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# Cultural Resource Survey of a 4.75-Acre Parcel (APN # 362-250-003) in Wildomar, Riverside County, California (CUP # 3545)

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## **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

ASM Affiliates, Inc. conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of a 4.75-acre parcel in Riverside County. The study consisted of archival research, records search, Native American consultation, and survey of the project parcel. No significant changes to the status of the property were observed as compared to a 2007 survey of the parcel. No previously recorded cultural resources are located within the proposed project, and no archaeological resources were identified during the survey of the project area. The project area also is judged to have a very low probability for subsurface archaeological deposits and as such, construction activities for the proposed project will not likely result in any impact to cultural resources. However, because the parcel does fall within the Tribal Traditional Use Areas of the Luiseño, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians requests that a Native American tribal monitor be present for any ground-disturbing activities.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological survey conducted by ASM Affiliates (ASM) of APN #362-250-003 (CUP #3545), a 4.75-acre parcel in Wildomar, Riverside County, California (Figure 1). The project property is located at the northeast corner of Clinton Keith Road and George Avenue, within Section 36, Township 6 South, Range 4 West of the Murrieta 7.5' USGS quadrangle (Figure 2). The parcel is proposed for commercial development of a 50,000-square-ft. retail building. This study was conducted in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines for the proposed project. The study consists of a review of literature and site records on file with the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California, Riverside, a Sacred Land Files inquiry with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), a review of Government Land Office maps, intensive survey of the project area, and recommendations concerning potential impacts and mitigation for the proposed project.

Following this introduction, Chapter 2 describes the environmental and archaeological context of the project area, reviewing topography, environment, cultural history, and previous archaeological research; Chapter 3 provides the survey methods and results; and Chapter 4 provides conclusions and management recommendations.

## PROJECT PERSONNEL

ASM personnel involved in this project includes James T. Daniels, Project Manager, Ian Scharlotta, Senior Archaeologist; Sherri Andrews, report editor; Zee Malas, graphics coordinator; and Suzanne Slade, report production. James T. Daniels, Senior Archaeologist, conducted requisite Native American Tribal consultation for the project through the NAHC, prepared appropriate maps and documentation for the records search, and submitted the request to the EIC.

## NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

Consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and Native American representatives having knowledge of or interest in cultural resources within the project area was undertaken for this project in accordance with CEQA regulations. A records search conducted by the NAHC identified no Traditional Cultural Properties or sacred sites in the project vicinity. The NAHC also provided ASM a list of potentially interested Native American representatives. The results of the NAHC Sacred Land Files search are presented in Appendix A.

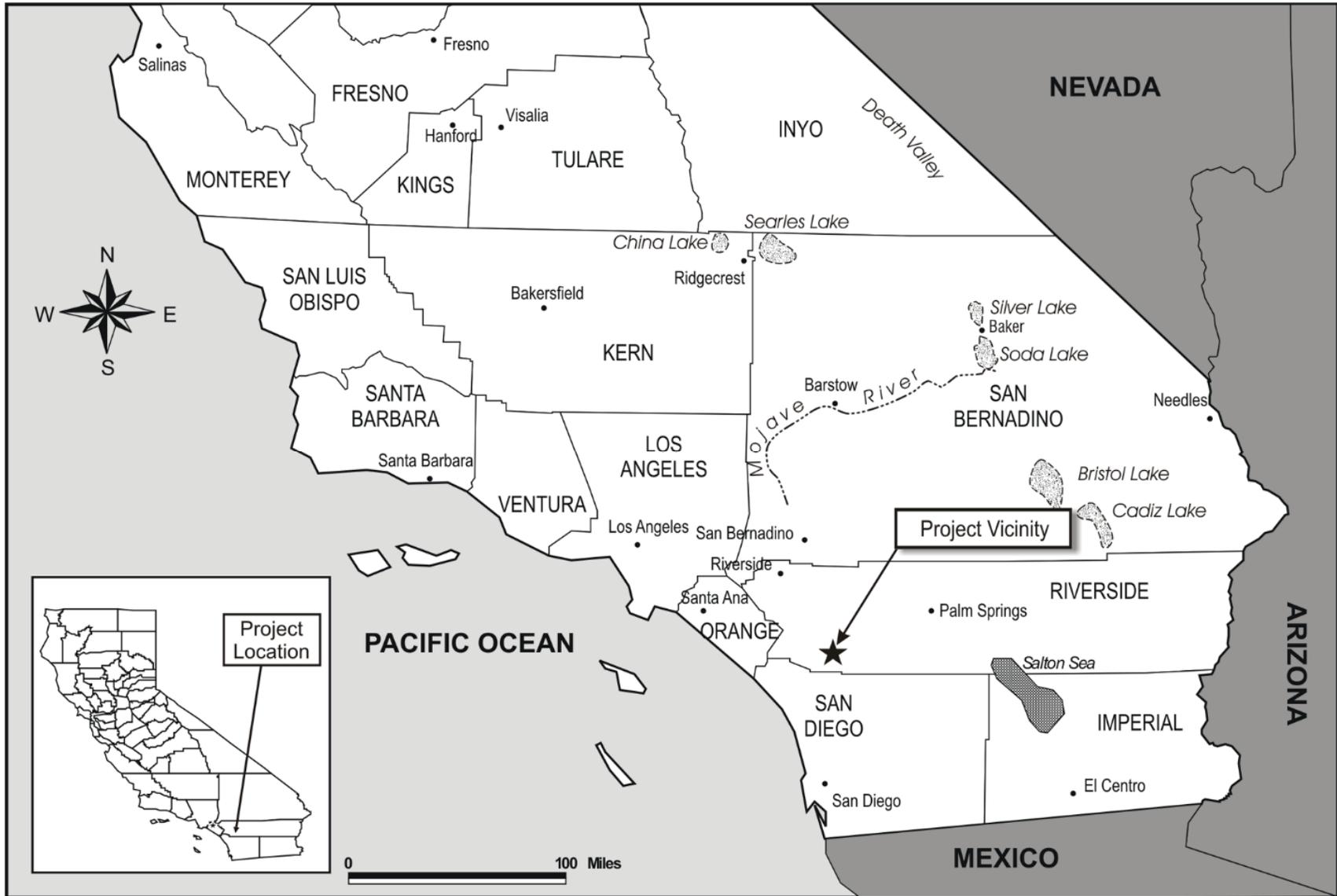


Figure 1. Project vicinity.

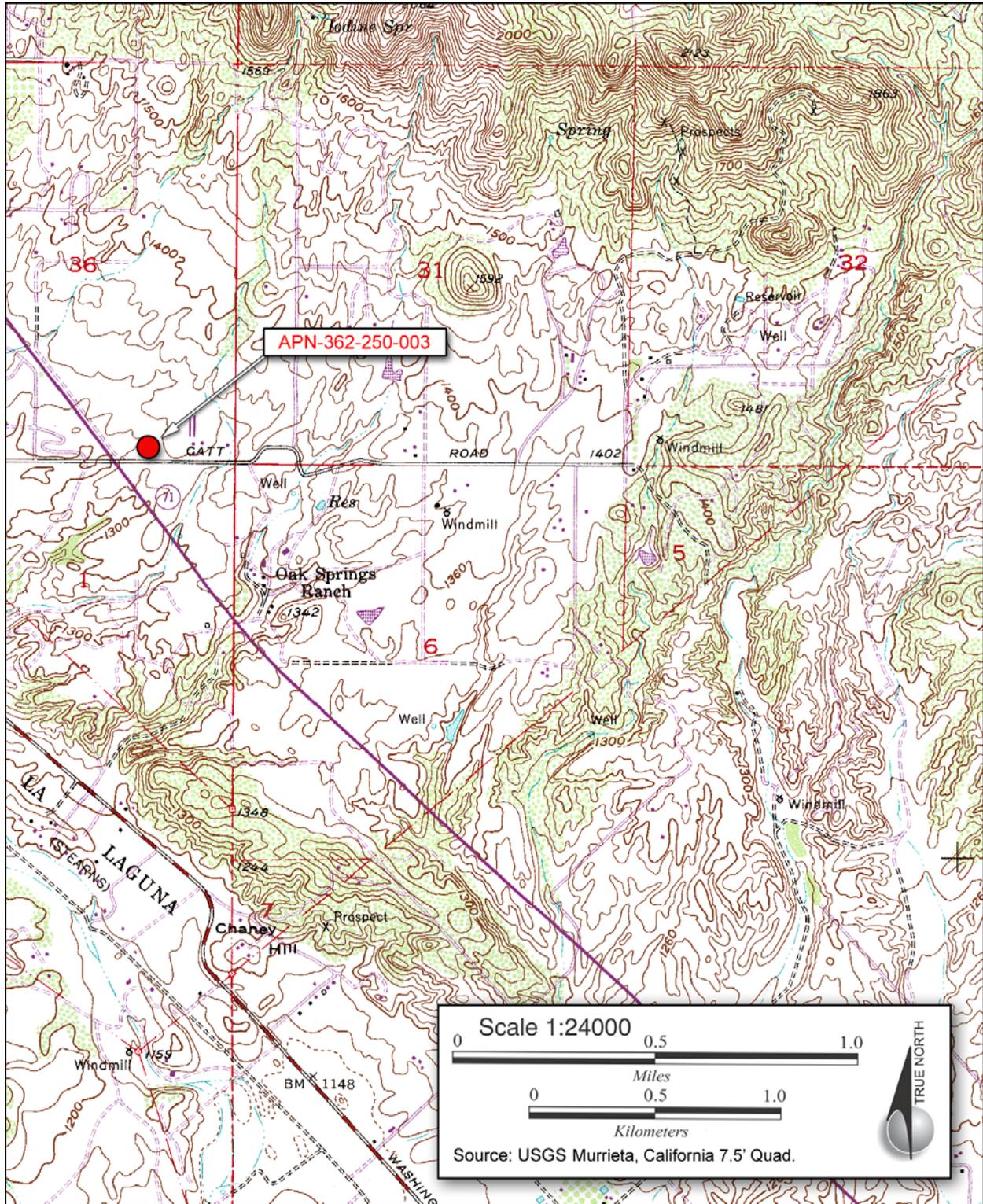


Figure 2. Project location.



## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

This chapter presents an overview of the environment, prehistory, and history of the project vicinity. Environmental conditions of the project area and a discussion of previously recorded studies within the project vicinity are included.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The 4.75-acre parcel is situated above the Temecula Valley at an elevation of approximately 1,340 ft. above mean sea level (amsl). The parcel is near the southwestern base of a relatively small group of hills with maximum elevations between 2,000 and 2,400 ft. amsl. The hills belong to the greater Peninsular Range Province, characterized by north-south trending mountains and valleys. The project area is 1.85 km northeast of the Murrieta Creek. A small, unnamed drainage that flows into the creek is 300 m west of the project property. The vegetation community for the project vicinity is comprised of sage-scrub, although the majority of the native vegetation in the area has been removed through historic and modern land use.

### CULTURAL SETTING

Human occupation of southern California is generally accepted to have taken place by at least 9,000 years before present (B.P.) and potentially as early as 11,500 B.P. The prehistory of the region is typically subdivided into three time periods: the Paleoindian Period (11,500 B.P.-8500/7500 B.P.), the Archaic Period (8500 B.P.-1300/800 B.P.), and the Late Prehistoric (1300/800 B.P.-200 B.P.). The Paleoindian Period is generally represented by exploitation of coastal and major drainage systems, characterized archaeologically with cobble tools, ground stone implements, and a limited amount of large projectile points (Demcak 1988; Moratto 1984). Drier and warmer conditions in the Archaic Period were accompanied by cultural material changes associated with an increase of terrestrial plant and animal resources, including mortars, pestles and large stemmed and notched projectile points (Moratto 1984; Wallace 1955; Warren 1968). The introduction of the bow and arrow, represented by relatively small projectile points in the archaeological record, and an intensified use of bedrock mortars characterize the Late Prehistoric Period (Demcak 1988; Wallace 1955; Warren 1968).

### Ethnographic and Historic Background

The proposed project is located within the traditional aboriginal territory of the Shoshonean speaking Luiseño (Bean and Shippek 1978; Kroeber 1925; Rivers 1993). They have inhabited what is now northern San Diego, southern Orange, and southeastern Riverside counties through the Ethnohistoric period into the twenty-first century. The Luiseño are linguistically and culturally related to the Gabrieliño, Juaneño, and the Cahuilla, and represent the descendants of local Late Prehistoric populations. They are generally considered to have migrated into the area from the western Great Basin, possibly displacing the prehistoric ancestors of the Yuman speaking Diegueño or Kumeyaay (Ipai-Tipai) that during ethnohistoric times lived directly to the south.

In California, Spanish explorers first encountered coastal villages of Native Americans in 1769 with the establishment of Mission San Diego de Alcalá. The Mission of San Juan Capistrano was subsequently established in 1776, and the San Luis Rey de Franciscan was founded in 1798. These missions recruited coastal Native Americans to use as laborers and convert them to Catholicism. This had a dramatic effect on traditional cultural practices. Inland Luiseño groups were not as heavily affected by Spanish influence until 1816, when an outpost of the mission was established 20 miles further inland at Pala (Sparkman 1908). At the time of contact, Luiseño population may have ranged from 5,000 to as many as 10,000 individuals. In the early 1820s, California came under Mexico's rule, and in 1834 the missions were secularized. Western Riverside and eastern Orange counties were heavily utilized for ranching activities during the Mexican

period. California became a state in 1850 and the project vicinity was subsequently employed by American ranchers. The Government Land Office Survey from 1880 mapped the project area within a 160-acre parcel in the southeast corner of Section 36. The surveyor recorded a brook or stream running west of the project area and oak timber in the project vicinity at that time (Surveyor General 1880).

## **PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

A records search at the EIC revealed twelve recorded archaeological resources, including three historic properties, one historic refuse scatter, and four prehistoric lithic scatters, and four isolated prehistoric lithic resources within a 1-mi. radius of the project parcel. The nearest archaeological resource is approximately 400 m northwest of the project area, and consists of an historic olive orchard dating to at least the 1940s (RIV-6070H). The remaining resources are greater than 1 km away from the proposed project. The two isolated debitage artifacts are recorded on landforms and at elevations comparable to those of the project parcel.

The records search also indicates that 66 previous cultural resource studies have been carried out in the project vicinity. One of these studies encompassed the current project parcel (Keller 1988); no cultural resources were recorded during this study. Five additional studies provide overviews of cultural resources in the general project vicinity.

Additional sources of information consulted include the National Register of Historic Places, the Office of Historic Preservation, Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, and the Office of Historic Preservation, Historic Property Directory. No resources listed resources or properties were identified within the parcel.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

### METHODS

The survey methods employed in this project are outlined below. The study area was surveyed through a full coverage survey done at 10-m transect intervals. The orientation of the survey transects varied, depending on the topography, but were typically aligned north-south. Alignment was maintained by compass and field sighting to distant objects and marked on field maps. A concentrated effort was made to examine subsurface exposures such as animal burrows, eroded areas, drainages, road cuts, and areas disturbed by construction activity for indications of buried cultural deposits. Field notes and digital photographs were taken to document the environmental associations and overall character of the survey area.

### RESULTS

The intensive survey of the project area resulted in the identification of no cultural resources on either the ground surface or within subsurface exposures. The project area is located on a level landform north of an existing paved road. The property slopes steeply to the north and then levels out again in the northern quarter of the project area. The parcel was enclosed within a temporary chain-link fence, and the immediate surrounding vicinity was previously cleared and graded for commercial/residential development and associated road, drainage, and utility construction. The entire project area was previously cleared and graded, affording 75 percent ground visibility, with limited dried grasses, regrown, and dead brush scattered across the parcel (Figure 3). A limited amount of modern debris, including glass, metal, wood, and ceramics, was identified on the surface of the project area. Surface sediments consisted of a brown silty sand with large granitic cobbles and a limited amount of natural quartz cobbles. Subsurface exposures were examined in four previously excavated trenches on the lower elevation landform in the north end of the project area. These trenches were open during a 2007 survey (Cook and Iversen 2007) but were somewhat degraded by weather and subsequent plant growth. The trenches ran basically north-south, and ranged from 2 to 4 m wide and between 4 and 5 m deep. Subsurface profiles contained brown silty sand and cobbles consistent with sediments observed on the surface. Decomposing granite underlaid the silty sand between 30 and 40 cm deep in the easternmost trenches and as deep as 2 m in the western trenches (Figure 4).



Figure 3. Overview of the project parcel facing north.



Figure 4. Exposed trench in the northern end of the project parcel.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ASM conducted archival research and field reconnaissance for the proposed development of a 4.75-acre parcel in Wildomar, Riverside County, California. The results mirrored those of the 2007 report (Cook and Iversen 2007). No changes in conditions or resources was observed in the field or noted in archival research. Field reconnaissance consisted of a systematic survey of ground surfaces within the entire project area. No archaeological resources were identified through background research or during field reconnaissance of the project area. Additionally, it is unlikely that such resources exist within the project property based on the landform and location of the parcel, as well as the extent and nature of disturbances to the parcel. Therefore, based on the results of this study, no further archaeological work is recommended for CEQA compliance concerning development of the proposed project. However, the project area is within the Traditional Use Area of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and the tribe feels that this increases the likelihood for encountering cultural resources during construction. Therefore, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians requests that a Native American tribal monitor be present for any ground-disturbing activities in the project area.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this archaeological report, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

October 21, 2014

DATE: October 22, 2014 SIGNED: 

County of Riverside Certificate #126



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## **APPENDICES**



**APPENDIX A**  
**Native American Consultation**