements to King's chronology occur when assemblage data warrant as much, but substantial numbers of *Olivella sp.* shell beads present in burial populations of the last 3000 years in King's study laid a strong chronological foundation for determining the kinds of socioeconomic patterns that developed during the late Holocene, discussed below.

Overall, the middle Holocene in southern California is primarily defined by processing economies of the Milling Stone pattern, which is undeniably the most robust and visible archaeological pattern found in California (Hale

2001, 2009; Fitzgerald and Jones 2000). Archaeologists continued until the turn of the century to be captivated by the Milling Stone pattern, resulting in numerous graduate theses and dissertations, monographs, and articles that focused on analyzing regional variability. That is, research focused on understanding how the Milling Stone pattern varied from place to place. Perhaps the most exhaustive review of the Milling Stone pattern was completed by Basgall and True (1985) for a Caltrans project along the Interstate 15 corridor. Basgall and True (1985) investigated archaeological sites belonging to the Sayles Complex—an inland, Transverse Ranges manifestation of the Milling Stone pattern. They reviewed most of the significant contributions to the Milling Stone pattern concept as of 1985 and provide an analytical framework for investigating and interpreting archaeological deposits of this kind. Since then, certain early contributions to the topic (i.e., Warren 1968) have been more supported than refuted (see Hale 2001).

Locally, the upper Santa Clarita River Valley certainly has evidence of Milling Stone occupations, but these are confined to the late Holocene period, after 4000 BP, including the work by Waugh (1999) at CA-LAN-2233 and CA-LAN-2235. The Milling Stone component there is dated by proxy with a small number of obsidian hydration readings. Its presence in the upper Santa Clarita River Valley is not surprising; sites of this nature are visible precisely because they were repeatedly occupied on a seasonal basis for a similar processing purpose, resulting aggregations of reused grinding and processing tools.

Late Holocene (post – 4000 BP)

The late Holocene (post – 4000 BP) is characterized by increased variation in environmental conditions and archaeological assemblages. Part of this variability is due to better resolution in both records, but much of it represents an accurate sample of prehistoric times over the last 4000 years. A summary of the various regionally specific paleoenvironmental conditions will not be provided in this brief overview. However, some patterns warrant discussion. With the dissipation of Altithermal conditions after about 4000 BP, increased precipitation is generally evident for southern California. In desert regions, spring flows markedly increased along with the stabilization of marshes, and some lake basins retained shallow waters from runoff (Batchelder 1970; Hunt and Mabey 1966; La Marche 1973; Mehringer 1987; Mehringer and Sheppard 1978; Mehringer and Warren 1976; Smith 1979; Stine 1990, 1994, 1995; Weide 1982). In coastal southern California, lagoons stabilized and destructive erosional processes that gutted them stopped after about 3000 BP (see Byrd and Reddy 2004 Erlandson and Rick 2002). Pollen and oxygen isotope studies from ocean and estuary cores sometimes present conflicting information, but all generally point to climatic instability during the last 3000 years, with a few pronounced periods of extreme climate, such as the Medeival Climatic Anomaly (MCA) from approximately 800 – 1200 BP (see Munns and Arnold 2003).

Erlandson suggests that southern California Mediterranean climates were more characterized by instability and fluctuations in resource availability than by sustained abundance (Erlandson 2003). It is a fact that southern California hunter-gatherer populations grew overtime. Coupled with instability in climate and resource availability, dense aggregations of hunter-gatherers would certainly elicit a socioeconomic response—this seems to be borne out in the archaeological record, at least in coastal regions.

Along the Northern California Bight (Santa Barbara and Ventura coastal plain), archaeological assemblages are referred to as Canaliño (D.B. Rogers 1929), or Late Prehistoric (Wallace 1955), while King's (1990) cultural chronology separates the last 2600 years into various divisions of the Middle Period (950-2600 BP [2600 B.C. – A.D. 1150]) and Late Period (post 950 BP [A.D. 1150]). The Southern California Bight (roughly, Orange and San Diego Counties) is characterized uniformly as the Late Prehistoric in most areas, although Gabrieliño territory

(parts of Orange County and Los Angeles County) tend to mimic the Northern California Bight chronology. Notably, the Southern California Bight witnesses a wholesale continuation of the Milling Stone pattern into the late Holocene, changing little in assemblage composition excepting the addition of the bow and arrow and ceramics (Hale 2009, 2010a). Significant socioeconomic shifts occur just prior to Spanish contact at approximately 450 – 650 BP with an acorn economy starting to emerge (Hale 2009, 2010a).

Santa Barbara, Ventura, and parts of coastal Los Angeles exhibit significant changes in archaeological assemblages. Mortars and pestles are firmly established in the late Holocene by 3500 BP. This is followed by the appearance of the single piece fishhook by approximately 2900 BP, the plank canoe at approximately 1600 BP, bow and arrow (1500 BP), circular fishhook (700 BP), and microlithic tools (700 BP) (Arnold 1992; 1997; Gamble 2002; Glassow 1996; Kennett 2005; C. King 1990; Rick et al. 2002; Strudwick 1985). These technological innovations are successively accompanied by related increases in the formality of other kinds of subsistence tools already present in tool kits (Hale 2010a). *Olivella sp.* bead manufacturing is present throughout the late Holocene but becomes a robust industry in the last thousand years. Other items characteristic of late Holocene coastal regions includes steatite cooking vessels and containers, perforated stones, arrow shaft straighteners made of steatite, a variety of bone tools, and personal ornaments made from shell, bone, and stone. There is also an increased use of asphaltum for waterproofing and as an adhesive.

Many late Holocene coastal sites contain complex objects of art and decoration. Ornaments include drilled whole venus clam (*Chione spp*.) and drilled abalone (*Haliotis spp*.). Steatite effigies become more common, with scallop (*Pecten spp. and Argopecten spp*.) shell rattles common in middens. Mortuary customs are elaborate and include cremation and interment with abundant grave goods.

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

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

The growing body of archaeological literature, however, either contradicts the notion of a population migration, or indicates that when they arrived, they adopted local socioeconomic practices (Hale 2009). The longstanding archaeological patterns in the San Diego region are evidence of this. To the north, the similarity of archaeological assemblages and ethnic customs between the Los Angeles region and the Ventura and Santa Barbara regions is interesting, considering the two areas have distinct linguistic profiles. This disparity highlights the problem of considering any artifact type as an ethnic marker, which is not considered good scientific practice because it

cannot be supported in the material record. Behavioral norms are the best ethnic marker, but tying behaviors to specific artifact types or patterns, as archaeologists do, measures only similarity in socioeconomic adaptation, which can exist between groups that share no ethnicity. Because of this, the archaeological record is generally the wrong context to measure ethnic association. Rather, among all ethnographic and ethnohistoric studies in California, language is the best discriminator of ethnic identity. Dialectical differences are better indicators of ethnicity when ethnographic information is the only representation of past populations, even though true ethnic markers are embodied in behavioral norms (see McElreath et al. 2003).

Items manufactured in coastal locales, such as shell ornaments and steatite vessels commonly made their way to the interior of California, being found in archeological deposits in the Transverse Ranges and Mojave Desert (e.g., Basgall and Hall 1994; Schroth 1994; Sutton 1980). Likewise, obsidian from the Coso volcanic field near Ridgecrest, California made its way to coastal environments. Whether these artifacts were carried to their location of deposition in the hands of those who made them or whether they were procured through trade is a question specific to each occurrence, ruling out various explanations in favor the most plausible scenario. Regardless, ethnographic and ethnohistoric accounts indicate that transregional trade and exchange was common and did not equate to similarity in ethnic identity since exchanges traversed traditional cultural boundaries (see Heizer 1978). For this reason alone, none of the artifacts common to southern California archaeological assemblages can be considered ethnic markers. This is especially true for ornaments, such as shell beads that may have been used as form of currency (Arnold 1991, 1997), or the bow and arrow that is widely considered one of the most significant technological innovations of the prehistoric world and that spread rapidly across the globe through adoption (Bettinger 1991).

The archaeological record in the Santa Clarita Valley is best represented by late Holocene assemblages. CA-LAN-2235 (Chiquito Creek I) and -2233 (Chiquito Creek II) are sites with a relatively typical Milling Stone period deposit with no surprising attributes relatively to the norm for this pattern (Waugh 1999; Whitley and Simon 1994a). The Milling Stone component at CA-LAN-2235 dates to approximately 4000 – 3000 BP, predating the cemetery component at CA-LAN-2233 that is bracketed between 2000 and 1630 BP. The latter contains artifacts characteristic of the late Holocene in general, fitting within Wallace's (1955) Late Prehistoric period, including mortars and pestles, time-sensitive shell beads, and the like (Waugh 1999). However, Waugh (1999) concludes that adaptive strategy represented by the Late Prehistoric component is similar to that of the earlier Milling Stone component, despite differences in milling technology. An interesting conclusion by Waugh (1999) is that mitochondrial DNA analysis of burials indicates no physical relationship to Chumash peoples to the west, but strong ties to Tataviam and other Takic peoples located to the east and northeast in desert landscapes.

Also in the upper Santa Clarita River Valley, Whitley and Simon (W&S) (1994a, 1994b) documented several other sites that generally lack substantial assemblages but can be characterized as Late Prehistoric temporary encampments generally postdating 3000 BP. Aside from their work at CA-LAN-2233 and LAN-2235, W&S (1994a, 1994b) evaluated several other small sites but failed to identify significant archaeological deposits.

W&S (2009) evaluated CA-LAN-4355 along Santa Clarita River in Sand Canyon, California, finding artifacts consistent with prehistoric habitation dating to the Late Prehistoric era (though no radiocarbon dates were provided). These artifacts included mortars and pestles, projectile points, flaked stone tools, steatite ornaments, bone tools, and various cobble-based tools. W&S interpreted this site as dating between 400 and 800 BP, based on time sensitive artifacts. CA-LAN-1077, also located in Sand Canyon, was evaluated by Robinson (1980) who had findings similar to those of W&S (2009). CA-LAN-1077 had a weakly developed midden deposit with excavations producing four steatite beads/pendants, three cores, two retouched flakes, one hammerstone, five

handstones, two battered cobbles, and fire-affected rock; no chronological placement was offered (Robinson 1980). None of the artifacts from CA-LAN-1077 or CA-LAN-4355 are specific to coastal locales; all types of artifacts recovered can be found in coastal, riparian, or desert environments.

One of the more well-known archaeological sites in the Santa Clarita River Valley dating to the late Holocene is CA-LAN-324. Loetzerich (1998) analyzed the collection from this massive site that contained human remains, residential features, thermal features, one flower pot mortar, mortars and pestles, millingstones and handstones, flakedstone tools (including bifaces), cobble tools, and several exotic items such as quartz crystals, and schist and other stone beads. The site was interpreted as representing aboriginal occupation continuously from 2600 BP to 400 Bp, based on various time-sensitive artifacts (including the flower pot mortar which tend to date to the last 300 years), and that it reflected a well-stratified aboriginal society similar to those seen in Gabrieliño territory. The latter is consistent with Loetzerich's findings that burial patterns were similar to those seen in the San Fernando Valley.

A few archaeological sites near Vaszquez Rocks in the Sand Canyon area to the northeast of Santa Clarita Valley, such as CA-LAN-618 produced *Olivella sp*. beads that were tentatively thought to date prior to Chester King's (1990) Early Period have subsequently been found to date after 4000 BP (W&S 1994b). Additionally, Love and Witt (1990) revisited these sites concluding that their earliest documented occupation occurred no earlier than about 2700 BP. In her review, Waugh (1999) reviews the chronological evidence from this site according to the coastally derived cultural chronology developed by King (1990). The reference to King's (1990) bead chronology is justified in the sense that it is a baseline for review of shell bead types, but it leaves the impression that the occupants were socioculturally connected to coastal areas, while the non-ornamental archaeological assemblage provides no such justification.

Farther to the north in Antelope Valley, Sutton (1980) studied CA-LAN-488—a substantial prehistoric site dating from 2200 – 300 BP and containing a prehistoric cemetery, including a child burial associated with more than 5,000 shell beads. The archaeological assemblage from this site, dating within the late Holocene was decidedly desert focused, despite this strong shell bead component.

Finally, investigations of the Lovejoy Springs site (CA-LAN-192) summarized nearly a century of investigation at a large, desert site near Lake Los Angeles in the Antelope Valley (Price et al. 2009). The assemblage from CA-LAN-192, dating from approximately 3500 BP to historic times is characteristic of those found in the western Mojave Desert, being dominated almost exclusively by millingstone and handstone technology and the appropriate time-sensitive, desert projectile point forms. A few fragments of mortars and pestles (one decorated), and steatite vessels are present. Similar to CA-LAN-488, thousands of *Olivella sp*. shell beads were found interred with several of the nine human burials and in the general deposit (Price et al. 2009). Together, the site spans the Gypsum (4000 – 1500 BP), Saratoga Springs (1500 – 900 BP) and the Late Prehistoric periods (post – 900 BP) and exhibits many of the assemblage changes characteristic of each time period within the Mojave Desert.

In sum, the late Holocene saw major socioeconomic development among aboriginal populations within and surrounding Santa Clarita Valley, but that each region is distinct, from the Mojave to the northeast, to the west along the Coast, to the south in the Los Angeles Basin and San Diego County. The archaeological record within Santa Clarita Valley is meager compared to these other regions and resists efforts to make socioeconomic connects to neighboring regions or their inhabitants. Simple assemblage similarities, such as the presence of coastal beads or burial patterns in Santa Clarita or the Mojave, are not direct evidence of cultural affiliation. If it were, burials located in some of the Mojave Desert sites, such as CA-LAN-488 or CA-LAN-192 would require the

assumption that they were Chumash in origin, which is the least likely explanation and one that few archaeologists (if any) would suggest. Rather, it is likely that trade and exchange networks between different ethnic groups were well established with the onset of the late Holocene by at least 3000 years ago (Price et al. 2009). Such networks allowed for the exchange of goods, such as beads, across ethnic boundaries without carrying implications for population movement or replacement.

Overall, the archaeological record of the upper Santa Clarita River Valley is poorly understood, especially in comparison to neighboring regions. This is likely a function of the complex geomorphology of the Santa Clarita River watershed reviewed earlier in this report. The areas that would have attracted prehistoric human occupation, such as river terraces and flat ground in valley bottoms, were subject to periodic and destructive flooding and sedimentation, which likely wiped out a large portion of the archaeological record. The San Francisquito Dam failure of 1928 probably exacted a heavy toll on the archaeological landscape of the floodplain since that event undoubtedly trumped previous natural flood events with its near 60-foot-high wall of water instantly released into the Santa Clarita River Floodplain.

3.1.2 Ethnohistoric Setting

The history of the Native American communities prior to the mid-1700s largely relies on later mission-period and early ethnographic accounts. The first records of the Native American inhabitants of the region come predominantly from European merchants, missionaries, military personnel, and explorers. These brief, and generally peripheral, accounts were prepared with the intent of furthering respective colonial and economic aims, often combined with observations of the landscape. They were not intended to be unbiased accounts regarding the cultural structures and community practices of the newly encountered cultural groups. The establishment of the missions in the region brought more extensive documentation of Native American communities, though these groups did not become the focus of formal and in-depth ethnographic study until the early twentieth century (Bean and Shipek 1978; Boscana 1846; Geiger and Meighan 1976; Harrington 1934; Laylander 2000; Sparkman 1908; White 1963). The principal intent of these researchers was to record the precontact, culturally specific practices, ideologies, and languages that had survived the destabilizing effects of missionization and colonialism. This research, often understood as “salvage ethnography,” was driven by the understanding that traditional knowledge was being lost due to the impacts of modernization and cultural assimilation. Alfred Kroeber applied his “memory culture” approach (Lightfoot 2005, p. 32) by recording languages and oral histories within the region. Ethnographic research by Dubois, Kroeber, Harrington, Spier, and others during the early twentieth century seemed to indicate that traditional cultural practices and beliefs survived among local Native American communities.

It is important to note that even though there were many informants for these early ethnographies who were able to provide information from personal experiences about native life before the Europeans, a significant proportion of these informants were born after 1850 (Heizer and Nissen 1973); therefore, the documentation of pre-contact, aboriginal culture was increasingly supplied by individuals born in California after considerable contact with Europeans. As Robert F. Heizer (1978) stated, this is an important issue to note when examining these ethnographies, since considerable culture change had undoubtedly occurred by 1850 among the Native American survivors in California. This is also a particularly important consideration for studies focused on Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs), where concepts of “cultural resource” and the importance of traditional cultural places are intended to be interpreted based on the values expressed by present-day Native American representatives and may vary from archaeological values (Giacinto 2012).

Based on ethnographic information, it is believed that at least 88 different languages were spoken from Baja California Sur to the southern Oregon state border at the time of Spanish contact (Johnson and Lorenz 2006, p. 34). The distribution of recorded Native American languages has been dispersed as a geographic mosaic across California through six primary language families (Golla 2007).

Victor Golla has contended that one can interpret the amount of variability within specific language groups as being associated with the relative "time depth" of the speaking populations (Golla 2007, p. 80) A large amount of variation within the language of a group represents a greater time depth than a group's language with less internal diversity. One method that he has employed is by drawing comparisons with historically documented changes in Germanic and Romantic language groups. Golla has observed that the "absolute chronology of the internal diversification within a language family" can be correlated with archaeological dates (2007, p. 71). This type of interpretation is modeled on concepts of genetic drift and gene flows that are associated with migration and population isolation in the biological sciences.

The tribes of this area have traditionally spoken Takic languages that may be assigned to the larger Uto–Aztecan family (Golla 2007, p. 74). These groups include the Gabrieliño, Cahuilla, and Serrano. Golla has interpreted the amount of internal diversity within these language-speaking communities to reflect a time depth of approximately 2,000 years. Other researchers have contended that Takic may have diverged from Uto–Aztecan ca. 2600 BC–AD 1, which was later followed by the diversification within the Takic speaking tribes, occurring approximately 1500 BC–AD 1000 (Laylander 2010).

The Project area falls within the ethnographic boundary of the Tataviam and Gabrieliño (Johnson and Earle 1990; King and Blackburn 1978; Kroeber 1925); following is a brief ethnohistoric summary for both tribes.

Tataviam

Tataviam territories included the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River drainage east of Piru Creek, but also encompassed the Sawmill Mountains to the north and the southwestern portion of the Antelope Valley (King and Blackburn 1978). Tataviam territory is bound by various branches of Chumash to the north and west (including the Ventureño to the west, and Castac and Emigdiano to the northwest), Kitanemuk to the northeast, Serrano to the east, and Gabrieliño to the south (King and Blackburn 1978).

Note that there is limited ethnographic data (i.e., data acquired by means of observation or taken from persons who practiced native lifeways) available concerning the Tataviam and their native lifeways. Most of what is known today about the Tataviam comes in the form of ethnohistory (i.e., historical accounts developed through examination of historical records and oral histories) as presented in the works of anthropologists Alfred L. Kroeber (1915, 1925) and John P. Harrington (1935). Their data is largely based on interviews conducted in the early 1900s with a Native American consultant named Juan José Fustero, a man who spoke Kitanemuk and claimed that his grandparents were born near the town of Newhall and spoke a language that is no longer extant (Bright 1975). Most of the subsequent works published on the Tatatviam (Bright 1975; Hudson 1982; King and Blackburn 1978), including discussions of their cultural and geographic affiliations, were based on the Kroeber and Harrington interviews with Fustero and several other Kitanemuk consultants. Other studies have analyzed Spanish mission baptismal, marriage, and burial registers in an attempt to better understand the distribution of historic village settlements and kinship ties between settlements (Johnson 1978 and 1997; NEA and King 2004).

Early ethnologies referred to the Tataviam as Ataplili'ish (Kroeber 1915), but Kroeber found this name to be too general since it had already been used to describe other indigenous groups (namely the Gabrieliño). Kroeber

changed the term to Alliklik (1925), which was noted to be a Ventureño Chumash name for the group (although it is believed to be a derogatory term for the sound of the language) but offered almost no information concerning their native lifeways. One account of the Tataviam, provides a narrative that they held the river up from a point between Sespe and Piru, most of Piru Creek, Castac Creek, and probably Pastoria Creek across the mountains in the San Joaquin Valley drainage and adjacent to the Yokuts (Kroeber 1925:613-614).

The Tataviam are linguistically classified as an Uto-Aztecan Serran sub-branch of Takic speaking groups consisting of Kitanemuk, Serrano (including Vanyume), and Tataviam (Golla 2011; Sutton 1980). William Bright has suggested that Tataviam was actually a separate language with Takic affinities, or perhaps a "remnant, influenced by Takic, of a language family otherwise unknown in southern California" (Bright 1975:230). However, the current and most widely accepted view is that Tataviam is in fact a Takic language (King and Blackburn 1978; Johnson and Earle 1990; Sutton et al. 2007).

King and Blackburn (1978:536) noted several Tataviam settlements based on information provided by Harrington and other sources, including mission registers. Among these is the putative village of *tsawayung* (also referred to as *Chaguayabit*, *Chaguayanga*, *takuyama'm*), which some believe was located near Castaic Junction at the site of Rancho San Francisco. However, there is a lack of consensus as to the village's exact location. Harrington's own notes reflect this uncertainty: "Jose Juan Olivas thinks it is over by San Francisquito [Rancho San Francisco] but does not know and never did know just where" (NEA and King 2004:119). Based on diary entries from the Portolá Expedition (Perkins 1957), some have hypothesized that Estancia San Francisco de Xavier (often incorrectly referred to as an asistencia) was placed at the location of the village of *tsawayang*, but this is based on descriptive diary entries and has never been confirmed by archaeological or other historic evidence. In fact, no physical evidence of the village has ever been found. Other Tataviam villages mapped outside of the Project area include *tikatsing* located on upper Castaic Creek, and *pi'ing* located where Castaic Creek meets Elizabeth Lake Canyon. The village of *Tochonaga*, was recorded on an 1843 land grant map. This site appears to be located to the southeast of Newhall, but its precise location has also never been confirmed: "Tochononga was located in the mountains northwest of San Fernando…over by Los Alamos somewhere here in the Tejon Ranch" (NEA and King 2004:117). Other villages and seasonal camp sites identified by Harrington include *akure'eng*, which was located at the original Newhall town site; *apatsitsing*, located on upper Castaic Creek; and *naqava'atang*, located east of Townsend Peak. Piru Creek also contained several village and -rancheria sites, located on the northern edge of Tataviam territory (Johnson and Earle 1990).

Pedro Fage's account of the 1769 Portola expedition indicates that the first Chumash settlement encountered upon leaving Tataviam territory was located west of the mouth of Piru Creek. The village of *kamulus* (*Camulos*), located east of Piru Canyon, bears a Chumash name (Johnson and Earle 1990), leading to speculation that this village consisted of a mixed Chumash-Tataviam population. There has been much discussion regarding Chumash ties to areas generally accepted as Tataviam territory (see Beeler and Klar 1977).

More recent studies have examined additional Tataviam investigations conducted by Harrington with neighboring groups (Johnson and Earle 1990). These studies support the original Kroeber and Harrington findings that the Tataviam were a distinct group:

> The correspondence between (1) ancestral villages traced using genealogical evidence and (2) independently elicited information regarding Tataviam territoriality builds confidence in the reliability of the ethnographic record compiled by Kroeber and Harrington. The distinctiveness of

> the Tataviam as an ethnic entity, separate from the Kitanemuk and Fernandeño, is supported by our research (Johnson and Earle 1990:209).

In 1996, as the result of a Caltrans District 7 highway widening project for SR-126, archaeologists discovered and excavated 45 burials from CA-LAN-2233, a prehistoric village site dating from approximately 2000 to 1640 years before present (BP) and located within Tataviam territory. Examination of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) from five burials at CA-LAN-2233 found that these individuals were genetically linked to modern Uto-Aztecan speaking groups, such as the Tataviam (Miller et al. 2003).

Gabrieliño

The name "Gabrieliño" (also spelled "Gabrieliño" and "Gabrieleño") denotes those people who were administered by the Spanish from the San Gabriel Mission, which included people from the Gabrieliño area proper as well as other social groups (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1925). Therefore, in the post-Contact period, the name does not necessarily identify a specific ethnic or tribal group. The names by which Gabrieliño Native Americans in southern California identified themselves have, in some cases, been lost. Many modern Gabrieliño identify themselves as the Tongva (King 1994), within which there are a number of regional bands. Though the names "Tongva" or "Gabrieliño" are the most common names used by modern Native American groups, and are recognized by the NAHC, there are groups within the region that self-identify differently, such as the Gabrieliño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation. In order to be inclusive of the majority of tribal entities within the region, the terms "Tongva" and "Gabrieliño" are used within this report.

Tongva lands encompassed the greater Los Angeles Basin and three Channel Islands, San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Catalina. The Tongva established large, permanent villages in the fertile lowlands along rivers and streams, and in sheltered areas along the coast, stretching from the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. A total tribal population has been estimated of at least 5,000 (Bean and Smith 1978), but recent ethnohistoric work suggests a number approaching 10,000 (O'Neil 2002). Houses constructed by the Tongva were large, circular, domed structures made of willow poles thatched with tule that could hold up to 50 people (Bean and Smith 1978). Other structures served as sweathouses, menstrual huts, ceremonial enclosures, and probably communal granaries. Cleared fields for races and games were created adjacent to Tongva villages (McCawley 1996). Archaeological sites composed of villages with various sized structures have been identified.

The largest, and best documented, ethnographic Tongva village in the vicinity was that of *Yanga* (also known as Yaangna, Janga, and Yabit), which was in the vicinity of the downtown Los Angeles (McCawley 1996:56-57; NEA and King 2004). This village was reportedly first encountered by the Portola expedition in 1769. In 1771, Mission San Gabriel was established. Yanga provided a large number of the recruitments to this mission; however, following the founding of the Pueblo of Los Angeles in 1781, opportunities for local paid work became increasingly common, which had the result of reducing the number of Native American neophytes from the immediately surrounding area (NEA and King 2004). Mission records indicate that 179 Gabrieliño inhabitants of Yanga were recruited to San Gabriel Mission (King 2000; NEA and King 2004: 104). Based on this information, Yanga may have been the most populated village in the Western Gabrieliño territory. Second in size, and less thoroughly documented, the village of Cahuenga was located slightly closer, just north of the Cahuenga Pass.

Father Juan Crespí passed through the area near Yanga on August 2-3, 1769. The pertinent sections from his translated diary are provided here:

> Sage for refreshment is very plentiful at all three rivers and very good here at the Porciúncula [the Los Angeles River]. At once on our reaching here, eight heathens came over from a good sized village encamped at this pleasing spot among some trees. They came bringing two or three large bowls or baskets half-full of very good sage with other sorts of grass seeds that they consume; all brought their bows and arrows but with the strings removed from the bows. In his hands the chief bore strings of shell beads of the sort that they use, and on reaching the camp they threw the handfuls of these beads at each of us. Some of the heathens came up smoking on pipes made of baked clay, and they blew three mouthfuls of smoke into the air toward each one of us. The Captain and myself gave them tobacco, and he gave them our own kind of beads, and accepted the sage from them and gave us a share of it for refreshment; and very delicious sage it is for that purpose.
>
> We set out at a half past six in the morning from this pleasing, lush river and valley of Our Lady of Angeles of La Porciúncula. We crossed the river here where it is carrying a good deal of water almost at ground level, and on crossing it, came into a great vineyard of grapevines and countless rose bushes having a great many open blossoms, all of it very dark friable soil. Keeping upon a westerly course over very grass-grown, entirely level soils with grand grasses, on going about half a league we came upon the village belonging to this place, where they came out to meet and see us, and men, women, and children in good numbers, on approaching they commenced howling at us though they had been wolves, just as before back at the spot called San Francisco Solano. We greeted them and they wished to give us seeds. As we had nothing at hand to carry them in, we refused [Brown 2002:339-341, 343].

The Portola party passed westward through the La Brea Tar Pits area (CA-LAN-159) the following day. This was a known area of Native American use for hunting and the gathering of tar and other area-specific resources (Westec 1983). A pertinent excerpt from Father Juan Crespí's August 3, 1769 diary entry is provided here:

> The Captain told me that when they scouted here, in a ravine about half a league to the westward they came upon about forty springs of pitch, or tar, boiling in great surges up out of the ground, and saw very large swamps of this tar, enough to have caulked many ships. [Brown 2002:341]

Upon leaving the La Brea Tar Pits, the Portola expedition continued westward, camping on August 4, 1769 near what is now the route Interstate 405 before heading northward into the mountains. Details of the day's travels are provided below:

> At a quarter past six in the morning we set out from this copious spring at the San Esteban Sycamores …. We pursued our way northwestward and on going about a quarter-league [0.85 mile], we came into a little flat hollow between small knolls, and then onward across level tablelands of dark friable soil….we turned west-northwestward and on going two hours, all over level soil, came to the watering place: two springs rising at the foot of a high tableland, their origin being higher up on the large plain here….At this spot we came upon a village at the aforesaid tableland and as soon as we arrived and set up camp, six very friendly, compliant tractable heathens came over, who had their little houses roofed with grass, the first we have been seeing of this sort. They brought four or six bowls of the usual seeds and good sage which they presented to our Captain. On me they bestowed a good-sized string of the sort of beads they all have, made of white seashells and red ones, though not very bright-colored, that look to be coral. [Brown 2002:345-349]

The name of this village referenced to be near the August 4, 1769 Portola camp is unknown, and would have been located approximately 3 miles from the named village near Santa Monica (*Kuruvunga*) and 5 miles from *Sa'anga* near the mouth of Ballona Creek. Sa'anga, likely within a mile of the present project area, has also been commonly referred to as *Guaspet* or *Guashna*, (NEA and King 2004), *Saan* (Kroeber 1925), or *Saa'anga* or *Waachnga* (McCawley 1996). Ethnohistoric research completed by John Johnson (1988) pertaining to the inhabitants of San Clemente Island and Santa Catalina Island has indicated that there were many marriage ties between these islands and this village in the vicinity of the Ballona wetlands. Mission records indicate that a total of 95 neophytes came from this village; 87 of these individuals at Mission San Gabriel and the remaining eight at Mission San Fernando (NEA and King 2004). These records further suggest that marriage was common with the surrounding outside villages, but perhaps most often occurring with members of the large village of Yanga.

3.1.3 Historic Setting

Post-Contact history for the State of California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1821), Mexican Period (1821–1848), and American Period (1846–present). Although Spanish, Russian, and British explorers visited the area for brief periods between 1529 and 1769, the Spanish Period in California begins with the establishment in 1769 of a settlement at San Diego and the founding of Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first of 21 missions constructed between 1769 and 1823. Independence from Spain in 1821 marks the beginning of the Mexican Period, and the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, ending the Mexican–American War, signals the beginning of the American Period when California became a territory of the United States.

Spanish Period (1769-1821)

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 Cabríllo stopped in 1542 at present-day San Diego Bay. With his crew, Cabríllo explored the shorelines of present Catalina Island as well as San Pedro and Santa Monica Bays. Much of the present California and Oregon coastline was mapped and recorded in the next half-century by Spanish naval officer Sebastián Vizcaíno. Vizcaíno's crew also landed on Santa Catalina Island and at San Pedro and Santa Monica Bays, giving each location its long-standing name. The Spanish crown laid claim to California based on the surveys conducted by Cabríllo and Vizcaíno (Bancroft 1885; Gumprecht 1999).

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

The Portolá expedition first reached the present-day boundaries of Los Angeles in August 1769, thereby becoming the first Europeans to visit the area. Father Crespi named "the campsite by the river Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles de la Porciúncula" or "Our Lady the Queen of the Angeles of the Porciúncula." In 1769 Portolá's expedition traversed within 3 miles to the east and camped approximately 4.5 miles north of the Project

site as the group traveled north to the Sierras. Two years later, Friar Junípero Serra returned to the valley to establish a Catholic mission, the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, on September 8, 1771 (Kyle 2002). Mission San Fernando Rey de España, the mission that served the Project area, was established nearly 30 years later, on September 8, 1797.

Interestingly, Friar Mariano Payeras, who was *Presidente* of the California Missions prior to the dissolution of the Mission system, petitioned Spain to establish another mission on the Santa Clara River near Newhall reasoning that Native people had killed two Spanish soldiers in *Canyon de Los Difuntos* (Beattie 1929). However, the Mexican rebellion against Spain was already underway by that time and the decline of the Mission system was on the horizon.

Mexican Period (1821–1846)

A major emphasis during the Spanish Period in California was the construction of missions and associated presidios to integrate the Native American population into Christianity and communal enterprise. Incentives were also provided to bring settlers to pueblos or towns, but just three pueblos were established during the Spanish Period, only two of which were successful and remain as California cities (San José and Los Angeles). Several factors kept growth within Alta California to a minimum, including the threat of foreign invasion, political dissatisfaction, and unrest among the indigenous population. After more than a decade of intermittent rebellion and warfare, New Spain (Mexico and the California territory) won independence from Spain in 1821. In 1822, the Mexican legislative body in California ended isolationist policies designed to protect the Spanish monopoly on trade, and decreed California ports open to foreign merchants (Dallas 1955).

Extensive land grants were established in the interior during the Mexican Period, in part to increase the population inland from the more settled coastal areas where the Spanish had first concentrated their colonization efforts. The Project site is located within the western extent of the 48,612-acre Rancho San Francisco granted in 1839 to Spanish lieutenant, Antonio de Valle, by Juan Batista Alvarado (Beck and Haase 1974). Rancho San Francisco would eventually become known as Rancho de Valle.

During the supremacy of the ranchos (1834–1848), landowners largely focused on the cattle industry and devoted large tracts to grazing. Cattle hides became a primary southern California export, providing a commodity to trade for goods from the east and other areas in the United States and Mexico. The number of nonnative inhabitants increased during this period because of the influx of explorers, trappers, and ranchers associated with the land grants. The rising California population contributed to the introduction and rise of diseases foreign to the Native American population, who had no associated immunities.

American Period (1846–Present)

California officially became a state with the Compromise of 1850, which also designated Utah and New Mexico (with present-day Arizona) as U.S. Territories (Waugh 2003). 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 1850s. The Gold Rush began in 1848, and with the influx of people seeking gold, cattle were no longer desired mainly for their hides but also as a source of meat and other goods. During the 1850s cattle boom, rancho vaqueros drove large herds from southern to northern California to feed that region's burgeoning mining and commercial boom. Cattle were at first driven along major trails or roads such as the Gila Trail or Southern Overland Trail, then were transported by trains when available. The cattle boom ended for southern California as neighboring states and territories drove herds to northern California at reduced prices. Operation of the huge ranchos became increasingly difficult, and droughts severely reduced their productivity (Cleland 2005).

Local History of the Project Area

In 1795, Fr. Fermin Lasuen ordered a report to identify potential new mission sites. As a result, the Francisco Reyes Rancho was proposed as the site for the new Mission San Fernando Rey de España (Perkins 1957). The mission, founded in 1797, was ultimately located elsewhere; however, Mission San Fernando acquired the headwaters of the Santa Clara River east from Piru and named the land Rancho San Francisco. Shortly thereafter, many of the local Tatavium and Gabrieliño people were removed from their homeland and relocated to the mission where many of their traditional lifeways were no longer feasible.

When Mission padres were made aware that Francisco Avila, wealthy ranchero and alcalde (mayor) of the pueblo of Los Angeles (1810 – 1811), had claimed a large portion of Mission lands as his own, they protested to Governor José Arrillaga at Monterey. The governor acknowledged the church's title to the land, Avila's land grant was rescinded, and the padres quickly made plans to build in the area in order to more clearly establish their presence (Perkins 1957). The church built an outpost at the location using Native American labor, Rancho San Francisco, Fr. Crespi had first noted in his diary entry as a potential Mission site (Perkins 1957). Mission records suggest that this was an outpost known as *Estancia San Francisco de Xavier* and that it was likely never elevated to the status of "asistencia" or sub-mission.

By 1813, Rancho San Francisco had increased its agricultural production and the herds of cattle had grown larger eventually necessitating the need to construct a fence to keep mission cattle separate from neighboring cattle. The fence was erected at Piru Creek across the river, establishing a formal boundary between San Francisco and Triunfo ranches. Additionally, an irrigation canal was dug and a small dam was built at the eastern boundary of the rancho in order to provide the western side of the rancho with much needed water (Perkins 1957). Following secularization of the missions in 1833, the Mexican Government confiscated all mission land holdings and commissioned Lieutenant Antonio Del Valle to take over Mission San Fernando by inventory from the incumbent Padre, Fr. Ybarra.

Along with his wife Doña Jacoba Felix and two children, Del Valle decided to settle his family on a portion of Rancho San Francisco. In 1838, Del Valle resigned his army commission, petitioned the Mexican Government for title of Rancho San Francisco, and became owner of 48,829 acres of Rancho San Francisco on January 22, 1839. Just two years later, Antonio Del Valle died, leaving behind thousands of heads of livestock, over 75 square miles of land, and no legal will. Legal battles ensued between his widow and his oldest son Ygnacio Del Valle. A judge eventually divided up the land amongst the parties and Ygnacio built his own corral on the western edge of the property (in present-day Piru, Ventura County) surrounding the former village of *kamulus* (Rasmussen 2001) for which the Camulos Rancho was named in 1853.

As a result of a three-year long drought, which killed most of his cattle, Ygnacio Del Valle eventually lost the rancho in 1865 to his financiers who then sold it to oil speculators. The first significant discovery of oil on the Rancho occurred just seven weeks after the sale and the first oil well was installed on the south side of the Santa Clara River near the Del Valle residence. The region would eventually be surrounded by oil fields including the Hasley Canyon and Castaic Junction Oil Fields to the north and the historic Pico Oil Field to the south.

The Del Valle's portion of Rancho San Francisco changed hands a few more times until it was acquired by Henry Mayo Newhall in 1875. The San Fernando Railroad Tunnel was constructed by over 1,000 Chinese and 500 white laborers, the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) right-of-way was granted across the rancho and the town of "Newhall" was founded in 1876 (Perkins 1957). The Lang and Newhall Railroad Stations were built the same year.

Rancho San Francisco and the upper Santa Clara Valley featured prominently in three significant events in the history of California – the discovery of gold in 1842; the discovery of oil in 1865; and the collapse of the St. Francis Dam in 1928. The discovery of gold in the area actually predates the John Sutter's Coloma mill-race in 1848. The first well documented discovery of gold in California occurred in 1842 in Placeritas Canyon just east of Santa Clarita; some evidence even suggests the first discovery of gold in California could have occurred a few decades earlier in the Santa Clara Valley region, but no concrete evidence is currently available to substantiate the claim. The discovery of gold in the area was also one of the impetuses to the judge dividing Antonio Del Valle's land and awarding Rancho Temescal to Francisco Lopez and Jose Arellanes in 1843 both of which would return to Mexico. Ygnacio Del Valle eventually acquired Rancho Temescal and added it to the Rancho San Francisco holdings he had been awarded following his father's death.

The Santa Clara Valley is also the location of where the first true oil drilling occurred. In 1865, oil seeps were discovered in Pico Canyon triggering the exploration of petroleum which led to the discovery of oil in Rancho San Francisco and ultimately throughout the Santa Clara River Valley. Unfortunately, as mentioned before, Ygnacio Del Valle had sold all but 1,500 acres of his holdings to Thomas Bard and Thomas Scott. Only seven weeks following the sale, oil was discovered on the property Bard and Scott had purchased. Upon the discovery, Bard and Scott shifted focus from ranching to petroleum product and sold much of their Rancho San Francisco land to Henry Mayo Newhall.

The last of the three historical events that shaped the area was the collapse of the St, Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, which resulted in a flood of magnificent proportions. The failure of the dam caused a 60-foot-high wall of water to rage down the Santa Clara River Valley leveling most everything in its path including Castaic Junction and most of Fillmore and Santa Paula on its way to the Pacific Ocean. Although there was a terrible loss of life and property as a result of the dam failure, the restitution provided by the City of Los Angeles to the Newhall Land and Farming Company and its management of the funds allowed the company to retain its previous financially sound status and eventually grow into a company that would finance the development of the Santa Clara River Valley region.

Sanford and Cyrus Lyon

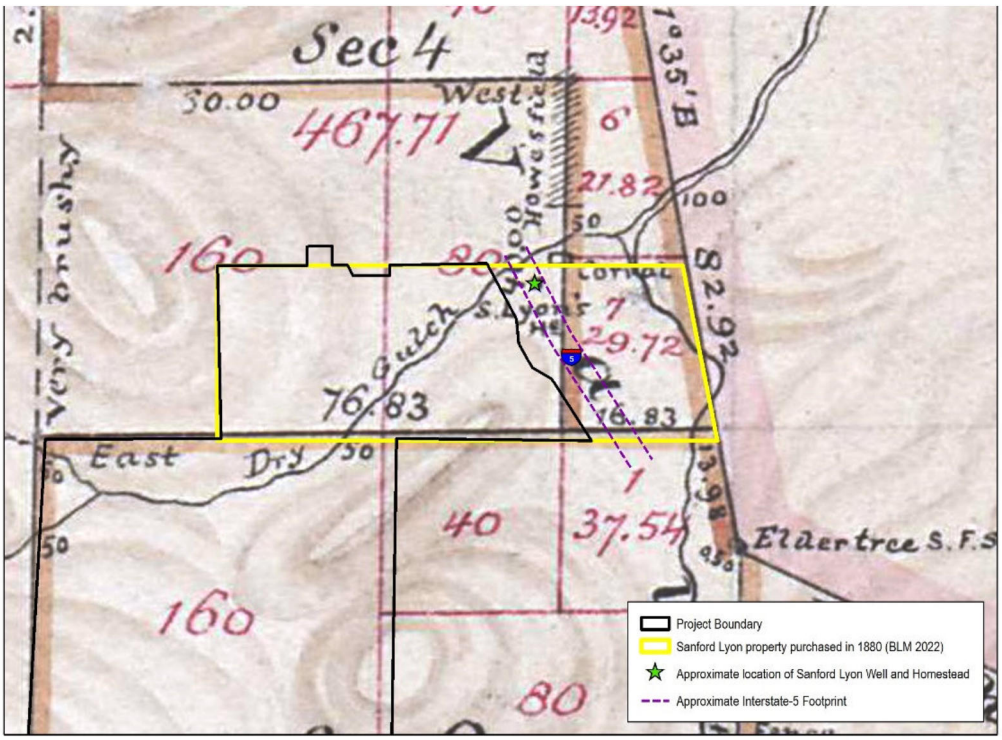
Sanford Lyon, for whom Lyons Canyon is named, bought a portion of the Project site in 1880 from the government. Sanford and his twin brother, Cyrus, were born in Machias, Maine on November 20, 1831. Like many other residents of the East Coast, upon President Polk's announcement of the discovery of gold in California, the brothers sailed together to San Francisco in 1849 on the ship *Oxnard*. The ship's route took them from Nantucket, Massachusetts, around Chile's Cape Horn and up the Pacific Coast to San Francisco, California (Walker 2022). Soon after reaching San Francisco, the Lyon brothers traveled south to Los Angeles to work for their cousins at their mercantile store. Soon after the Mexican War, the mercantile went out of business; nonetheless, the brothers soon rose to some prominence in the Los Angeles area.

Cyrus was a member of the Los Angeles Rangers formed by the mayor of Los Angeles. The Rangers were memorialized and romanticized in Horace Bell's *Reminiscences of a Ranger* and as a result of the Rangers' notoriety, Cyrus became well-known and respected. Cyrus had eleven children with three women: two children with Nicolasa Triunfo (no marriage record found) who was the daughter of Jose Miguel Triunfo the grantee of Rancho Cahuenga; two with Matilda Ortega (no marriage record found); and seven with Ynez Cota who he married in 1876 (Walker 2022). Cyrus was appointed judge for the precinct of San Fernando in 1855 and then as a judge of the Plain of Rancho Cahuenga in 1856 at the age of 24 years.

In 1855 Sanford and Cyrus bought a ranch located near the present-day intersection of State Highway 14 and Newhall Avenue in present-day Newhall to farm and raise sheep. The original Hart's Station was located on the ranch and the brothers became the proprietors as a result of the ranch purchase. As a combination store, post office, telegraph office, tavern, and stage depot, the station served those traveling the adjacent wagon road connecting Los Angeles and the Sierras. Several early stagecoach lines like the Butterflied line as well as hopeful prospectors during the Kern River gold rush in the early 1850s were served by Lyon's (Hart's) Station. Although the station is now known as Lyon's Station, the name Sanford and Cyrus gave it when they took ownership, it would continue to be referred to it as Hart's Station. The station is commemorated by a plaque as California Historical Landmark No. 688, located in front of the Eternal Valley Memorial Park at 23287 North Sierra Highway in Newhall (OHP 2022).

Sanford Lyon met Annie T. Hanscom during his 1858 visit to his hometown of Machias, Maine; he eventually returned again to marry Annie in 1862. Although Annie and Sanford had their first of six children, Lewis, in 1862, Annie and Lewis would not join Sanford in California until 1868. Sanford and Annie's remaining five children were born and raised in California. Sanford was first appointed to a government seat in 1856, at the age of 24 years, as election judge in the City of San Fernando and would continue to hold various seats in Southern California government. Sanford successfully ran for County Supervisor in 1880, the same year he purchased the property that would eventually bear his name, Lyons Canyon. However, Sanford and his family had been living on the same property since at least 1874 because of his involvement in the Pico Canyon Spring Claim. Sanford spring-poled his own well in 1869 and built a home nearby shortly after (Walker 2022). The 1876 plat map of the area shows the Lyons' family home located just outside of the Project site within the current footprint of Interstate 5 (see Image 1) and a survey of the Pico Oil Springs Mine conducted in 1877 places the home near "Lyon's Well" (BLM 2022).

Image 1. 1876 Plat Map of the Project Site



At an early age, Sanford and Cyrus were important and well-known figures in the Southern California region, specifically the Los Angeles area. They were both appointed to various political seats and were also involved in the burgeoning oil industry purchasing land and well properties throughout Southern California as a result (although it appears Cyrus was only involved in name for many of the wells in order to widen Sanford's holdings). Sanford Lyon died on November 30, 1882, at the age of 51 years and was buried at Eternal Valley Memorial Park in Newhall very near the former location of his and Cyrus's Lyon's Station. Cyrus died on May 20, 1892, at the age of 61 years and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles. Based on Bureau of Land Management (BLM 2022) records It appears that the Lyon family continued to live on the property until at least 1891 when records show it was registered to Edwin Lyon.

3.1.4 Valencia Oak Movie Ranch Setting

Lyons Canyon Ranch, historically the "Valencia Oak Ranch" owned by Warner Brothers Studios, was one of the set locations used in the *Dukes of Hazzard* television series (filmed between 1981 and 1985 at Lyons Canyon Ranch) as well as several feature films and other television shows in the 1980s and 1990s.

Santa Clarita Valley has been used as a feature location for films since as early as 1903 when the main street in Newhall was used for on-location shots for silent films. The first full-length feature to be filmed in Santa Clarita Valley was D.W. Griffith's "Ramona" in 1910, shot at Rancho Camulos west of Castaic Junction. When "Ramona" was filmed, the rural valley was developed with a few small villages and railroads that traversed the area. Movie studios did not participate in purchasing movie ranches at this time, choosing instead to rent properties that fit their desired location (HRG 2009; Rock 1994). However, the filming location industry was lucrative and individuals purchased property to lease as sets. Early real-estate transactions for filming in Santa Clarita include the 1914 purchase of storefronts in Newhall by silent film star Tom Mix, who developed a western town set named "Mixville." Another star, William S. Hart purchased the 300-acre Horseshoe Ranch in 1921 to film "The Half Breed." Film companies, including Fox, Goldwyn, Thomas Ince, and Wilson Studios leased Hart's property for its pristine natural landscape. The first studio to develop a movie ranch was Ben Wilson Productions. In 1924, Ben Wilson Productions purchased LaSalle Ranch in Wiley Canyon exclusively to shoot westerns and cowboy films (HRG 2009; Rock 1994).

Though the Santa Clarita Valley has been used for film locations for over a century of film and television, Lyons Canyon was not used for filming until the late 1970s. Aerial imagery of the region indicates that the canyon was used for cattle or stock raising and a modestly sized orchard as early as 1928 (NETR 2022b; UCSB 2022) and that the surrounding canyons and mountains (DeWitt Canyon, Towsley Canyon, Pico Canyon) were the site of several oil wells. The development of Lyons Canyon as a filming location appears to have occurred between 1969 and 1972. Historical Aerial photographs show that an original farmhouse was demolished and replaced with several buildings. By this time, roads that access the canyon were well defined and large, cleared automobile parking pads were visible (NETR 2022b; UCSB 2022). In 1981, Warner Brothers purchased the site, renamed it Valencia Oaks Ranch, and used the location to film several scenes of the "Dukes of Hazzard," "The Fall Guy," and "Hunter" television shows (The Signal 1989). Due to rapid residential expansion, Valencia Oaks Ranch was no longer used as a film/television location by the late 1990s.

Property-type Discussion: Movie Ranches

The Lyons Canyon Ranch property is a movie ranch filming location established in the late 1960s as Valencia Oaks Ranch. It is located in Lyons Canyon, Los Angeles County, California. Movie ranches were popular in the Santa

Clarita Valley, the San Fernando Valley, and the Santa Monica Mountains throughout the twentieth century due to their proximity to Hollywood-based studio lots. In the 1910s, labor unions and professional guilds demanded a limit for the distance that on-set laborers were required to self-transport for work. This led to the creation of "studio zones," and a preference for film sites that were within a prescribed distance of established the studio lots. In 1970, this zone was expanded to the "thirty-mile zone" (called the TMZ) and formed a geographic circle encompassing filming locations considered acceptable travel distance by the unions (NPS 2005; Rock 1994; Roland 2016).

In the 1910s, film studios in Southern California capitalized on the local natural landscape by establishing "movie ranches," separate and independent locations outside the boundaries of a motion picture or television studio lot. This trend grew over the 1920s and 1930s during the "golden age" of Hollywood films. In the 1930s, as production companies invested in movie ranch properties in the Santa Clarita Valley, "B" movies and western black-and-white films began to saturate popular culture, coinciding with the "golden era" of Hollywood film production (c. 1920-1940). Hundreds of film sets were located in Santa Clarita Valley, which created a period of modest economic growth in the region.

Movie ranches in the Santa Clarita Valley grew in popularity as television ownership became more widespread in the 1940s and 1950s. Television serials including "Star Trek," "Tall Tales," "Spin and Marty," "Bonanza," "Roots," and "Little House on the Prairie" were filmed in Santa Clarita Valley in the 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s. The 1950s saw a sharp increase in western television shows, "including Cheyenne, Gunsmoke, Maverick, Have Gun – Will Travel, and The Rifleman," which utilized movie ranches for many of the sets and stunts as well as scenic, authentic backgrounds (HRG 2019, p. 19-20).

Santa Clarita Valley remained a popular filming location until the late 1960s when commercial and residential development increased locally. In 1974, the City of Los Angeles eased restrictions related to filming permits within the City, reinvigorating the industry in the City and reducing the use of movie ranches outside the city limits (HRG 2019, p. 26). At the same time, other states and cities throughout the country, including areas of the Southwest, began to aggressively compete with Los Angeles and Southern California for location filming projects and their accompanying revenue (HRG 2019, p. 27). In the 1970s and 1980s larger suburban residential developments were established on previous agricultural properties. The rapid urbanization, and subsequent 1986 incorporation of the City of Santa Clarita, resulted in the sale and closure of many movie ranches (HRG 2009; Kaplan 2018; Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning 2012; The Signal 1925; Worden 2003). The period of significance for movie ranches extends from 1910 to 1974.

Movie ranches typically feature temporary buildings and structures, film sets and false fronts, cleared pads and/or foundations for trailers, and storage buildings to allow for a continuous cycle of set development (HRG 2019, p. 19). HRG prepared a 2019 context for SurveyLA established that film locations, including movie ranches, may be eligible under Criteria A/1 because they play an influential role in shaping the American public's perception of Southern California and defining the character and identity of Los Angeles (HRG 2019, pp. 30-31).

SurveyLA's 2019 historic context statement identifies the theme of "Filming Locations Associated with the Motion Picture and Television Broadcasting Industries," and describes nine specific character-defining features for buildings, structures, sites, and cultural landscapes, including movie ranches, associated with the theme (HRG 2019, p. 31):

- Retains most of the essential character physical and character-defining features from the period of significance

- May be important as the filming location of an early motion picture
- May be the long-term filming location of a significant television production
- May have served as a location for the filming and/or production of multiple motion pictures and/or television shows over time such that the location has become iconic.
- The location may have okayed an integral role in shaping the narrative of a significant film, with specific influence on the plot and structure.
- May also be a significant example of an architectural style and/or the work of a noted architect/designer.
- May also be a significant cultural landscape
- May be significant for ethnic cultural associations
- For the National Register, properties associated with events that date from the last 50 years must possess exceptional importance

3.1.5 The Old Road Setting

The Project site lies west of a frontage road called "The Old Road," of which the Project proposes to widen from roughly 21 feet wide to roughly 68 feet wide as an off-site improvement. "The Old Road" refers to a series of predecessor highways to Interstate 5. In 1915, the "Ridge Route" extending between San Fernando and the southern San Joaquin valleys was opened and eventually paved in 1919. This was one of several state "highways" that opened as a result of the State Highway Act (Caltrans 2016, p. 75). The Ridge Route extended northwest through Weldon and Gavin canyons then north through San Francisco Valley (where present-day City of Santa Clarita is located). This paving project was part of a larger national movement to improve roads specifically for automobiles, and the Ridge Route was one of hundreds of beneficiaries of the movement in California. In 1926, the route was re-designated as US Route 99 as part of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads effort to mark existing interstate roads. The route connected to other highways resulting in US Route 99 extending from Calexico, California to Blaine, Washington (Caltrans 2016, p. 82; Milburn and Scott 1996, pp. 7.1-7.2).

It its early years, US Route 99 passed directly through towns serving as a main street, causing highway traffic to slow through each roadside town as a result. After the Arroyo Seco Parkway, arguably California's first purpose-built unbroken stretch of highway, was constructed in 1940, widening and pavement improvements were proposed for several state highways, including US Route 99. This work was put on brief hold during World War II; however, after the war concluded the Collier-Burns Act of 1947 allocated funds by way of a gasoline tax allowing for an upgrade to US Route 99. This upgrade included widening of US Route 99 from a two-lane road to a four-lane expressway throughout California, (Caltrans 2016, p. 99; Provost 2017, pp. 17-18, 81-82).

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 enabled legislation for the interstate system providing funding for highway upgrades including US Route 99. In 1965, construction of Interstate 5 near Lyons Canyon began, and the segment of US Route 99 adjacent to Lyons Canyon was completely subsumed under the interstate. Portions of the frontage road were constructed after Interstate 5 was completed in this region in 1967. However, the frontage road did not extend along the proposed Project area until 1989 when the segment between Towsley Canyon and Sagecrest Circle was constructed (Caltrans 2016, p. 109; The Signal 1965, p. 15; The Signal 1967, p. 4; NETR 2022b, UCSB 2022).

3.2 Records Search Results

On November 16, 2020, ESA performed a CHRIS record search at the SCCIC, located on the campus of California State University, Fullerton. Because ESA was only able to receive partial results due to limitations imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic and the inability for SCCIC staff to access all their files, a supplementary records search was requested by Dudek (ESA 2021). On May 25, 2022, Dudek staff conducted a supplemental record search for the Project site and a 1-mile radius. The CHRIS records search results provided by the SCCIC included their digitized collections mapped prehistoric and historic archaeological resources and historic built-environment resources; Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) site records; technical reports; archival resources; and ethnographic references. Additional consulted sources included historical maps of the Project Site, the NRHP, the CRHR, the California Historic Property Data File, and the lists of California State Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and the Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility. SCCIC records were reviewed to determine whether the implementation of the Project, including offsite improvement areas, would have the potential to impact known and unknown cultural resources.

3.2.1 Previous Cultural Resources Studies

Results of the cultural resources record search indicate that 30 previous cultural resource studies have been conducted within 1-mile of the Project site between 1974 and 2015. Of these studies, seven (7) address portions or the entirety of the Project site. Table 1, below, summarizes all 30 previous studies followed by a brief summary of the previous investigations that address the Project site.

Table 1. Previous Technical Studies Within 1-Mile of the Proposed Project Site

SCCIC ID	Author	Year	Report Title	Addresses Project Site
LA-00023	Leonard, Nelson N. III	1974	Archaeological Reconnaissance of Tentative Tract # 31399, a Residential Development Near Newhall California	**Yes**
LA-00103	Singer, Clay A.	1975	Archaeological Resource Survey of Portions of the South Fork, Santa Clara River, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-00290	Desautels, Roger J.	1976	Archaeological Survey Report on Acre Parcel of Land Located in the Newhall Area of the County of Los Angeles, California.	No
LA-00510	Van Horn, David M.	1979	Preliminary Archaeological Overview: a 3,000+/- Acre Parcel Bordering Portrero Canyon Near Newhall, Ca.	No
LA-00578	Baksh, Michael G.	1979	Archaeological Evaluation of Tentative Tract No.35555, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-00842	Singer, Clay A.	1977	Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resource Assessment for a Portion of Towsley Canyon, Near Newhall, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-01062	Schilz, Allen J.	1981	Archaeological Survey of the Sylmar Development Project Site, Los Angeles County, California	**Yes**
LA-01595	Brown, Robert S. and David M. Van Horn	1984	Archaeological Survey Report: a 400+ Acre Tract Located in the Santa Susana Mountains West of Newhall, California	No

Table 1. Previous Technical Studies Within 1-Mile of the Proposed Project Site

SCCIC ID	Author	Year	Report Title	Addresses Project Site
LA-01978	Salls, Roy A.	1990	Report of Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of Santa Clarita, California-Newhall Carrier Annex Environmental Assessment, ESA Project Number 9094c Newhall California	No
LA-02305	Moratto, Michael J.	1990	Cultural and Palaeontologic Resources in the Santa Susana and Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles County, California	**Yes**
LA-02721	Weber, Carmen A. and Dave Ferraro	1992	Cultural Resources Survey 82.7 Acre Parcel Near Newhall Tentative Parcel Map No. 8576	No
LA-02848	Peak and Associates, Inc.	1992	Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Newhall Alternate Alignment, Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, California	No
LA-02950	Peak & Associates and Reed	1992	Consolidated Report: Cultural Resource Studies for the Proposed Pacific Pipeline Project	**Yes**
LA-02951	Gibson, Robert O.	1993	Results of Archaeological Records Review for the Pacific Pipeline Project Emidio Lateral Pipeline Kern and Los Angeles Counties, CA	No
LA-03000	Simon, Joseph M. and David S. Whitley	1993	Phase I Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resources Assessment for the 225 Acres Alternative Site 2 Study Area, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	**Yes**
LA-04008	Unknown	1996	Cultural Resources Investigation Pacific Pipeline Emidio Route	No
LA-05533	Smith, Philomene C.	2000	Negative Archaeological Report: Rock-lined Section and the Addition of an Access to Paved Section of Drainage Channel Near Interstate 5 in Santa Clarita	No
LA-05855	Anonymous	2001	Phase I Archaeological Survey of the 558 Acres Old Road Study Area, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-08958	Tsunoda, Koji and Moreno, A.	2007	Archaeological Survey Report for Southern California Edison Company Saugus-north Oaks FO Cable Project Los Angeles County, California (wo#8456-0639, Jo#6155)	No
LA-09062	Slawson, Dana N.	2004	Archaeological Investigation for NCWD Peachland Reservoirs: 18 Inch Pipeline and Access Road Improvements Project	No
LA-09063	Schmidt, June A.	2003	Negative Archaeological Survey Report: Church of the Nazarene (C.U.P. No. 03-090) 23857 the Old Road, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County.	No
LA-09066	Shepard, Richard S.	2004	Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for Lyons Canyon Ranch Specific Plan, Tentative Tract Map 53653, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California.	**Yes**
LA-10511	McKenna, Jeanette A.	2005	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Aidlin Casad Tract No. 52905, Approximately 95 Acres in the Lyon Canyon Area of Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-10578	Fortier, Jana	2009	TEA21 Rural Roadside Inventory: Native American Consultation and Ethnographic Study Caltrans District 7, County of Los Angeles	No

Table 1. Previous Technical Studies Within 1-Mile of the Proposed Project Site

SCCIC ID	Author	Year	Report Title	Addresses Project Site
LA-11594	Bonner, Wayne	2011	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for AT&T Mobility, LLC Candidate NL0443-01 (Newhall Water Tank), 4750 Fambrough Street, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-11985	McKenna, Jeanette	2012	A Class III/Section 106 and Phase I CEQA Cultural Resources Investigation for the Proposed Storm Drain Improvement Areas in the Newhall and Santa Clarita Areas of Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-12526	Ehringer, Candace, Ramirez, Katherine, and Vader, Michael	2013	Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District Chloride TMDL Facilities Plan Project, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment	**Yes**
LA-12619	Maxon, Patrick O.	2000	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of the Edson (TT 52905) Parcel, a Portion of the Aidlin Properties, in the City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-12631	Maxon, Patrick	1999	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of the Edson (TT 52905) Parcels; Portions of the Aidlin Properties, in the City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California	No
LA-13109	McKenna, Jeanette A.	2015	A Class III/Section 106 and Phase I CEQA Cultural Resources Investigation for the Proposed Storm Drain Improvement Areas in the Newhall and Santa Clarita Areas of Los Angeles County, California	No

LA-00023

Archaeological Reconnaissance of Tentative Tract # 31399, a Residential Development Near Newhall California (Leonard 1974) documents the results of an archaeological study conducted ahead of proposed development and consisting of archival research, literature review and pedestrian survey. The area of study overlaps approximately 2 percent of the Project site, along the northern boundary. No previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the current Project site as a result of the investigation. The study concluded that no significant direct or indirect impacts upon archaeological resources would result from the project and no further measures were proposed.

LA-1062

Archaeological Survey of the Sylmar Development Project Site, Los Angeles County, California (WESTEC Services, Inc., 1981) documents the results of an archaeological study consisting of a records search and a pedestrian survey of a 470-acre project site. The area of study overlaps over 90 percent of the current Project site and resulted in the identification of one (1) previously recorded prehistoric-era archaeological site, CA-LAN-802, within the area of study. This resource is not within the current Project site. No further cultural or paleontological resources were identified as a result of the survey. The report includes a recommendation that CA-LAN-802 be mapped and the artifacts collected prior to any development.

LA-02305

Cultural and Palaeontologic Resources in the Santa Susana and Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles County, California (Moratto 1990) documents the results of an archaeological and paleontological resources assessment consisting of an archival records search, literature review, pedestrian survey, and analysis of findings. For purposes of this report, only the methods and results pertaining to cultural resources are summarized. The area of study overlaps approximately 15 percent of the Project site within the southeastern corner. The study was conducted to assess potential landfill sites for Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems. No previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the current Project site as a result of the investigation. The archaeological survey identified historic sites as well as prehistoric sites, including rock shelters, south of the Project site in Towsley Canyon, but none within the Project site. The study includes recommendations of avoidance preservation and stabilization of resources and that a mitigation plan be prepared and implemented by archaeologists prior to direct impacts within the culturally sensitive area.

LA-02950

Consolidated Report: Cultural Resource Studies for the Proposed Pacific Pipeline Project (Peak & Associates 1992) documents the results of an archaeological resources assessment consisting of an archival records search, literature review, pedestrian survey, and excavation of shovel test pits. The area of study overlaps approximately 1 percent of the Project site. The study was conducted to assess potential routes for a proposed pipeline. No previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the current Project site as a result of the investigation. The study developed a Phase 2 test excavation program and recommended avoiding cultural resources or completing data recovery with all work monitored by archaeologists and Native American consultants.

LA-3000

Phase I Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resources Assessment for the 225 Acres Alternative Site 2 Study Area, Santa Clarita, California (Simon and Whitely 1993), documents the results of an archaeological study consisting of an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey, archival records search, and literature review. The study area overlaps over 90 percent of the current Project site. No cultural resources were identified as a result of this study. The report does not include the recommendation of any further actions or measures.

LA-9066

Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for Lyons Canyon Ranch Specific Plan Tentative Tract Map 53653, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California (Shepard 2004) documents the results of a Phase I cultural resources study consisting of cultural and paleontological resources records searches and a field survey. The area of study overlaps over 95 percent of the current Project site. No cultural or paleontological resources were identified as a result of this study. The report includes the recommendation for both paleontological and archaeological monitoring.

LA-12526

Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District Chloride TMDL Facilities Plan Project, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment (Ehringer et al. 2013) documents the results of an archaeological resources assessment consisting of an archival records search, literature review and pedestrian survey. The area of study overlaps approximately less than 1 percent of the Project site. The study was conducted to assess potential impacts of proposed improvements to the Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plants. No previously recorded cultural resources were identified

within the current Project site as a result of the investigation. The study recommended a cultural resource monitoring and mitigation plan be designed and implemented in areas sensitive for archaeological resources.

3.2.2 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

The SCCIC records indicate that 13 cultural resources have been previously recorded within 1-mile of the Project site. The identified cultural resources include two (2) prehistoric archaeological sites, four (4) historic archaeological sites, one (1) prehistoric isolate, two (2) historic isolates, and four (4) built environment resources. Of these, three (3) are located within the Project site: one (1) prehistoric isolate ((P-19-101350), one (1) historic artifact (P-19-101351), and one (1) built environment resource (P-19-192297). Table 2 summarizes all previously recorded cultural resources identified within the records research radius followed by summaries of each cultural resource located within the Project site and all prehistoric archaeological resources located within the records search radius.

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

Designation	Resource Description	Recorded By	NRHP Eligibility	Proximity to Proposed Project
CA-LAN-000802 (P-19-000802)	Prehistoric site containing one core and one chipped stone blade	1977 (Clay Singer)	7: Not Evaluated	166 meters (545 ft.) southeast
CA-LAN-001592H (P-19-001592)	Historic trash deposit	1989 (P. Isaacs, C. Simpson-Smith)	7: Not Evaluated	1,070 meters (3,511 ft.) southwest
CA-LAN-001593H (P-19-001593)	Historic containing a concrete slab and historic trash	1989 (P. Isaacs, C. Simpson-Smith)	7: Not Evaluated	1,165 meters (3,822 ft.) southwest
CA-LAN-003989 (P-19-003989)	Prehistoric sandstone shelter with pictographs	1989 (K. Owens, C. Lebow, F. Riddell, C. Welling); 2010 (Albert Knight)	7: Not Evaluated	665 meters (2,182 ft.) southwest
(P-19-004424)	Historic site containing two concrete pads, iron pipe fragments, a dirt-banked reservoir, and remnants of a water well.	2014 (Michael H. Dice)	7: Not Evaluated	1,425 meters (4,675 ft.) southeast
(P-19-100356)	Historic site containing the possible remains of a wooden bridge, as well as historic and modern trash	1989 (Foster and Greenwood)	7: Not Evaluated	310 meters (1,017 ft.) south
(P-19-100357)	Historic oil tank	1989 (Foster and Greenwood)	7: Not Evaluated	640 meters (2,100 ft.) southeast
(P-19-100358)	Historic well lined with sandstone boulders	1989 (Foster and Greenwood)	7: Not Evaluated	330 meters (1,083 ft.) south
(P-19-101201)	Historic isolate, concrete obelisk marker for a high-pressure gas line meter	2014 (Michael H. Dice)	7: Not Evaluated	975 meters (3,198 ft.) northeast
(P-19-101350)	Prehistoric isolate, granitic hammerstone	2015 (K. Ross Way)	7: Not Evaluated	**Within**
(P-19-101351)	Historic isolate, glass bottle neck	2015 (K. Ross Way)	7: Not Evaluated	**Within**

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

Designation	Resource Description	Recorded By	NRHP Eligibility	Proximity to Proposed Project
(P-19-120065)	Historic corral	1989 (Foster and Greenwood)	7: Not Evaluated	380 meters (1,247 ft.) south
(P-19-192297)	Historic concrete dam	2015 (K. Ross Way)	6Z: Found ineligible	**Within**

*"7" is the OHP code that denotes that the CHRIS database has no record the resource has been formally evaluated for listing eligibility in the CRHR, NRHP or local designation; "6Z" is the OHP code that denotes a resource has been formally evaluated for listing eligibility in the CRHR, NRHP or local designation and found ineligible.

P-19-000802 (CA-LAN-802)

CA-LAN-802 is a prehistoric site measuring 10 x 10 meters (32 x 32 feet) and is located approximately 144 meters (472 feet) southeast of the Project site. CA-LAN-802 is documented as consisting of one basalt core and one chalcedony blade found among sandstone boulders and was formally recorded in 1977 by Clay Singer, who described the site as a "small hunting station." This site has not been evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources.

P-19-101350

P-19-101350 is a prehistoric isolate located within the northwestern quadrant of the Project site. P-19-101350 is documented as a granitic hammerstone with a flat facet and battering on the opposite end. The isolate was originally formally recorded in 2015 by Ross Way. P-19-101350 has not been evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources.

P-19-003989 (CA-LAN-3989)

CA-LAN-3989 is a prehistoric site measuring 4.2 x 3.9 meters (14 x 13 feet) and is located approximately 714 meters (2343 feet) southwest of the Project site. CA-LAN-3989 is documented as consisting of three pictograph panels and was formally recorded in 1989 by K.Owens, C. LeBow, F.Riddell, and C. Welling who described the site as a small rock shelter with pictographs. The site was also formally recorded in 2010 by Albert Knight, who described the pictographs as red and black drawn lines. This site has not been evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources.

P-19-101351

P-19-101351 is a historic isolate located within the center of the northwestern quadrant of the Project site. P-19-101351 is documented as a bottle neck finish with a cork-lined glass stopper. The isolate was observed in a creek bed and was originally formally recorded in 2015 by Ross Way. P-19-101351 has not been evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources.

P-19-192297

P-19-192297 is a historic structure located within the northern section of the western-most corner of the Project site. P-19-192297 is documented as a check dam of concrete construction with rebar protruding from the top. The

dam was originally formally recorded in 2015 by Ross Way; however, Ross Way noted on the site record that P-19-120065 was previously recorded in 2004 by Richard Shepard. There is no site record for the 2004 recording event. The 2015 site record states, P-19-192297 was evaluated by Richard Shepard, for a 2006 Environmental Impact Report, and was determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources.

3.3 Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Land Files Search

A search of the NAHC Sacred Land Files (SLF) was requested by ESA on October 9, 2020 and conducted by Cultural Services Analyst Steven Quinn on October 13, 2020 to determine the presence of any reported Native American cultural resources within the Project site as listed in the NAHC-maintained SLF (see Confidential Appendix B). The NAHC SLF records search result was negative. The County has conducted tribal notification in accordance with AB 52 and, based on the Tribe's request, is engaged in formal consultation with one tribal entity, the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. It should be noted that Sacred Land Files maintained by the NAHC represent a curation of "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" (nahc.gov 2021) provided by Tribal entities and Native American representatives. For various reasons, Tribal entities and Native American representatives do no not always report sacred lands or TCRs to the NAHC; as such, the NAHC's SLF is not necessarily a comprehensive list of known TCRs and searches of the SLF must be considered in concert with other research and not used as a sole source of information regarding the presence of TCRs. Additionally, results of the SLF provided relate to the general regional area within and surrounding the Project site and does not necessarily equate to the existence of resources within the specific area occupied by the Project site.

3.4 Historical Topographical Maps and Aerials

Historic topographic maps and aerial photographs were consulted through the Nationwide Environmental Title Research LLC to better understand the natural or human-made changes to the alternative site locations and surrounding properties over time. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Sanborn Maps) were reviewed, none of which addressed the Project site. Additionally, topographic maps from 1903 to 2018 and aerial photographs from 1929 to 2018 were reviewed as part of the archival research effort (NETR 2022a).

Historical Topographic Maps

A review of available topographic maps was conducted and included the following years: 1903, 1926, 1929, 1941, 1952, 1969, 1984 (NETR 2022a). Topographic maps depict not only elevation of the study area as well as the areas surrounding it, but they also illustrate the location of roads and some buildings. Although topographic maps are not comprehensive, they are another tool in determining whether a study area has been disturbed and sometimes to what approximate depth.

The Project site first appears on the 1903 United Sates Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map and is shown as undeveloped with a creek running generally east to west within the northern half. There is no evidence of roads within or surrounding the Project site. No significant changes are seen until the 1929 map that depicts a bypass road, installed to avoid Newhall Pass via Weldon and Gavin canyons (future route of current Interstate-5 Freeway), just outside and to the east of the Project site, and an unnamed dirt road (likely Lyons Ranch Road) is present

paralleling the creek (Livingston 1998). The 1930, 1939, 1948 topographic maps resemble the 1903 map. The topographic map from 1933 resembles the 1929 map, with three small structures along the unnamed dirt road. The 1943 topographic map shows the creek as "Lyon Creek" as well as an increase in development within the surrounding area. The topographic map from 1953 depicts the creek running more north to south, with two western branches running east to west. The area remains undeveloped foothills. The topographic map from 2012 shows The Old Road, located approximately 50 feet east of the Project site's eastern most boundary. In 2018, the area is labeled as "Lyons Ranch."

Historical Aerial Photographs

A review of all available historic aerial photographs was conducted and included the following years: 1928, 1929, 1930, 1945, 1947, 1952, 1959, 1965, 1968, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1977, 1980, 1989, 1990, 1994, 2003, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 (NETR 2022b, UCSB 2022). Through careful comparative review of historic aerials, changes to the landscape of a study area may be revealed. Disturbance to the study area is specifically important as it helps determine if soils within the study area are capable of sustaining intact archaeological deposits. Additionally, historic aerials have the potential to reveal whether a study area was subjected to alluvial deposits by way of alluvial erosion, flooding, debris flows or mudslides, as well as placement of artificial or foreign fill soils that may have buried intact archaeological deposits. Table 3 provides a summary of the historic aerial photograph review detailing visible changes to the landscape over time and between the years when the photographs are taken and were available for analysis.

Table 3. Historical Aerial Photographs Depicting the Project Site

Year	Description
1928	The Project site is undeveloped within vegetated foothills with a creek bed running generally east-west within the northern half. Bypass road, installed to avoid Newhall Pass via Weldon and Gavin canyons (future route of current Interstate-5 (I-5 Freeway) is located just outside the Project site to east.
1929	No significant changes
1930	No significant changes
1945	The creek bed appears to be running more north to south.
1947	No significant changes.
1952	One structure is shown within the northeastern corner.
1959	No significant changes.
1969	There appears to be a series of trails or dirt roads along the ridgelines of the foothills and throughout the valleys. The structure first seen in 1952 is no longer present.
1972	No significant changes.
1974	A dirt road running generally east to west bisects the Project site, likely Lyons Ranch Road.
1977	A cluster of structures is depicted within the center of the Project site.
1980	No significant changes.
1985	No significant changes.

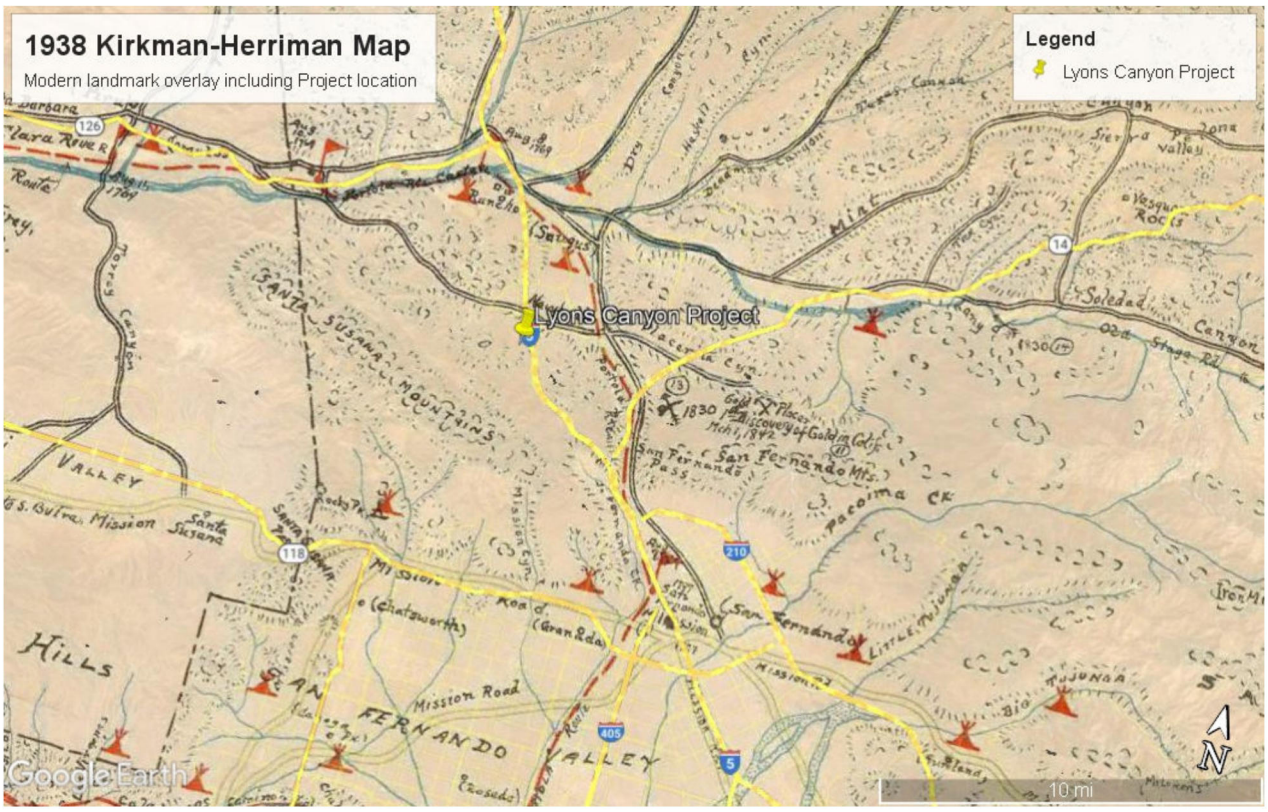
Table 3. Historical Aerial Photographs Depicting the Project Site

Year	Description
1992	There are a series of three (3) structures along Lyons Ranch Road, as well as an increase in development within the surrounding areas.
1993	No significant changes.
1994	The structures along Lyons Ranch Road first seen in 1992 are no longer present.
1996	No significant changes.
1997	The structures originally seen in 1977 are no longer present.
1998	No significant changes.
1999	No significant changes.
2000	No significant changes.
2003	No significant changes.
2005	No significant changes.
2009	No significant changes.
2010	No significant changes.
2012	No significant changes.
2014	No significant changes.
2016	No significant changes.
2018	No significant changes.

3.5 1938 Kirkman-Harriman Historical Map Review

Dudek also reviewed pertinent academic and ethnographic literature for information pertaining to historic use of the Project area and vicinity, including sources commonly identified through Tribal consultation, notably the 1938 Kirkman-Harriman Historical Map. This map is a valuable representation of post-colonization mission history; however, it is limited to a specific period of Native American history and substantiation of the specific location and uses of the represented individual features should be verified by archaeological records and/or other primary documentation. It should be noted that this map is highly generalized due to scale and age and may be somewhat inaccurate with regards to distance and location of mapped features. Additionally, this map was prepared based on review of historic documents and notes more than 100 years following secularization of the missions (in 1833). Although the map contains no specific primary references, it matches with the details documented by the Gaspar de Portolá expedition (circa 1769–1770). Image 2 depicts a portion of the Kirkman-Harriman Map that illustrates the Project area followed by an analytical review of the map in relation to the Project site and surrounding area.

Image 2: 1938 Kirkman-Harriman Historical Map



Based on the Kirkman-Harriman Map, the Project site is approximately 2.5 miles directly west of the northwest–southeast-trending "Portola Route" depicting the path traversed through the area in 1769, approximately 4.5 miles south of where Portolá's group camped in the area and approximately 1 mile south of an offshoot road that connects the local area to the east-west trending "Old Road to Santa Barbara". The nearest mapped source of freshwater is the Santa Clara River approximately 6.5 miles due north. The nearest mapped Native American village is mapped approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the Project site and is named "Saugus". The map also marks "Gold Placer, 1st Discovery of Gold in Calif. Mch 1, 1842" approximately 6.5 miles due east of the Project site and the location of a battle that occurred between Spanish Soldiers and Indians in 1830 due east approximately 4.5 miles. This battle is likely the same battle that occurred in the *Canyon de Los Difuntos* that Friar Mariano Payeras uses to petitioned Spain to establish another mission on the Santa Clara River near Newhall. Nothing in the archaeological record recorded within 1-mile of the Project site or information collected during archival research conducted for this study refutes the mapped locations depicted on this portion of the Kirkman-Herriman Map.

3.6 Geotechnical Report Review

The geotechnical investigation documented by the *Revised Geotechnical 100-Scale Plan Review Lyons Canyon Development Vesting Tentative Tract No. 83301, Los Angeles County, California* (RTF&A 2022), was performed to determine subsurface conditions at the site and "to provide an updated geotechnical report to verify the applicability of the recommendations presented in our referenced reports relative to the current grading plan". The report details the results of subsurface explorations conducted in 2006 by Pacific Soils, in 2015 by Gold Coast and in 2021 by RTF&A. Results of the investigation indicate that geologic units within the Site consist of bedrock of the Pico (Tp)

and Saugus (TQss) formations located in the foothills within and surrounding the Project site; alluvium and colluvium (slope wash) deposits (Qac) located at the base of foothills and sporadically throughout the valley floor; landslide and debris flow deposits (Qdf) within the western foothill canyons; and man-made or artificial fill (af) located on a narrow strip of land immediately adjacent to The Old Road along the eastern border of the Project site.

4.0 Field Investigations

Multiple pedestrian surveys of the Project site were conducted in support of this cultural assessment. One pedestrian survey was conducted by ESA addressing the entirety of the Project site. Two pedestrian surveys were conducted by Dudek addressing portions of the Project site in order to complete the DPR 523 forms for those cultural resources identified by ESA and to update site records for previously recorded cultural resources. Following is a summary of methods and results for each survey effort by ESA and Dudek.

4.1 Methods

Excerpt taken from Environmental Services Associates' report (2021):

> *A cultural resources survey of the Project Site was conducted over three days in February 17 and 19, 2021 by ESA staff Matheson Lowe, B.A., and Yareli Lopez, B.A., and by Michael Vader, B.S. and Fatima Clark, B.A. on February 26th. Both surveys were aimed at identifying historic architectural resources and archaeological resources within the Project and relocation of previously recorded resources located in the Project Site. Areas with visible ground surface were subject to systematic pedestrian survey using transect intervals spaced no more than 10 to 15 meters (approximately 30 to 45 feet) apart. Existing on-site structures, as well as the immediate surroundings, were photographed. Ridges that had slopes exceeding thirty degrees and areas with dense vegetation could not be surveyed due to lack of access and lack of ground visibility. In addition to pedestrian, a windshield survey was conducted of the unsurveyable areas and the drainage along Lyons Ranch Road in order to assess the potential prehistoric or historic sensitivity. All resources and archaeological sites meeting the OHP's 45-year age threshold were documented on California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms.*

Dudek conducted focused surveys of areas identified and documented by previous studies including the survey conducted by ESA (areas of interest). The focused survey methods consisted of pedestrian surveys conducted in parallel transects, spaced no more than 5 meters apart (approximately 15 feet), traversing north to south when possible, within the areas of interest. Deviations from transects only occurred in areas containing steep slopes (greater than 30% slope), dense vegetation, or impassible natural features. The ground surface was inspected for prehistoric artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, groundstone tools, ceramics, fire-affected rock), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, soil depressions, features indicative of structures and/or buildings (e.g., standing exterior walls, post holes, foundations), and historical artifacts (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics, building materials). Ground disturbances such as burrows, cut banks, trails and drainages were also visually inspected for exposed subsurface materials. No artifacts were collected during the survey.

All fieldwork was documented using field notes and an Apple Generation 7 iPad (iPad) equipped with ESRI Collector and Avenza PDF Maps software with close-scale georeferenced field maps of the Project site, and aerial photographs. Location-specific photographs were taken using the iPad's 12-mega-pixel resolution camera. Cultural

resources identified during this inventory within the Project site were recorded on DPR forms, using the *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources* (Office of Historic Preservation 1995). All field notes, photographs, and records related to the current study are on file at Dudek's Santa Barbara, California office. All field practices met the Secretary of Interior's standards and guidelines for a cultural resources inventory and were designed and supervised by an archaeologist meeting the same standards.

4.2 Results

Excerpt taken from Environmental Services Associates' report (2021):

> *On February 17 and 19th, ESA cultural resource specialists, Matheson Lowe, B.A. and Yareli Lopez, B.A. conducted a pedestrian cultural survey of the North portions of Lyons Canyon Road, portions along the Taylor Trail, and the Project's west boundary along Lyons Canyon road. Open areas with low vegetation density, toes of slopes, and flat, open draws between ridges were subject to systematic survey with spacing no greater than 15 meters apart. The north side of Lyons Canyon Road is comprised of: a large wide open plain dominated by a dense buckwheat field, tall grasses and surrounded by steep short ridgelines. Soils are sandy silt with a high sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles and gravels. A drainage trends west to east for about 500 feet through the middle of the plain, then turns south in the middle of the central plain and runs along the Taylor Trail. The drainage cuts through the plain about 2.5 to 4-feet deep of soil erosion. Visibility ranged from 50 percent in the open plain to 20 to 30 percent near the drainage and at the base of the slopes. Between the short ridgelines are short, broad draws with small drainages and moderate to dense vegetation consisting of ankle high seasonal grasses, sugar bush, coastal and white sage, creosote bush and stands of oak with ground surface visibility of approximately 25 to 50 percent.*
>
> *The eastern portion of the Project consists of a large gravel and asphalt parking lot that reaches to the edges of the buckwheat field. This area measured approximately 200-feet (east to west) and about 400 feet (N-S), bordered by a channelized drainage to the north side (outside Project boundary lines), a slope exceeded 30 degrees on the south portion, the Project boundary fence to the east. One large modern billboard is located in the northeast corner of the Project Site, and modern trash and debris were observed at and around the lot. This area had low visibility of 10% and highly impacted by road gravels and modern debris. The north and west boundary of the Project Site and the southeast portion of Lyons Canyon Road are comprised of steep, short slopes and ridges that were covered in moderately dense chaparral vegetation consisting of ankle to knee high seasonal grasses, laurel sumac, and California buckwheat which resulted in 15-20 percent ground surface visibility and slopes greater than 30 degrees. These areas were not surveyed due to topography but the toe of slopes were intensely surveyed opportunistically.*
>
> *On February 26, 2021, ESA cultural resources specialists, Michael Vader, B.A., and Fatima Clark, B.A. conducted a pedestrian cultural resources survey of the portion of the Project located south of Lyons Canyon Road. This portion of the Project Site is largely comprised of steep slopes, ridges, and canyon bottoms. The slopes and ridges were covered in moderately dense chaparral vegetation consisting of ankle to knee high seasonal grasses, laurel sumac, and California buckwheat which resulted in 15 to 20 percent ground surface visibility. The canyon bottoms were largely comprised of ankle high seasonal grasses and stands of oak with ground surface visibility of approximately 25 to 50 percent. Given the topography of the slopes and ridges, they were subject to an opportunistic survey strategy wherein trails and clearings were subject to intensive inspection. The canyon bottoms were subject to systematic survey using transects*

spaced at 15-meter (approximately 50-foot) intervals. A systematic survey was also performed at the undeveloped parking lot of Taylor Trail using transects spaced at 15-meter (approximately 50-foot) intervals. No cultural resources were identified as a result of the survey.

Dudek's survey of the Project site was completed on May 31, June 1 and August 17, 2022, by Dudek Staff Archaeologists. Careful attention was given to barren ground included at the base of trees, bushes, within paths/trails and any subsurface soils exposed by burrowing animals. Ground surface visibility within the Project site was variable and as such, in areas of dense ground coverage, surface scrapes were occasionally implemented, when necessary, to enhance detection of archaeological materials that may have been obscured on the surface. Survey results are discussed below.

The Project site is currently undeveloped but retains remnants of previous use including cement pads, fencing, light and electric poles, drainage pipes, water tank, modern refuse, and overgrown paved and dirt roads. Signs of current use include well-traversed, established trails and modern refuse. General ground surface visibility was variable from none (0 percent) in paved areas and dense vegetation, that accounted for approximately 60 percent of the areas of interest; to fair (30 percent), in areas with moderate vegetation, that accounted for approximately 20 percent of the areas of interest; and very good to excellent (80-90 percent), in areas with exposed soils, that accounted for approximately 10 percent of the areas of interest. Soils observed appear consist with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) characterization of Saugus and Pico formations soils as well as soils derived from undifferentiated alluvium, colluvium and debris flow deposits (RTF&A 2022; USDA 2022).

All cultural resources documented by site records, P-19-101350, P-19-101351, P-19-192297, as well as resources identified during ESA's pedestrian survey were revisited with the exception of P-19-101351 (ESA 2021) which could not be found. Additionally, one previously unrecorded structure, a segment of The Old Road east of the Project site proposed for widening as part of the Project, was examined. This segment was surveyed on October 6, 2022. Visibility of the two-lane frontage road was excellent. Following is a brief summary of the conditions of each resource.

Previously recorded resources documented on DPR 523 existing within the CHRIS database:

P-19-101350: The prehistoric isolate, described in the site record as a "granitic hammerstone with a flat facet, and battering on the opposite end" was found during both ESA's and Dudek's surveys (ESA 2021). The resource was found within the same context described in the site record as "along the margin of a narrow arroyo at the foot of a finger ridge approximately 30m north of an unnamed creek bed". An area approximately 50 feet in each direction when possible was surveyed to determine if any other artifacts were present. Ground surface visibility was poor to fair (10-30 percent). No additional artifacts or features were observed.

P-19-101351: The historic isolate, described in the site record as a "single isolated bottle neck finish that included a cork-lined glass stopper" was not found during either ESA's or Dudek's surveys. The location in the site record as "along an unnamed creek bed in what appears to have been an earthen dam" was visited using the UTM coordinates and location description. An area approximately 50 feet in each direction from the UTM coordinates\was surveyed when possible. Ground surface visibility was poor to fair (10-30 percent). No artifacts or features were observed including the previously recorded isolate. Both ESA and Dudek observed evidence of erosion and Dudek observed a moderately used trail. It is possible that the isolate was removed from the location documented in the site record by either natural erosion or collected by someone; it is also possible that vegetation obscured the isolate's location (ESA 2021).

P-19-192297: The historic structural feature, described in the site record as a "concrete construction with rebar protruding from the top" was found during both ESA's and Dudek's surveys. The resource was found within the same context provided in the site record map. An area approximately 50 feet in each direction when possible was surveyed to determine if any other artifacts were present. Ground surface visibility was poor to fair (10-30 percent). No additional artifacts or features were observed.

Resources identified during ESA's investigation:

Dudek-Lyons-CYN-001 - Metal Frame Bridge: The structural feature, described by ESA as a "metal draw-bridge style vehicular bridge crossing a small drainage that trends north to south" including a "hydraulic arms underneath, a pivot point on the east side of the bridge, and an I-beam constructed cross beam entrance" and measuring "10-feet wide and about 12 to 13 feet long" was found during Dudek's surveys. An area approximately 50 feet in each direction when possible was surveyed to determine if any other artifacts were present. Ground surface visibility surrounding the feature was fair to excellent (30-100 percent). No additional artifacts or features were observed (ESA 2021).

Dudek-Lyons-CYN-002 - Refuse Scatter: The refuse scatter, described by ESA as "mostly corroded domestic items in a diffused scatter measuring 9-feet east to west and 17-feet north to south, and including "water heater tank, two steel metal buckets, toaster oven appliance, paint cans, two metal-framed chairs, a steel drum barrel, car seat springs, double-crimped sanitary cans with church key and rotary openings, two barbeques, various square oil containers" was found during Dudek's surveys. An area approximately 50 feet in each direction when possible was surveyed to determine if any other artifacts were present. Ground surface visibility was poor to fair (10-30 percent). Dudek also observed ceramic shards and whiteware as well as a clothes washer. All artifacts appeared to have been placed by opportunistic dumping at approximately the same time period. No evidence of an associated structure was observed (ESA 2021).

Dudek-Lyons-CYN-003 - Metal Drainage Pipe: The structural feature, described by ESA as a "metal drainage pipe is comprised of a poured concrete intake opening and backstop, connected to a corrugated steel metal drainage pipe trending south to north" and measuring "approximately 4 feet tall" and "13-inch-wide and about 60 feet long" was found during Dudek's surveys in the same location described by ESA as "and downhill toward the east end of Lyons Canyon Road" and provided in UTM coordinates. An area approximately 50 feet in each direction when possible was surveyed to determine if any other artifacts were present. Ground surface visibility surrounding the feature was poor to fair (10-30 percent). No additional artifacts or features were observed (ESA 2021).

Dudek-Lyons-CYN-004 - Water Tank: The structural feature, described by ESA as an "abandoned water tank" and measuring "4 feet tall by 6 feet diameter with a short, conical top… measuring 18-inch-wide and the tank was filled with modern aluminum pull-tab beverage cans" was found during Dudek's surveys in the same location described by ESA as "located on the slope of a hill south of Lyons Canyon Road on the northeast portion of the Project" and provided in UTM coordinates. An area approximately 50 feet in each direction when possible was surveyed to determine if any other artifacts were present. Ground surface visibility surrounding the feature was poor to fair (10-30 percent). No additional artifacts or features were observed. The metal drainage pipe and water tank are within close proximity to each other and may be associated (ESA 2021).

5.0 Assessment of Recorded Resources

All cultural resources, with the exception of the isolated artifacts, were assessed for their potential eligibility for listing on the CRHR and NRHP as well as their significance pursuant to CEQA criteria. Standard practice in accordance with *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources* (Office of Historic Preservation 1995) and Secretary of Interior's standards and guidelines, dictates that isolated artifacts(such as P-19-101350 a granitic hammerstone and, P-19-101351 a glass bottle neck fragment) need not be evaluated for significance since their isolated nature and lack of potential to contribute information important in prehistory or history already falls below the threshold of significance. Following is a brief summary of the significance findings (for full description of these resources please see Section 3.2.2 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources).

P-19-192297: According to the site record written in 2015 by K. Ross Way, "A 2006 Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2003031086) states that the dam was evaluated and determined ineligible for the NRHP and CRHR as an incomplete isolated feature."

Dudek-Lyons-CYN-001 - Metal Frame Bridge: Extensive review of topographic maps and aerial photographs demonstrate that the bridge was constructed sometime between 1980 and 1994. Additionally, the research on the Warner Brothers Valencia Oaks Ranch revealed that the bridge was used in the movie *Nothing But Trouble* starring Dan Aykroyd, John Candy, Chevy Chase and Demi Moore. Since the movie was released in 1991 (Then and Now 2022), it is reasonable to assume that the bridge was built for use in the movie. Due to the bridge being less than 45-years old and that it is not associated with a specific architect or artist and does not possess essential physical character-defining features from the period of significance, it does not meet the thresholds outlined in SurveyLA neither does it meet criterion for significance in accordance with CEQA and is not eligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP.

Dudek-Lyons-CYN-002 - Refuse Scatter: Extensive review of topographic maps and aerial photographs do not demonstrate evidence that the refuse scatter is associated with a structure or early occupation of the area. Evidence in the field and the scatter's close proximity to a road from the top of a foothill to the valley floor suggests that the scatter is present as the result of opportunistic dumping. Although subsurface testing was not conducted, the nature of scatter does not suggest that there is a subsurface component to the resource. Although some of the artifacts within the refuse scatter appear to likely be older than 45 years, there is no evidence to suggest that they are associated with a significant event and person. Therefore, the refuse scatter does not meet criterion for significance in accordance with CEQA and is not eligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP.

Dudek-Lyons-CYN-003 - Metal Drainage Pipe and Dudek-Lyons-CYN-004 - Water Tank: Extensive review of topographic maps and aerial photographs demonstrate that the water drainage pipe and water tank were likely installed sometime between 1947 and 1952 and associated with a structure no longer present on the Project site. Although, these features are likely older than 45 years, there is no evidence to suggest that they are associated with a significant event and person, nor do they represent a distinctive method of construction or represent the work of a master. Therefore, neither the metal drainage pipe nor the water tank meet criterion for significance in accordance with CEQA and is not eligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP.

Warner Brothers Valencia Oaks Ranch: In 2019, the City of Los Angeles's SurveyLA project established a historical context statement, character-defining features, period of significance, and significance thresholds by which to evaluate filming locations associated with the Motion Picture and Television Broadcasting Industries (HRG 2019).

Based on this rubric, movie ranches may only be eligible under National Register/California Register criteria A/1: associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (HRG 2019, p. 30). In order to be considered a historically significant movie ranch in Santa Clarita Valley, a property must be developed and used between 1910 and 1974, retain requisite integrity, as well as be the film location for an early motion picture, the film location of a culturally important or iconic film, the long-running location of a significant television production, and if less than 50 years in age, must possess exceptional importance. The established significance threshold is provided in Section 3.1.4 of this report. This report utilizes the context and applies it to movie ranches in Santa Clarita Valley as well as to the subject property, Warner Brothers Valencia Oaks Ranch (Lyons Canyon Ranch).

Warner Brothers Valencia Oaks Ranch did not meet the thresholds for eligibility as a significant historical resource under any NRHP or CRHR criteria due to its development outside the established period of significance. The property's use as a movie ranch began in 1981, outside the period of significance for movie ranches in Santa Clarita Valley (1910-1974). As the ranch was not associated with this use as a filming/television location until 1981, its association with the filming industry is recent; thus, this an insufficient length of time has passed to warrant consideration of the property's association with the film industry under the CRHR (45 years) or consideration under the NRHP (50 years). Further, the Warner Brothers Valencia Oaks Ranch does not warrant consideration as a historical resource because it was not developed during the period of significance for movie ranches (1910-1974) and does not warrant special consideration under NRHP Criterion Consideration G for its age.

The Old Road: The Old Road segment located east of the Project site is proposed for widening as part of the Project's off-site improvements. Research has revealed that The Old Road segment proposed for alteration as part of this Project is not a part of US Route 99. The segment was constructed in 1989 as a frontage road (see Section 3.1.5) and does not meet the age threshold for consideration as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA (45 years) or consideration under the NRHP (50 years). Further, The Old Road segment east of the Project site does not appear to possess significant historical associations to the transportation history of US Route 99, the regional history of Newhall, or the area-specific history of Lyons Canyon and does not warrant further consideration.

6.0 Assessment of Potential for Unrecorded Archaeological Resources

Proposed ground disturbance includes significant grading and terracing of the hillside areas surrounding the valley floor, minimal cut grading as well as significant fill grading within the valley floor as well as construction of 504 dwelling units, a recreational center, a fire station, and associated utility installation, landscaping and paving. Additionally, ground disturbance would be required for off-site improvements, including manufactured slopes and installment of a retaining wall, stormwater infrastructure, roadway ingress/egress, sidewalk, curbs and gutters along The Old Road and a private entrance road; and off-site water infrastructure improvements to service the Project site located within The Old Road as well as the upgrade of two existing pump stations east of Interstate 5. The proposed ground disturbance is anticipated to extend up to 140 feet below current ground surface within focused areas of the hillside portions of the Project site and no more than 10 feet below current ground surface within focused portions of the valley floor. Since significant fill soil is proposed to be deposited from the hillside portions to the current valley floor, no ground disturbance within native soils is expected to occur within a large portion of the Project areas proposed for building construction, utility, and retaining wall installation, landscaping and paving. Geotechnical studies have documented the Project site does not contain fill soils, with exception of the

narrow area along The Old Road; as such, proposed ground disturbances occurring below current grade are expected to occur within native soils (RFT&A 2023).

As presented in Section 3.1.3 Historic Setting, Sanford Lyon, for whom Lyons Canyon is named, worked, and then owned a portion of the Project site from at least 1874 until his death in 1892. Sanford and his brother Cyrus were important figures in the local area during the last quarter of the 19th Century. A 1876 plat map of the area shows the Lyons' family home located just outside of the Project site within the current footprint of Interstate 5. Although, the extent at which the Lyon family used their property is unknown, there is good evidence that the physical components of their former homestead did not exist within the proposed Project site and were likely destroyed as a result of the construction of Interstate 5 and the bypass road that preceded it.

Considering the cultural sensitivity of the general area, documented by archival documents and resources located within and surrounding the Project area and the presence of potentially intact native soils, the potential for unknown prehistoric and historic cultural resources to exist within the Project is possible. It is unlikely that unknown prehistoric and historic cultural resources exist within the utility improvement areas because these utility improvements are proposed to occur within current utility footprints in the case of the water infrastructure improvements and documented fill soils in the case of improvements along the linear county-owned parcel located between the proposed Project's eastern boundary and The Old Road and at Pump Stations 4 and 5.

7.0 Evaluation of Potential Project Effects

As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(1), a project causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is one that could result in the 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 (i.e., altering those physical characteristics that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency [the County of Los Angeles] for purposes of CEQA; or its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code).

No known significant cultural resources, as defined by CEQA Section 15064.5, exist within the Project site or in the areas designated for off-site improvements. However, based on the identification of cultural resources of both a prehistoric and historic nature located within and surrounding the Project and the presence of potentially intact native soils, the potential for proposed disturbances to impact unknown prehistoric and historic cultural resources is possible. If yet unknown cultural resources, possessing the characteristics outlined in CEQA as significant, exist and are inadvertently encountered during implementation of the Project, there is potential for a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource to occur. Measures included in the following section have been recommended to ensure that the potential for impacts to unknown cultural resources during proposed ground disturbing construction activities would be appropriately addressed consistent with CEQA and County of Los Angeles requirements and guidelines with respect to cultural resources. Implementation of these measures would ensure that cultural resources encountered inadvertently are treated properly and in accordance with CEQA resulting in less than significant impacts to cultural resources.

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8.0 Recommendations

Since no potentially significant resources, as defined by CEQA Guidelines, were identified within the Project site, the Project is not considered to have the potential to result in a significant impact on cultural resources as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)(4). However, due to the overall sensitive nature of the general Project site and surrounding areas, it is possible that unknown cultural material and features could be encountered during Project grading and construction. Therefore, the following measures are recommended to ensure that the potential for impacts to unknown cultural resources during proposed ground disturbing construction activities would be appropriately addressed consistent with state and local requirements and guidelines. NOTE: For purposes of proper implementation of the following recommended mitigation measures, the term "Consulting Tribe/s" is defined pursuant to PRC 21080.3.1 as California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the Project site that may have expertise concerning their tribal cultural resources AND have requested and participated in formal AB 52 consultation for the Project. Additionally, since at the time this version of the report was completed AB 52 consultation was in process, no recommendations regarding Native American/tribal involvement or the treatment of tribal cultural resources have been included in the recommended mitigation measures.

1. **Archaeological Monitoring.** Prior to ground disturbance activities, the Applicant and/or subsequent responsible parties should retain a Principal Investigator/Archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, and with experience in California prehistoric and historic resources (experience within Los Angeles County preferred), to complete the following: compose a Cultural Resource Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan (Plan), manage archaeological monitoring and address any inadvertent discoveries identified during project implementation. Proof of retainment of the Principal Investigator/Archaeologist should be provided to the County prior to the granting of a grading permit. The purpose of the Plan is to outline cultural monitoring (archaeological and Native American/Tribal) protocols and a program of treatment and mitigation in the case of an inadvertent discovery of cultural (archaeological or Native American/Tribal) resources during ground-disturbing phases and to provide for the proper identification, evaluation, treatment, and protection of any cultural resources in accordance with CEQA throughout the duration of the Project. Existence and importance of adherence to this Plan should be stated on all Project site plans intended for use by those conducting the ground disturbing activities.

   The Principal Investigator/Archaeologist should manage archaeological monitoring conducted by archaeological technicians during initial ground distances. Initial excavation is defined as initial construction-related earth moving of sediments from their place of deposition. As it pertains to cultural monitoring (archaeological or Native American/Tribal), this definition excludes movement of sediments after they have been initially disturbed or displaced by project-related construction. The retained Principal Investigator/Archaeologist should oversee and establish monitoring efforts as needed (increase, decrease, or discontinue monitoring frequency) based on the observed potential for construction activities to encounter cultural deposits or material. The archaeological monitor should be responsible for maintaining daily monitoring logs. The requirement for archaeological monitoring should be noted on all construction plans to ensure implementation. Upon completion of all ground disturbing activities, an archaeological monitoring report should be prepared within 60 days following completion of ground disturbance and submitted to the County for review. This report should document compliance with approved cultural mitigation, all monitoring efforts, and include an appendix with daily monitoring logs. The final report should be submitted to the County and the South Central Coastal Information Center.

2. **Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) Training.** All construction personnel and monitors who are not trained archaeologists should be briefed regarding unanticipated discoveries prior to the start of ground disturbing activities. A basic presentation should be prepared and presented by a qualified archaeologist to inform all personnel working on the Project about the archaeological sensitivity of the area. The purpose of the WEAP training is to provide specific details on the kinds of archaeological materials that may be identified during construction of the Project and explain the importance of and legal basis for the protection of significant archaeological resources. Each worker should also be instructed on the proper procedures to follow in the event that cultural resources or human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities. These procedures include work curtailment or redirection, and the immediate contact of the on-call archaeologist and if appropriate, Tribal representative. Necessity of training attendance should be stated on all Project site plans intended for use by those conducting the ground disturbing activities.

3. **Inadvertent Discovery Clause**. In the event that potential prehistoric or historic-era archaeological resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during construction activities for the project, all construction work occurring within 50 feet of the find shall immediately stop and the Principal Investigator/Archaeologist notified immediately in order to assess of the discovery and determine whether additional study is warranted. Depending upon the nature of the discovery, the Principal Investigator/Archaeologist may simply record the find and allow work to continue. If the discovery proves potentially significant under CEQA, additional work such as subsurface testing may be warranted. If the discovery is determined significant under CEQA and avoidance is not feasible, data recovery will be required. If archaeological resources are discovered or are suspected to be of Native American origin, each of the consulting tribes for the Project should also be notified.

   In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during construction activities, the remains and associated resources shall be treated in accordance with state and local regulations that provide requirements with regard to the accidental discovery of human remains, including California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e). In accordance with these regulations, if human remains are found, the County Coroner must be immediately notified of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the Project site or any nearby area (within 100 feet of the find) reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the County Coroner has determined if the remains are potentially human in origin. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she is required to immediately notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant should then complete their inspection and determine, in consultation with the property owner, the treatment and disposition of the human remains.

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Appendix A

(Confidential – Not for Public View)
SCCIC Records Search

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Appendix B

NAHC Sacred Lands File Search Results

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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

October 13, 2020

Fatima Clark
ESA

Via Email to: fclark@esassoc.com

Re: Lyons Canyon Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Clark:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Steven Quinn
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Appendix C

(Confidential – Not for Public View)
Department of Parks and Recreation Forms