

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Cultural Resource Assessment of APN 170-200-15

Bakersfield, Kern County, California

Prepared for:

Gilmar Construction
Ali Alnajar
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Data Base Information:

Type of Study: Cultural Resources Assessment/Inventory

Resources Recorded: None

Keywords: Bakersfield

USGS Quadrangle: 7.5-minute Lamont (1992), Gosford (1973) California



BCRCONSULTING LLC

January 15, 2019

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of APN 170-200-15 Project (the project) in the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, California. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, paleontological overview, and Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission were conducted for the project site. The records search revealed that 17 cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of seven cultural resources (three historic-period and four prehistoric) within a one-mile radius of the project site. Of the 17 previous studies, none have previously assessed the project site and no cultural resources have been recorded within its boundaries. Sacred Lands File search results were negative and the paleontological overview results are provided in Appendix B.

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists did not discover any cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic-period archaeological sites or historic-period buildings) within the project site. As a result, BCR Consulting recommends a finding of no impacts to historical resources. BCR Consulting also recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring are necessary during project activities associated with the development of the project site. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

If human remains are encountered during the undertaking, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

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INTRODUCTION

BCR Consulting is under contract to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of APN 170-200-15 Project (the project) in the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, California. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, Sacred Lands File Search with the Native American Heritage Commission (Appendix A) and paleontological overview (Appendix B) were conducted for the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project site is located in Section 8 of Township 30 South, Range 28 East, Mt. Diablo Baseline and Meridian. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Lamont* (1992) *California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1). The project is located at the northwest corner of Cottonwood Road and Planz Road in the City of Bakersfield. It is bordered by residential properties to the north and west and by vacant properties to the east and south.

NATURAL SETTING

The elevation of the project site is approximately 373 feet above mean sea level. It is located in the eastern portion of the southern San Joaquin Valley. Local rainfall averages approximately eight inches per year, and the runoff is channeled from northeast to southwest. Most of the local vegetation currently consists of non-native seasonal grasses and Russian thistle. Prior to the introduction of large-scale agriculture and oil exploitation, the San Joaquin River and Tulare Lake's massive system of channels, sloughs, and tule-choked marshes defined the local ecosystem (Wallace 1978:462). As a result, the biotic character of the valley was historically much more diversified than is presently evident. Large freshwater marshes and vast expanses of grassland supported a variety of wildlife, including grizzly bears and wolves (both locally extinct), tule elk, jackrabbits, quail, and numerous fish, rodents, reptiles and birds (Twisselmann 1967, Osborne 1992, Cogswell 1977, and Moyle 1976). Dirt roads and natural clearings have revealed homogenous soils made up of fine silts that contain very few rocks, which exhibit no evidence of prehistoric or historic cultural utility within the project site.

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistory

The project is situated within the traditional boundaries of the Southern Valley Yokuts. This prehistoric population depended heavily on the Tulare, Buena Vista, and Kern Lakes and their connecting sloughs and rivers for sustenance and transportation (Wallace 1978:448). The local Southern Valley Yokuts, referred to as the Chuxoxi, represented one of the southernmost Yokut political units and were associated with the channels and sloughs of the Kern River delta (Wallace 1978:449; Kroeber 1925:483). Chuxoxi trade routes and rights to the delta allowed them to reap the benefits of the related perennial water sources. This enabled local populations to pursue a relatively sedentary lifestyle in an otherwise arid climate. Prehistorically, such sedentism often coincides with a village-style residential model in which residential bases remain the same or seasonal, while specialized procurement parties are deployed to more remote areas to collect specialized resources (Binford 1980, Thomas 1983). This village model has been locally supported by early ethnographers, who considered Yokuts unique in California for forming "true tribes" and for developing an unparalleled array of dialects (Kroeber 1925:474).

History

The first Europeans to establish contact with the Sothern Valley Yokuts were Spanish troops led by Captain Don Pedro Fages in pursuit of deserters. Father Francisco Garces also travelled through the San Joaquin Valley searching for an overland route from Yuma to Monterey. During his travels, Garces noted positive interactions with locals (see Smith 1939, Bailey 1984). The Mexican era (1821-1848) saw little notable cultural exchange between Mexicans and Southern Valley Yokuts, although an 1833 malaria epidemic devastated the local native population (Wallace 1978:460). The ensuing American era, punctuated by California's annexation into the United States in 1848, resulted in overwhelming Anglo settlement and seizing of Indian lands, and disrupted any remaining prehistoric Yokut influence in the San Joaquin Valley. Mining and ranching represented the early historical focus of the San Joaquin Valley, although the region's abundant natural water supply, mild climate, and huge tracts of arable land soon led to the successful development of agriculture. The resulting diversion of local water and skyrocketing real estate values transformed the physical and economic character of the valley, and have allowed it to remain one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world to this day (Preston 1981).

PERSONNEL

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA acted as the Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the current study. He also compiled the technical report. BCR Consulting Archaeological Crew Chief Joseph Orozco (M.A. ABD) and BCR Consulting Staff Historian Dylan Williams (B.A.) completed the cultural resources records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) located at California State University, Bakersfield. Mr. Orozco and Mr. Williams also completed the field survey.

METHODS

Research

Prior to fieldwork on November 28, 2018, an archaeological records search was conducted at the SSJVIC. This included a review of all recorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, as well as a review of known cultural resources, and survey and excavation reports generated from projects located within one mile of the project site. In addition, a review was conducted of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and documents and inventories from the California Office of Historic Preservation including the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures.

Field Survey

An archaeological pedestrian field survey of the project site was conducted on November 28, 2018. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart across 100 percent of the accessible project site. Soil exposures, including natural and artificial clearings were carefully inspected for evidence of cultural resources.

RESULTS

Research

Data from the SSJVIC revealed that 17 cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of seven cultural resources (three historic-period and four prehistoric resources) within a one mile radius of the project site. Of the 17 previous studies, none have previously assessed the project site and no cultural resources have been recorded within its boundaries. The records search is summarized as follows:

Table A. Cultural Resources and Reports Located Within One Mile of the Project Site

| USGS 7.5 Min. Quad. | Cultural Resources Within One Mile of Project Site | Studies Within One Mile |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Lamont (1992), California</i> | P-15-12430: historic-period bldg. foundation (1 mile N) P-15-12431: historic-period residence (3/4 mile N) P-15-15235: historic-period concrete slab (3/4 mile N) P-15-18381: isolated prehistoric flake (1/2 mile SE) P-15-18382: isolated prehistoric flake (1/2 mile SE) P-15-18383: isolated prehistoric flake (1/2 mile SE) P-15-18384: prehistoric lithic scatter (3/4 mile SE) | KE-2147, 2465, 3000, 3001, 3114, 3132, 3133, 3135, 3176, 3410, 3412, 3444, 3445, 3584, 4161, 4484, 4604 |

Field Survey

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists carefully inspected the project site, and identified no cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic-period archaeological sites, or historic-period buildings) within its boundaries. Surface visibility was approximately 100 percent. Ground disturbances have resulted from a variety of natural and artificial factors, including surface erosion and vehicle traffic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

BCR Consulting conducted a Cultural Resources Assessment of APN 170-200-15 Project in the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, California. This work was completed pursuant to CEQA. The records search and field survey did not identify any cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or historic buildings) within the project site. Furthermore, research results combined with surface conditions have failed to indicate sensitivity for buried cultural resources. Based on these results, BCR Consulting recommends a finding of no impacts to historical resources. BCR Consulting also recommends that no additional cultural resources work or monitoring are necessary during project activities associated with the development of the project site. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

If human remains are encountered during the undertaking, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

REFERENCES

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1973 *Gosford, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map.
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APPENDIX A

NAHC SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Environmental and Cultural Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 373-3710



November 27, 2018

Nicholas Shepetuk
BCR Consulting

Sent by Email: nickshepetuk@gmail.com
Number of Pages: 2

RE: APN 170-200-15, Lamont, Kern County

Dear Mr. Shepetuk:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) *Sacred Lands File* was completed for the area of potential project effect (APE) referenced above with negative results. **Please note that the absence of specific site information in the *Sacred Lands File* does not indicate the absence of Native American cultural resources in any APE.**

I suggest you contact all of those listed, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. The list should provide a starting place to locate areas of potential adverse impact within the APE. **By contacting all those on the list, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult.** If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the NAHC requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact via email: Sharaya.Souza@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sharaya Souza".

Sharaya Souza
Staff Services Analyst
(916) 573-0168

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts List
11/27/2018**

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley Genevieve Jones, Chairperson P.O. Box 700 Big Pine CA 93513 j.paydon@bigpinepaiute.org (760) 938-2003 (976) 938-2942 Fax | Paiute - Shoshone | Kern Valley Indian Community Robert Robinson, Chairperson P.O. Box 1010 Lake Isabella CA 93283 brobinson@iwvisp.com (760) 378-2915 Cell | Tubatulabal Kawaiisu |
| Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley Sally Manning, Environmental Director P.O. Box 700 Big Pine CA 93513 s.manning@bigpinepaiute.org (760) 938-2003 (760) 938-2942 Fax | Paiute | Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians Delia Dominguez, Chairperson 115 Radio Street Bakersfield CA 93305 deedominguez@juno.com (626) 339-6785 | Yowlumne Kitanemuk |
| Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley Danelle Gutierrez THPO P.O. Box 700 Big Pine CA 93513 d.gutierrez@bigpinepaiute.org (760) 938-2003, ext. 228 (760) 938-2942 Fax | Paiute | San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Lee Clauss, Director-CRM Dept. 26569 Community Center Drive Highland CA 92346 lclauss@sanmanuel-nsn.gov (909) 864-8933 (909) 864-3370 Fax | Serrano |
| Chumash Council of Bakersfield Julio Quair, Chairperson 729 Texas Street Bakersfield CA 93307 chumashtribe@sbcglobal.net 661-322-0121 | Chumash | San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Lynn Valbuena 26569 Community Center Dr. Highland CA 92346 (909) 864-8933 | Serrano |
| Kern Valley Indian Community Julie Turner, Secretary P.O. Box 1010 Lake Isabella CA 93240 (661) 340-0032 Cell | Kawaiisu Tubatulabal | Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe Rueben Barrios Sr., Chairperson P.O. Box 8 Lemoore CA 93245 (559) 924-1278 (559) 924-3583 Fax | Tache Tachi Yokut |

This list is current as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code, or Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American Tribes for the proposed:
APN 170-200-15, Lamont, Kern County.

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts List
11/27/2018**

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Tejon Indian Tribe Octavio Escobedo, Chairperson 1731 Hasti-acres Drive, Suite 108 Bakersfield CA 93309 oescobedo@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov (661) 834-8566 (661) 834-8564 Fax | Kitanemuk |
| Tubatulabals of Kern Valley Robert L. Gomez, Jr., Tribal Chairperson P.O. Box 226 Lake Isabella CA 93240 (760) 379-4590 (760) 379-4592 Fax | Tubatulabal |
| Tule River Indian Tribe Neil Peyron, Chairperson P.O. Box 589 Porterville CA 93258 neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov (559) 781-4271 (559) 781-4610 Fax | Yokuts |
| Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson 1179 Rock Haven Ct. Salinas CA 93906 kwood8934@aol.com (831) 443-9702 | Foothill Yokuts Mono Wuksache |

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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American Tribes for the proposed:
APN 170-200-15, Lamont, Kern County.

APPENDIX B

PALEONTOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007
tel 213.763.DINO
www.nhm.org



Vertebrate Paleontology Section
Telephone: (213) 763-3325

e-mail: smcleod@nhm.org

3 December 2018

BCR Consulting
505 West 8th Street
Claremont, CA 91711

Attn: Nicholas Shepetuk, Staff Archaeologist

re: Paleontological resources for the Vertebrate Paleontology Records Search for the
proposed APN 170-200-15 site Project, in the City of Bakersfield, Kern County,
project area

Dear Nicholas:

I have conducted a thorough check of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for the proposed APN 170-200-15 site Project, in the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, project area as outlined on the portion of the Lamont USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on 19 November 2018. We do not have any vertebrate fossil localities that lie directly within the proposed project area boundaries, but we do have vertebrate fossil localities from sedimentary deposits similar to those that probably occur at depth in the proposed project area, albeit at some distance.

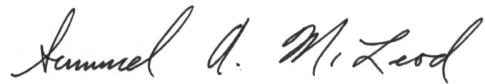
Surface deposits in the entire proposed project area consist of younger Quaternary Alluvium, derived as alluvial fan deposits from the Tejon Hills to the east. These types of deposits typically do not contain significant vertebrate fossils, at least in the uppermost layers, but at relatively shallow depth there may be older Quaternary deposits that could contain significant vertebrate fossils of late Pleistocene age. Our closest vertebrate fossil localities from somewhat similar older Quaternary are LACM 6701, almost due north of the proposed project area between Fountain Springs and the White River and LACM 4087, further north of the proposed project area due east of Terra Bella. Both of these localities produced specimens of fossil mammoth, *Mammuthus*. West of locality LACM 6701, north-northwest of the proposed

project area north of Delano, our older Quaternary locality LACM 1156 produced a fossil specimen of horse, *Equus*, from a depth of 45 feet below the surface in a well core.

Shallow excavations in the younger Quaternary Alluvium exposed throughout the proposed project area probably will not uncover significant vertebrate fossils. Deeper excavations that extend down into older sedimentary deposits, however, may well uncover significant vertebrate fossil remains. Any substantial excavations in the proposed project area, therefore, should be monitored closely to quickly and professionally recover any fossil remains discovered. Also, sediment samples should be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential in the proposed project area. Any fossils recovered during mitigation should be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

This records search covers only the vertebrate paleontology records of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. It is not intended to be a thorough paleontological survey of the proposed project area covering other institutional records, a literature survey, or any potential on-site survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel A. McLeod". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Samuel A. McLeod, Ph.D.
Vertebrate Paleontology

enclosure: invoice

APPENDIX C

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Project Site Overview (View West)



Photo 2: Project Site Overview (View Southeast)