



Los Flores Shooting Range Project

Phase I Cultural Resources Study

prepared for

City of Santa Maria

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Public Works Department

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prepared by

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The CCIC records search identified six previously conducted cultural resources studies within the 0.5-mile radius of the project site (Attachment 2). Of those six studies, two studies (SR-02662 and SR-00343) encompass a portion of the project site and are discussed in further detail below.

SR-00343

Report SR-00343 summarizes the findings of a survey for alternative transmission alignments for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Southern California Edison Companies in 1979. The survey encompasses approximately 31 miles of proposed power pole construction from Orcutt in the Santa Maria Valley south to Point Conception. During the survey, a number of cultural resources were discovered including a possible prehistoric cemetery and a potential rock shelter site. None of the resources identified during this study are located within the current project site.

SR-02662

Report SR-02662 consists of a Phase I cultural survey conducted on four parcels as part of a proposed development for John L. Wallace & Associates. The survey was conducted in 2001 by Robert Gibson and Jeff Parsons of Gibson's Archaeological Consulting. The survey discovered a prehistoric artifact scatter consisting of weathered shellfish fragments, fire-affected rock, and a single chert flake on the first parcel. The authors surveyed an alternate location that would avoid impacts to the prehistoric site. None of the resources identified during this study are located within the current project site.

Results of the CCIC record search indicate that three cultural resources have been documented within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site; none of these resources lie within the project site. All three cultural resources date to the historic period and are associated with the West Cat Canyon Oil Field. A brief description of each of these resources is provided below.

P-42-003928 (CA-SBA-003928H)

This archaeological site consists of a late nineteenth or early twentieth century trash scatter composed of shell, bottle glass, and ceramic dishware. The site was recorded in 2007 by Applied EarthWorks, Inc. The refuse scatter appears to be associated with early oil development in the West Cat Canyon Oil Field and is considered to be a contributing element of the West Cat Canyon Oil Field Archaeological District (P-42-041180 [see below]).

P-42-008873

This isolated historical feature consists of an abandoned oil well or monument topped with a brass cap. The feature was recorded by Applied EarthWorks, Inc., in 2014. The brass cap measures 3 ½ inches in diameter and is embossed "Union Oil Company of California" with "Bell 2" stamped in the center.

P-42-041180

P-42-041180 is an archaeological district recorded by Applied EarthWorks, Inc. in 2015 and 2017. The resource contains the remains of the West Cat Canyon Oil Field that was in use during the early twentieth century. The district consists of a group of oil wells and associated historic archaeological deposits, refuse dumps, and isolated oil extraction and production features. The district covers an



area of approximately 5,247 acres and has been recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, C, and D.

Native American Coordination

Rincon Archaeologist Dustin Merrick contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on August 7, 2018 to request a Sacred Lands File search of the project site. The NAHC responded August 17, 2018 with negative results; however, Mr. Merrick sent tentative letters to the local Native American contacts identified by the NAHC as potentially having knowledge of the project site on August 15, 2018.

As of August 22, 2018, Rincon has not received any additional responses to consultation requests. All correspondence can be found in Attachment 3.

Pedestrian Survey

Rincon Archaeologist Dustin Merrick conducted a field survey of the project site on August 8, 2018. Mr. Merrick walked the entirety of the area in 15-meter transects and examined all areas of exposed ground surface for prehistoric artifacts (e.g., chipped stone tools and production debris, stone milling tools, ceramics), historic debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics), or soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden. Mr. Merrick recorded project site characteristics and survey conditions using a field notebook and a digital camera. Copies of the digital photographs are on file with Rincon's Santa Barbara office.

The pedestrian survey identified no prehistoric or historic cultural resources within the project site. The project site is largely undeveloped and consists of grassland dominated by slender wild oats, red brome, and Italian ryegrass, as well as bunchgrass, purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*) California croton, deerweed, black mustard, and fiddleneck (Attachment 4, Photographs 1 and 2). Coastal scrub dominated by Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*) is located north and west of the project boundary with oak woodland to the east. Ground visibility in the project site was poor (less than 10%) due to the density of the vegetation. However, exposed soils associated with numerous animal burrows were examined to assess the underlying sediments for cultural remains. This examination found no evidence to indicate the presence of buried subsurface archaeological deposits in the project site. Exposed bedrock was observed on the northern border of the project site (Photograph 3).

Findings and Recommendations

The results of the CCIC records search identified no previously recorded cultural resources on the project site. No cultural resources were identified during the pedestrian survey. Due to the fact that no cultural resources were identified during the Phase I study, Rincon recommends a finding of **no impact to historical resources** and **no impact to archaeological resources** under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the City of Santa Maria General Plan Resources Management Element for the current project. Rincon recommends a standard unanticipated discovery measure, presented below, in the event of a discovery of cultural resources during the execution of the current project.



Unanticipated Discovery of Archaeological Resources

If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area should be halted and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If necessary, the evaluation may require preparation of a treatment plan and archaeological testing for CRHR eligibility. If the discovery proves to be significant under CEQA and cannot be avoided by the project, additional work, such as data recovery excavation, may be warranted to mitigate any significant impacts to historical resources.

Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground-disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner determines origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site and provide recommendations for treatment to the landowner within 48 hours of being granted access.

Please do not hesitate to contact Rincon with any questions regarding this archaeological study.

Sincerely,

Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Christopher A. Duran, M.A., RPA
Principal Investigator

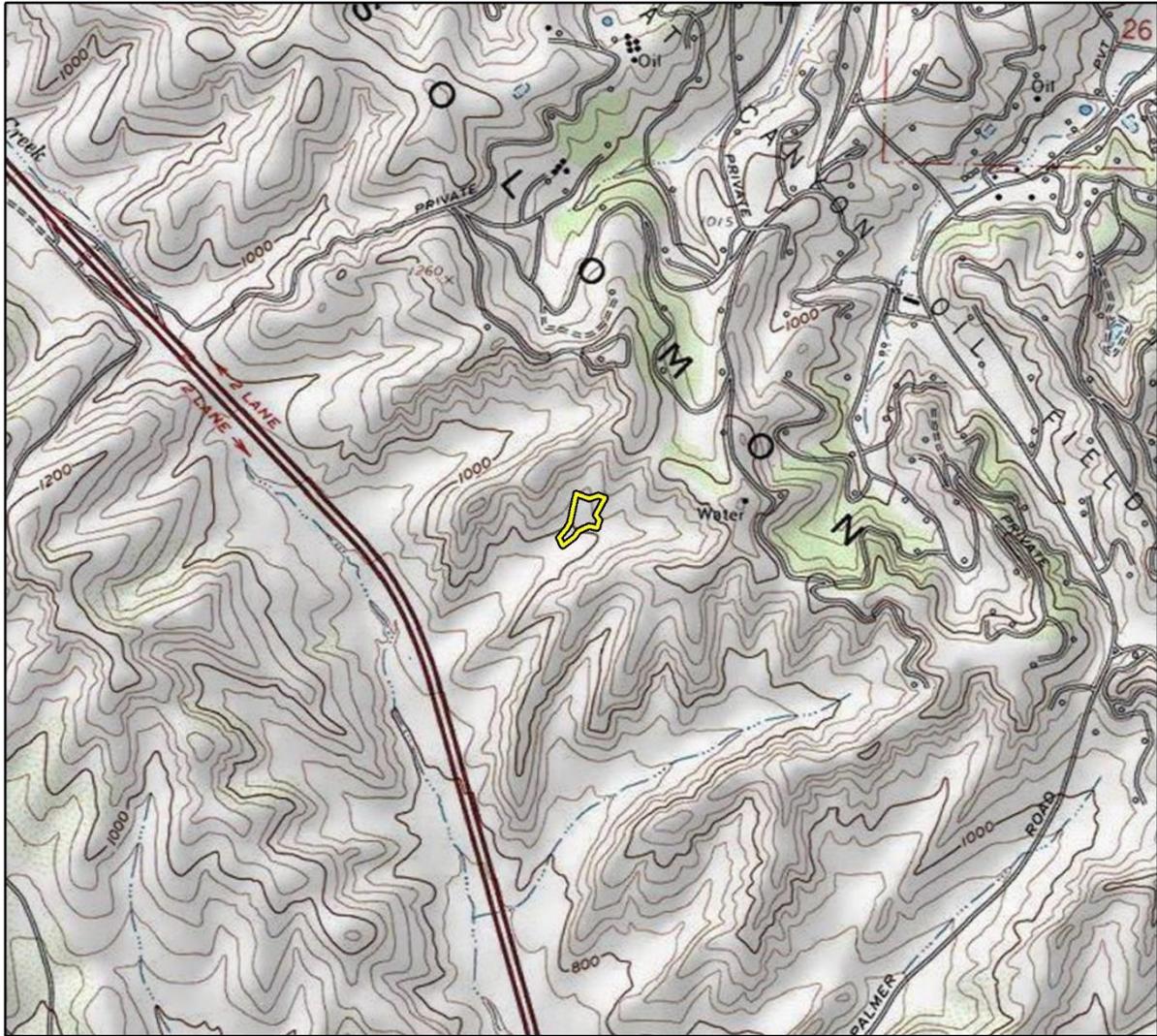
Dustin Merrick, B.A.
Associate Archaeologist

Attachments

1. USGS Quad Map with Survey Area Identified
2. Summary of Record Search Results
3. Native American Outreach
4. Site Photographs

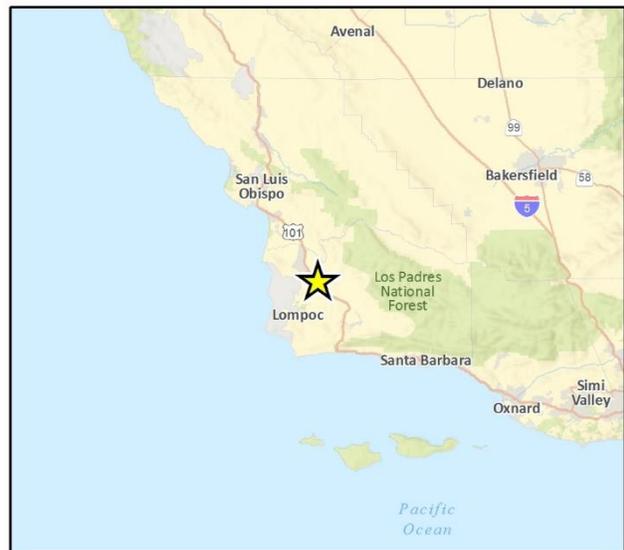
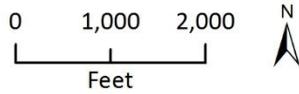
Attachment 1

USGS Quad Map with Survey Area Identified



Imagery provided by National Geographic Society, Esri and its licensors © 2018. Siquoc Quadrangle. T09N R33W S34. The topographic representation depicted in this map may not portray all of the features currently found in the vicinity today and/or features depicted in this map may have changed since the original topographic map was assembled.

 Project Location



Attachment 2

Summary of Records Search Results

Attachment 3

Native American Outreach

Attachment 4

Site Photographs



Photograph 1 Southern boundary of project site facing northwest



Photograph 2 Eastern border of project site facing south



Photograph 3 Exposed bedrock on northern border of project site facing northwest