

Envicom Cultural Report Oct 2017

APPENDIX E

**NORTH CANYON RANCH RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION
PROJECT CULTURAL RESOURCE PHASE I SURVEY,
CITY OF SIMI VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Envicom Corporation completed in July of 2017 a Phase I cultural resource assessment of the 160-acre North Canyon Ranch residential subdivision located in Simi Valley, Ventura County, California. This assessment included a cultural resource record search at the South Central Coast Information Center (SCCIC) and at the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Additional databases examined include historic regional maps, historic USGS maps, and historic Google Earth images. A pedestrian survey of the subject property was also completed, which assessed previously identified cultural resources within the project area as well as surveyed the property for new cultural resources.

The record searches identified that a single previously recorded cultural resource, P-56-001596 (CA-VN-1596), was located within the extreme southwest corner of the proposed project property. This resource was described as a small prehistoric lithic and groundstone scatter, however, examination of the resource area in 2017 concluded that the cultural resource had been destroyed between the time of original recordation and the present. The 2017 Envicom pedestrian survey found no additional resources within the project property.

The SCCIC record search did, however, identify that the region was sensitive for prehistoric cultural resources, due to the Sespe Formation dominating the project property. Examination of paleontological maps indicated that the project area is also moderately sensitive for paleontological resources. Though these sensitivity levels did not warrant additional pre-construction cultural resource or paleontological resource assessments, they do trigger a recommendation of construction phase monitoring as a mitigation measure for the project.

In summary, the findings of the record searches and the pedestrian survey were that no cultural resources existed within the proposed project property and that no further cultural resource tasks would be recommended prior to construction. However, due to the moderate sensitivity for prehistoric cultural resources and the sensitivity for paleontological resources, construction phase monitoring was recommended. Additional mitigation measures dealing with construction phase monitoring plans and inadvertent discovery situations were also recommended.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

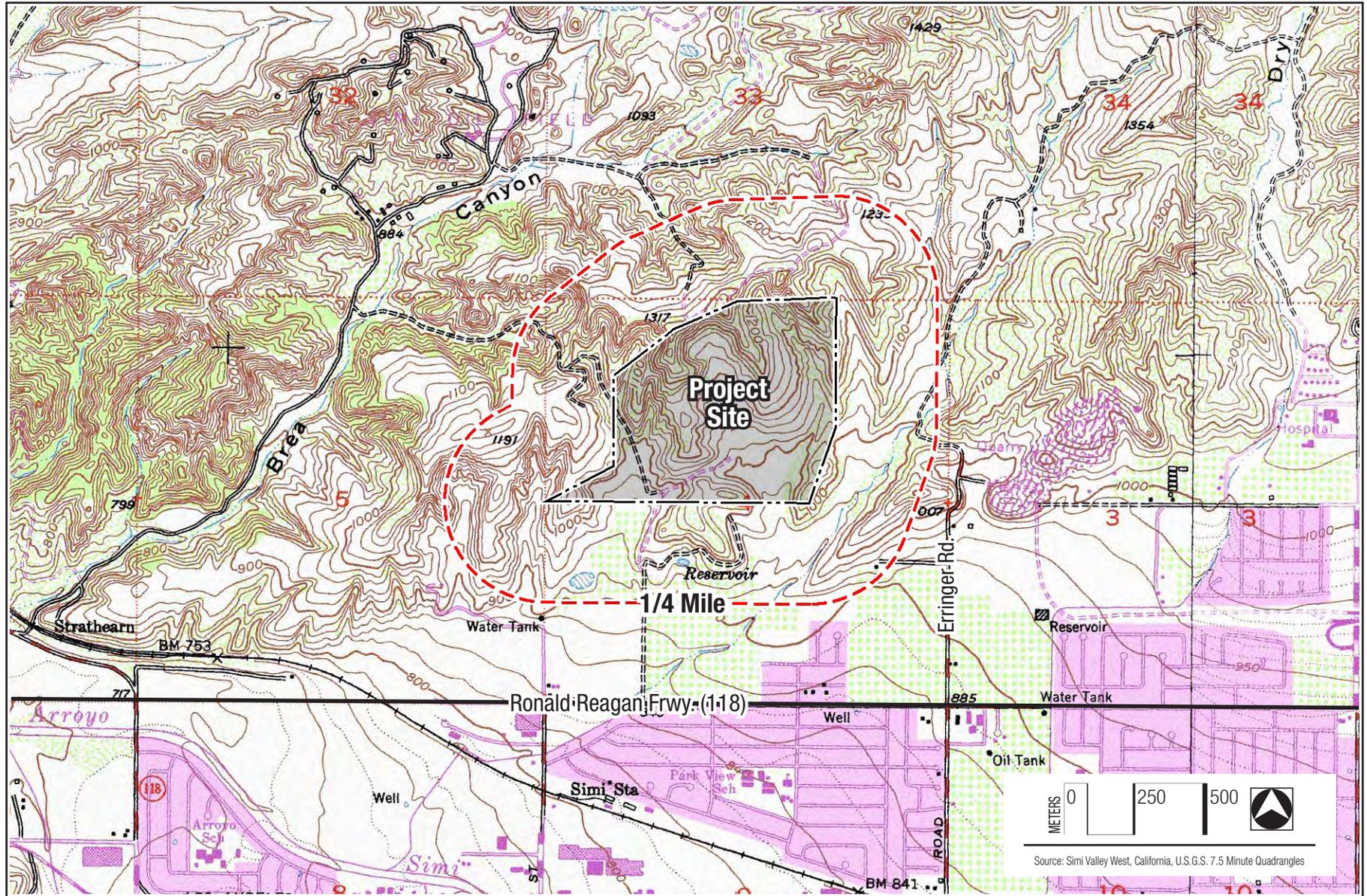
On July 14, 2017, Envicom Corporation (Envicom) completed a Phase I cultural resource assessment of the proposed North Canyon Ranch residential subdivision project property in Santa Clarita, California. The project is fully contained on the Simi Valley West United States Geological Survey (USGS) quad map (**Figure 1**).

A Phase I cultural resource study includes a cultural resource record search conducted by the SCCIC, and a Native American cultural resource record search conducted by the NAHC. Additional databases examined include historic regional maps, historic USGS maps, and historic Google Earth images. The purpose of these record searches are to identify any previously known cultural resources that have been recorded within the proposed project area, to provide cultural resource context for the project, and to assess the overall cultural resource sensitivity of the project region. A cultural resource is often defined as any building, structure, object, or archaeological site that is older than 50-years in age, and can include historic or prehistoric locations of human habitation.

A Phase I cultural resource survey also often includes a physical inspection of the project area to determine if previously unrecorded cultural resources can be identified from surface observation of the project area of direct impacts (ADI). During the pedestrian field survey, any previously identified cultural resources from the SCCIC or from other database searches that are located within the project property, are also revisited and assessed.

The subject property is currently surrounded by open space to the west, north, by commercial development and apartment housing to the south, and by housing and open space to the east (**Figure 2**). The subject property has not been previously developed, but has experienced past construction activities, including water-control and slope retaining feature construction, extensive grading in select areas, fuel modification, and grubbing (**Figure 3**, blue areas). Figure 3 also shows the planned residential development (yellow areas) within the project property, as well as the proposed retained open space (colorless areas). Fire-prevention through mowing and other fuel-reduction activities takes place routinely for the residences to the east. The subject property is also used for off-road vehicle traffic and pedestrian trails.

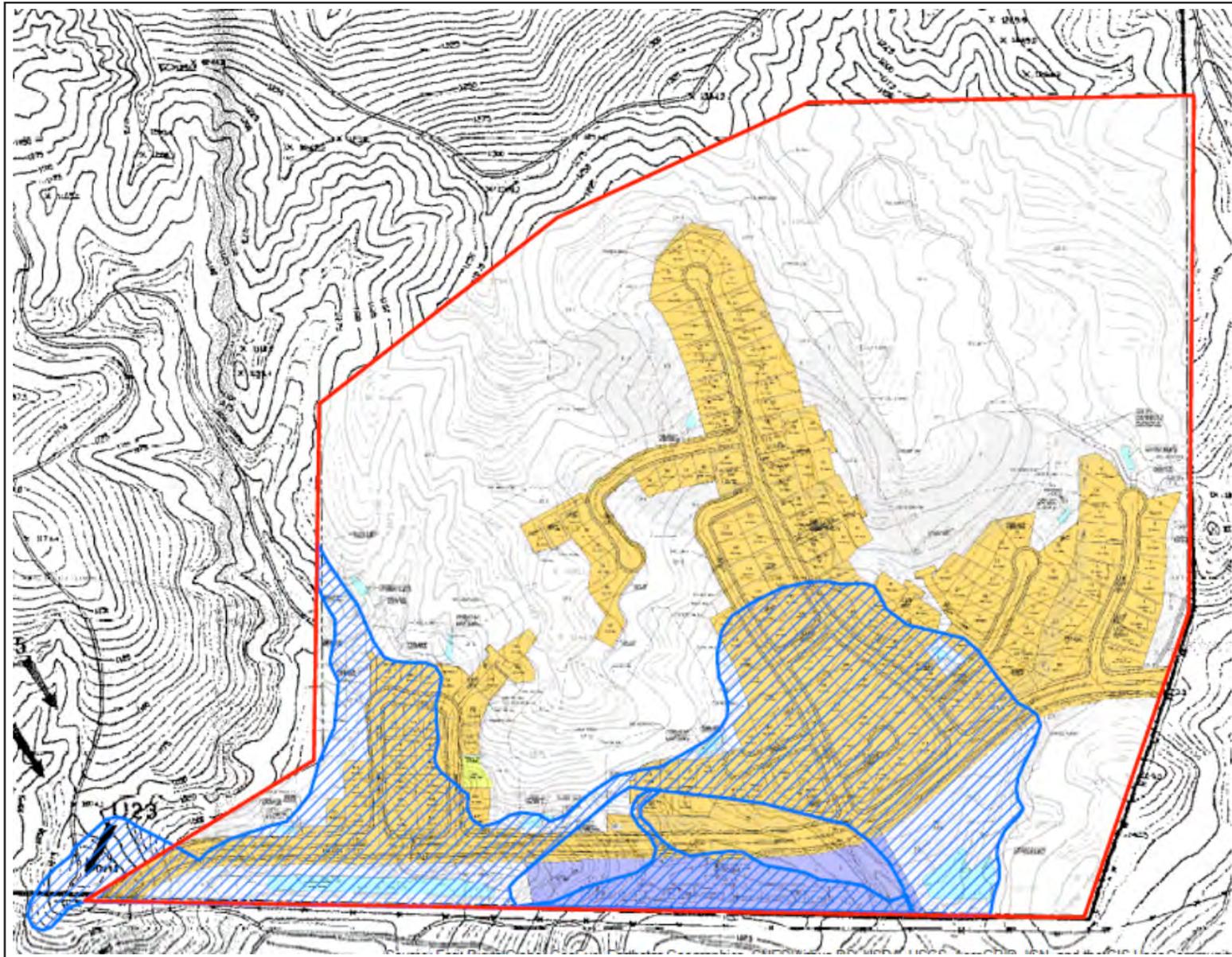
This report will provide an environmental, geological, cultural and ethnographic, historical, and legal context for the project, followed by a summary of findings from the record searches and pedestrian field survey. Finally, management recommendations, and recommendations for whether additional cultural resource tasks should be completed, will be provided.



Proposed North Canyon Ranch residential subdivision location in Simi Valley, California.



Project property showing open space and surrounding development.



Project property showing past impacts (blue areas), proposed development (yellow areas), and open space (colorless areas).

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The project is located within the Simi Valley foothills south of the Santa Suzanna Mountains. Simi Valley is geographically separated by several low mountain ranges, namely the Simi Hills to the south and the Santa Suzanna Mountains to the north and east, which also separate Simi Valley from the nearby San Fernando Valley to the east. The original topography of the project area consisted of rugged, rolling foothills, with steep hillsides and smaller canyons, though today, much of the lower region is developed urban environment.

Arroyo Simi to the south is the primary local water source, which drains into Calleguas Creek, and from there, the Pacific Ocean near Point Mugu. Many seasonal water drains take water from the hillsides into Arroyo Simi, creating a system of canyons and ravines throughout the foothills. The Simi Valley area has always had a semi-arid landscape, covered by sparse vegetation, which is dominated by perennial grasses, sage, buck weed, and yucca. Oaks and cottonwoods are located in valley areas that contain more moisture, but the majority of the hillsides are dominated by perennial grasses and short shrubs. Today, the subject property has extensive remnants of the original native landscape, with residential and commercial development completely abutting the property to the south and east.

During prehistoric periods, the project area would have provided a number of animal and plant resources for Native Americans to eat. Deer can still be found in the area, and in the past, pronghorn, cougars, and black bear would have been present, as well as foxes and smaller predators. Numerous rabbits, squirrels, and other small mammals can still be found in the region, as can a number of reptile and bird species. Freshwater fish would have been available in sag and fault ponds and springs, which also would have attracted migrant birds to the general region (USGS 1987). The major plant resources were acorns from a number of oak tree species, chia, buckwheat, black sage, cattails, basket grass, and yucca.

Simi Valley is complex geologically, mainly due to extensive faulting and uplift of the original marine layers. Sedimentary rock is common, with many sandstone layers that contain fossils from marine contexts. The primary rock unit in the area is the Sespe Formation, which is a non-marine sandstone rock unit of roughly 25 to 45-million years in age (Squires 1997). Later erosion has led to extensive areas of alluvial material, both older and newer in origin. Alluvial material includes poorly consolidated soils of eroding marine sediments of fine sands, silts, and gravel (Dillon 1994:5). Almost no bedrock can be found in the area, though sandstone formations are quite visible farther to the east.

Absent in the region are good sources of volcanic toolstone, such as andesite, basalt, or rhyolite, with most such material being brought into the area from surrounding sources by the prehistoric occupants of the area. Examples of such imported regional material used by Native Americans included Monterey chert from the Pacific coast, fused shale from Grimes Canyon farther to the west, and rhyolite from the Antelope Valley far to the north. Asphaltum – naturally seeping petroleum – was also collected in a number of Santa Suzanna Mountain seeps and foothill locations. This natural petroleum was used to make baskets watertight, and to act as glue for attaching arrowheads to shafts and for other craft tasks.

3.0 CULTURAL SETTING

The Cultural Setting provides the historic, ethnographic, and archaeological and cultural resource context for the proposed project. Prehistoric context comes from past archaeological and ethnographic research. Historic cultural context comes from a number of written documents, including both primary (original) documents and secondary (books, manuscripts, and articles) documents. Photographs and artwork can also provide cultural setting information. Both can be original images of subjects or landscapes within their original context, or representational images that have been recreated or constructed at a later time.

The proposed project is located in the foothills south of the Santa Suzanna Mountains and north of the Simi Valley within Ventura County, which is a subset of the Southern California geographic region. Many temporal chronologies have been produced within the archaeological literature for Southern California that attempt to identify between different prehistoric time periods by using defining characteristics related to artifact types, subsistence, trade, habitation, or culture. Examples of different chronologies can be found in Chartkoff and Chartkoff (1984), Mason and Peterson (1994), Glassow (1996), Moratto (2004), and Arnold and Graech (2004:4). For this report, the project area follow the Glassow et al. (2007) time period chronology as this approach is more refined as to temporal divisions and incorporates more recent research and interpretation into period development.

3.1 PALEO-INDIAN PERIOD (11,000 – 9000 B.C.)

Paleo-Indian Period sites are the least common archaeological sites related to Native American occupation in California. Low numbers of Paleo-Indian sites come from smaller prehistoric population numbers during this time period, highly mobile populations that did not produce stable settlement sites, and drastic changes in the California shoreline from a rise in ocean levels, which has resulted in most coastal paleo sites being today under water. Often, the Paleo-Indian history of a region, such as the Southern Coastal Region, is built on inferences from the few known Paleo-Indian sites in the larger Southern California region.

Early coastal people probably concentrated on the exploitation of hunting both terrestrial and marine resources (Gamble 2008). They most likely followed a hunter-gatherer way of life that utilized a wide spectrum of accessible food sources. Moratto (2004) suggests that there is some incidental evidence that humans may have been in the coastal region of California much earlier than 11,000 B.C., however clear evidence for this conclusion remains elusive (Ciolek-Torrello et al. 2006).

The potentially oldest known human remains found in North America are the *Arlington Springs Man*, uncovered by Phil C. Orr in 1959-1960 on Santa Rosa Island. Recent Radiocarbon Dating analysis undertaken by Dr. John Johnson of the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum revealed that the remains are from roughly A.D. 11,000 years B.P. (before present) (2015). The discovery of such ancient Native American remains on Santa Rosa Island demonstrates that the earliest Paleo-Indians had watercraft capable of crossing the Santa Barbara Channel, and lends credence as well to a “coastal migration/ kelp highway” theory for the peopling of the Americas, using boats to travel south from Siberia and Alaska (Erlandson 2007).

Native Americans of this time would have been highly mobile, with limited trade between groups. Small, family-centered groups may have come together as bands during certain annual meetings, linked with seasonality, however, such sedentary living was an exception in their wide-ranging yearly movement

cycle. A warming trend toward the end of the Paleo-Indian period led to distinct changes in available food sources. Herds of large mammals were replaced by small to medium-sized mammals, which in turn led to changes in lifestyle for the earliest of California's Native American groups.

3.2 ARCHAIC PERIOD (9000 B.C. TO 7000 B.C.)

The Archaic Period for Southern California has been re-interpreted and refined often over the last fifty years. Some original chronology models extended this period to include almost the entire time between the migration of the Paleo-Indians and the formation of larger Native American settlements that occurred in late prehistoric times. The original Archaic Period has recently been refined and is now believed to include a number of distinct periods. This report uses the more recent interpretation of the *Archaic Period*, as the two thousand years after the transition away from a predominant hunting lifestyle to a less mobile hunting and gathering lifestyle by Coastal Native Americans (Glassow et al. 2007)

Changes during the Archaic Period are considered to be a response to changes in the climate and environment at the end of the Paleo-Indian period. The hunting and gathering lifestyle of Archaic Period people is characterized by a wide array of bifaces, choppers, scrapers, and other tools associated with a high-mobility strategy to exploit a wider range or regional resources. This period is poorly represented in the project area with few sites identified within this time period located in the region (Ciolek-Torrello et al. 2006). Many authors, therefore, begin the prehistoric chronology of the Southern Coastal Region at the end of this period, even though Native Americans most likely occupied the area from the earliest times.

3.3 MILLING STONE PERIOD (7000 TO 5000 B.C.)

The prehistoric chronology after 7000 B.C. has been divided into several distinct periods, as outlined by Glassow et al. (2007), and based on archaeological sites with known Carbon-14 dates. Earlier authors used different period indicators, or have different starting or ending dates than those presented below; however, for the purpose of this study, Glassow et al. represents the most recent, widely referenced chronology.

The *Milling Stone Period* is characterized by small, mobile Native American groups with a general shift in diet to the primary collecting of plant materials, accompanied by a dependence on groundstone implements associated with the grinding of seeds (Glassow 2007). Later periods saw a decrease in mobility and an increase in core group size, as dependence on seed-bearing plant materials intensified. These groups appear to have relied on a seasonal shifting of settlement, which included travels to and between inland and coastal residential bases.

Archaeological sites of this time period are characterized by abundant groundstone tools, especially manos (handstones, mullers) and metates (milling stones, slabs) (Glassow et al. 2007:192-203). Cultural sites often have thick midden deposits (soil build up over time from the activities of a habitation), cooking features, and long-term habitation of re-used locations within the yearly settlement cycle. Flaked tools are made of cherts, quartzite, basalt, and other lithic materials. Most archaeological sites from this time period have been identified on the coast, but inland sites have also been recorded. Residue and wear on groundstone tools indicate the milling of plant seeds and possibly hard nuts. Middens (refuse dumps) contain shellfish, some fish bones, and fragmented larger mammal bones, such as deer. *Olivella* shell beads appear at this time, indicating the beginnings of regional trade.

3.4 MIDDLE PERIOD (5000 TO 2000 B.C.)

Cultural sites identified as being within the *Middle Period* are characterized by changes in the size and shape of metates and manos, and the introduction of mortars and pestles. Mortars and pestles are primarily used to reduce harder or larger seed materials, such as acorns, into a processed food source. These changes signify a greater reliance on large seed food sources in the diet. The use of the acorn as a diet staple provided a high-calorie and storable food source, which in turn is believed to have allowed for greater population sedentism, and higher levels of social organization. Protein quantity in the diet did not change, however, the number and types of projectile points increased during this time. Projectile points included large side-notched, stemmed, and leaf-shaped forms; used for spears and atlatl darts.

Specialized sites during the Middle Period included temporary camps, single primary-focus activity areas, such as quarries, and long-term settlement locations. Regional trade, primarily between the mainland and the Channel Islands, took place with large numbers of diverse ornaments and shell beads found in mortuary settings dating to the period. Characteristic burial practices include fully flexed burials placed face-down or face-up and oriented toward the north or west (Warren 1968:2–3). Red ochre (a red-colored pigment) was commonly used, and internments sometimes were placed beneath cairns or broken artifacts. These later changes are thought to indicate an increase in social status differential and access to trade goods.

3.5 TRANSITION PERIOD (2000 B.C. TO A.D. 1)

The *Transition Period* indicated an intensification of prehistoric fishing and sea mammal hunting, with a reduction in shellfish utilization and an increase in regional trade networks (Glassow et al. 2007:200-203). Several new artifacts appear in cultural sites of this period, including net weights, circular fishhooks, asphaltum-use, and the shift from the use of atlatl darts to arrow points. Subsistence is characterized by an increased emphasis on acorns, as well as local intensification of plant and small mammal food sources.

At this time, sedentism and long-term occupation of sites increased, accompanied by more elaborate social practices and formal cemeteries. Ritual burial objects become common and mortuary practices suggest an increase in social wealth and status.

3.6 LATE PERIOD (A.D. 1 – A.D. 1000)

Coastal sites appear to have had relatively dense populations by the end of the Middle Period, as well as an exchange relationship between the occupied coastal islands, the mainland coast, and interior regions that expanded during the *Late Period* (Glassow et al. 2007:203-205). Glassow et al. (*Ibid.*:203-205) note that certain trends continued during the Late Period, including substantial midden deposits, defined cemetery use, and the first evidence of true bow and arrow use. Overall, the variety and complexity of material culture increased during this period, demonstrated by a more diverse classes of artifacts. Glassow et al. (2007:204) summarize this period as:

“The period between cal A.D. 1 to 1000 was one of significant changes in technology, society, and economy. It is a period in which regional populations apparently grew to much higher levels and several important steps were taken along the road to increasing social and economic complexity.”

Small, finely knapped projectile points, usually stemless with convex or concave bases, point to an increased utilization of the bow and arrow rather than the atlatl and dart for hunting. Mortuary practices, including cremation and interment, were more elaborate than in preceding periods, and some burials

contain abundant grave goods. Seagoing vessels were introduced and plank canoes allowed Native Americans the ability to hunt deep-sea fish, such as tuna and swordfish (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:169-203). As Glassow et al. (2007:211) state "...by the time of European contact, the Chumash and their coastal Tongva neighbors had hereditary political offices and a social elite, different sorts of regional organizations, and a well-developed shell bead currency that facilitated inter-village and cross-channel commerce."

The prehistoric Late Period also saw the production of many beautiful and complex objects of utility, art, and decoration. These artifacts include steatite cooking vessels and containers, steatite arrow shaft straighteners, perforated stones, a variety of bone tools, and personal ornaments made from bone, stone, and shell, including drilled whole *Chione* (Venus clam) and drilled abalone. During this period an increase in population size was accompanied by the establishment of larger, more permanent villages with greater numbers of inhabitants (Wallace 1955:223). King (2000:75) identifies the presence of permanent inland villages at this time, noting evidence from the archaeological site of *Talepop* (*Ta'lopop*) site near Calabasas.

3.7 CONTACT PERIOD/ETHNOGRAPHIC PERIOD (A.D. 1000 – MISSIONIZATION)

The period after A.D. 1000 marks the *Ethnographic Period* of Native American history in Southern California, when the material culture and social organizations later observed by the Spanish explorers were being developed. The dominant Native American ethnographic groups in the project region were the Chumash people who centered on the Pacific coast between Malibu and San Luis Obispo, the Tongva, who were located from the San Fernando Valley south along the Pacific Coast, and the Tataviam, who centered on the upper San Fernando Valley and the mountains to the north. The project area is located in a poorly understood ethnographic region of Southern California due to the lack of historic records and the effects of Spanish Missionization on the region, which broke up traditional village structure. All three groups may have occupied the Simi Valley area at various times during the Ethnographic Period, or the region could have had mixed-group communities. Since all three groups had similar lifestyles, identifying one from the other, especially at inland archaeological sites, is extremely difficult.

The period from A.D. 1000 for roughly the next 300-years represented a time of cultural change for Southern California Native Americans, with several researchers pointing to fluctuations in water temperature, climate change, and drought as prominent factors in social and material cultural changes from the Late Prehistoric Period to the Ethnographic Period. However, whether these changes were gradual or punctuated is still debated (Glassow et al. 2007:205).

Native American craft specialization did expand during this period, with specialized regional workshops, specialized tools, shell money introduction, and an expanded trade network. Craft specialization centered on the production of shell beads, both for adornment and for currency, lithic (stone) micro blades, deer bone tools, basket production, and basket asphalted. Current research points to a time of great change for the Native American people, with social reorganization, and fluctuations in subsistence models. The role of climate and weather is not fully understood in this variability (Glassow et al. 2007:206-208).

The relationship between the less chronicled inland areas and the coastal region is a current research question in Southern California archaeology; with different models of seasonal migration between the coast and the inland areas being proposed. It is known that exchange with coastal villages and interior villages involved social and political ties based on marriage, however the question remains whether actual

movement of people occurred between the inland areas and the coast, or whether the extensive trade network of the Chumash was providing subsistence goods during seasonal scarcity (Glassow et al. 2007:208-210).

It is documented that fish and shellfish resources were transported to inland settlements, and that deer meat was transported from the inland areas to the coast, as well as deer bone tools and basketry. However, Glassow et al. (2007:2009) summarize that the lack of data from inland sites does not provide answers as to the actual level of social complexity at inland villages, nor what patterns of sedentism and regional trade were followed.

The wealth of resources of the nearby Santa Barbara coast allowed the Chumash people to occupy a number of large village areas, as well as to retain a population density greater than other Native American groups in Southern California. Abundance of resources often allows societies that concentrate on hunting and gathering the ability to create complex social, political, and economic structures. As King (2011:1) notes, “pre-invasion Chumash society was also one of the most complex non-agricultural societies historically documented.” The archaeological and ethnographic literature concludes that populations in the inland areas were not as dense as those along the coast or on the Channel Islands (Glassow et al. 2007:208-210). Since this observation includes the Tataviam, the inland Chumash, and the inland Tongva, this conclusion is not useful in differentiating between different ethnographic populations.

3.8 EUROPEAN HISTORIC PERIOD (A.D. 1542 – PRESENT)

The earliest Spanish explorers of the California coast included Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542, Pedro de Unamuno in 1587, Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeño in 1595, Sebastián Vizcaíno in 1602, and Gaspar de Portolá in 1769 (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984: 251-258). These early expeditions were transient in nature, and rarely impacted the areas traveled through except as a novelty.

Starting in 1769, the Spanish government began establishing religious missions along the coast of California, as well as presidios (fortified settlements), and pueblos (ranch houses), in order to advance the colonization of the California region. Missions were established by the Spanish Government to act as outposts on the California frontier, with a goal of educating and converting Native Americans to Christianity. Missions also periodically housed Spanish soldiers, and also acted as the political representatives of the Spanish colonization program. Under the leadership of the Franciscan Father Junipero Serra, a total of 21 coastal missions were built, between 1769 and 1823 (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:251-270). Many of the Native Americans then living in California were “Missionized;” forcibly settled to local mission lands. In the project area, many Native Americans were forced to relocate to the San Fernando Mission (established in 1798 in the San Fernando Valley).

Missionization destroyed the traditional social subsistence system, disrupted regional trade networks, and transformed the Native American material culture into a mixture of surviving ethnographic artifacts and European goods. Disease, the loss of a lifestyle that had been adapted to the California environment for generations, and the predation of the Spanish all led to a rapid decline in Native American population numbers (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:258-270, and Erlandson et. al. 2008:25).

“Eventually, Missionization all but extinguished the traditional cultures of the coastal Indians in the 600 miles (965 km) between Tomales Bay and San Diego... In the area of the missions, Indian populations... were reduced by 90 percent or more, or even completely wiped out, and mission populations were maintained only by drawing from the surviving surrounding populations” (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:269).

When Mexico won independence from Spain in 1822, the political system in California changed dramatically. Mexican land grants were awarded to soldiers, friends, and relatives of Spanish governors who ruled California between 1823 and 1846. During that time, the land holdings and influence of the religious missions were greatly diminished.

The Mexican Revolution and the later dismantling of the mission system led to great disruptions in the lives of the remaining Native Americans, as mission lands were incorporated into the rancho system. Tensions between Native Americans and Mexican settlers and soldiers led to the Chumash Revolt of 1824, when the Chumash successfully occupied Mission La Purisma, Mission Santa Ines, and Mission Santa Barbara. The occupation was short-lived, but guerrilla warfare and raiding would continued throughout the Mexican period, and into the later United States territorial period (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:270-278).

The missions and the mission lands were secularized in 1834, with the lands dispersed to individuals loyal to the new Mexican government. These land grants, both the original Spanish crown grants and the Mexican national grants, were primarily used as cattle and sheep ranches, which dominated most of Southern California (including the project area) up through the early 1900s (McCall and Perry 1990, Maulhardt 2010, Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:270-278, and Erlandson 2008:105).

During the Mexican-American War, the territory known in Mexico as Alta California officially became a United States territory with the signing the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo between Mexico and the United States in 1848. American ownership of California did not reduce the decline in Native American population numbers. From 1848 to 1900, California Native Americans were reduced in number from 150,000 to 20,000; most of this decline came from the continued marginalization of Native Americans into the worst land and lowest economic positions in the new state. Other factors were the abuse of the European settlers, disease, and the impacts of government laws and policies that did not favor native populations (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:296-297).

The American exploitation of California Native Americans culminated in the 1850 state legislation that essentially legalized the slavery of many native people:

“This law declared that any Indian, on the word of a White man, could be declared a vagrant, thrown in jail, and have his labor sold at auction for up to four months with no pay. This indenture law further said any Indian adult or child with the consent of his parents could be legally bound over to a White citizen for a period of years, laboring for subsistence only. These laws marked the transition of the Indian from peonage to virtual slavery; they gave free vent to an exploitative ethos of Americans who soon took advantage of the situation” (Castillo 1978:108).

At the same time, the United States government began a decades-long process of determining the fate of the original Mexican land grants in California. This process left ownership of many parcels and ranches in question for long periods of time. These land grants changed hands several times, especially after Mexican independence, until land ownership legal issues were finally settled in the 1870s. After this time, the original Spanish-heritage families began selling off smaller parcels to American investors, which expanded the ranching of cattle and sheep in the area (Maulhardt 2010:7-8).

Locally, the project property area was once part of the 114,000-acre Rancho Tapo land grant of 1795, which included Simi Valley west to Moorpark and east to Topanga. This grant was given by the Mexican government to Santiago Pico, and was only one of two land grants in Ventura County (the other being

Rancho Conejo to the south). The Pico Family occupied Rancho Simi, which included the Rancho Tapo land grant, through the early 1800s. Sheep and later cattle were ranched on the property, however, success was elusive, and much of the enterprise was ended in the 1820s. The ranch was final sold by the Pico Family to Jose de la Guerra y Noriega in 1842 (Miller 1968).

Though purchased in 1832 and officially transferred by the Pico Family in 1842, the land owned by Jose de la Guerra became contested after the 1848 war with the United States. Even though the U.S. honored Mexican citizen land ownership, the actual confirmation of ownership was not acknowledged until 1865, when Jose de La Guerra's title to the Rancho Simi (the original Tapo land grant) was confirmed. During this time, the de la Guerra Family operated an extensive cattle ranching operation, with several thousand head of cattle. Most of the cattle were sold for meat to feed the gold rush prospectors of the period. Sheep were also reintroduced, with a smaller herd being present (Miller 1968).

The ranch prospered until 1858, when local Native Americans razed the Rancho Simi adobe while the de la Guerra family was living in Santa Barbara. This razing led to de la Guerra setting up permanent residence at Tapo Alta in the upper Tapo Canyon area where permanent water could be found (Thompson 1961: 390). Severe droughts led to most of the ranch animals dying off in 1861 and 1862. It was this loss of livestock, coupled with a larger national economic depression, which led the de la Guerra Family to mortgage the Rancho Simi in 1861. By 1864, the mortgage holder, Isaac Cook, had full title to Rancho Simi, excluding the 14,400 acres of Rancho Tapo in Tapo Canyon. In 1870, Rancho Simi was sold to the California Petroleum Company for oil speculation. Rancho Tapo remained in the de la Guerra Family until 1877, when it was sold to Thomas R. Bard. This ended the ownership of Rancho Simi lands by the de la Guerra Family (Miller 1968 and Pitt 1966:134-139; 275).

Under American ownership, the Rancho Tapo area continued to be subdivided, with land use shifting to irrigation agriculture and commercial oil production. The construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad in Simi Valley opened outside markets to local produce and led to economic expansion throughout the valley. Cattle and sheep grazing continued on some of the subdivisions, as well as the growing of hay, barley, and oats to feed the local herd animals. Eventually, fruit crops were also planted, with apricots, grapes, and walnuts dominating. Later, citrus crops were introduced, with lemons and oranges replacing the apricot groves by the 1920s (Miller 1968).

Finally, after World War II, the increasing population of Southern California and demand for housing led to further subdivisions of the older land parcels. As the agricultural and ranch lots were continuously divided to develop housing tracts, Simi Valley became more and more urbanized. This urbanization began along the railroad and road paths along the bottom of the canyon, spreading into the foothills through time. Development accelerated with the construction of the SR 118 freeway between 1968 and 1979, which connected Simi Valley with the San Fernando Valley to the east. The process of developing the foothill areas of Simi Valley outward has slowed as the more accessible parcels have been developed, but the process of foothill development is still taking place today.

The Rancho Simi section that includes the project property remained surprisingly intact through the late 1990s, when the 2,800-acres owned by the UNOCAL petroleum corporation was sold off in sections. The project property represents one of these original UNOCAL sections.

4.0 LEGAL CONTEXT

This section provides a summary of all relevant laws and guidelines for this project. Though the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the primary law being complied with by this technical report, several other California public policy acts, codes, and bills that deal with cultural resources have direct or conditional influence on the completion of the proposed project.

California Environmental Quality Act (PRC §21002(b), 21083.2, and 21084.1)

Cultural resources are recognized as part of the environment under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) is an inventory of the State's historical resources. Criteria have been developed for determining whether a property is significant enough to be placed on the CRHR, and therefore, evaluating whether a cultural resource is or can be considered significant for the purposes of CEQA.

CEQA requires that all private and public activities not specifically exempted be evaluated against the potential for environmental damage, including effects to historical resources. It defines historical resources as "any object, building, structure, site, area, or place which is historically significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California," as cited in Division I, Public Resources Code, Section 5021.1[b].

The California Register includes resources listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as some California State Landmarks and Points of Historical Interest that are not Federally-recognized. Properties of local significance that have been designated under a local preservation ordinance (local landmarks or landmark districts), or that have been identified in a local historical resources inventory may also be eligible for listing in the CRHR, and are presumed to be significant resources for purposes of CEQA unless a preponderance of evidence indicates otherwise (PRC § 5024.1, 14 CCR § 4850).

Lead agencies have a responsibility to evaluate historical resources against the CRHR criteria prior to making a finding as to a proposed project's impacts to historical resources. CEQA rules of determining significance closely follow the criteria outlined by the NRHP, but which have been modified for state use in order to include a range of historical resources which better reflect the history of California (CCR §4852). The similarity between the two criteria allows for a known cultural resource to easily be evaluated for both registers at the same time. Often, therefore, a cultural resource narrative provides enough information to justify a suggested evaluation for the resource under both laws and a recommendation of significance under both criteria.

Under CEQA, a cultural resource must meet one of the four following criteria as per PRC §5024.1(c) to be included or eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR):

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- (3) 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.

- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Archaeological sites are often determined to be significant under Criteria (4), with the argument being that impacts to the site would reduce the potential scientific research value of the resource. Built environment resources (standing structures, bridges, canals, etc.) are often evaluated under Criteria (3), with architectural style or artistic features being the evaluation focus. Less frequently, cultural resources are evaluated as to Criteria (1), events or historic patterns, or Criteria (2), significant important persons. Some cultural resources are determined to be significant under multiple Criteria, such as a building constructed in a unique artistic style {Criteria (3)} that was designed by a regionally-important master architect {Criteria (2)}.

The criteria for inclusion on the CRHR closely follow the federal criteria for inclusion on the NRHP, as outlined under the National Historic Preservation Act. Projects with a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/CEQA component often evaluate a cultural resource for both listings simultaneously. It is important to note that a cultural resource is significant under CEQA if it is determined to be *eligible* for listing on the CRHR, not that it *has to be* listed on the CRHR. The formal listing process is a potentially time-consuming and lengthy procedure that often is never completed, and the determination of *eligibility* for the CRHR provides a cultural resource equal status and protection under CEQA to that of formally listed cultural resources.

It should also be noted that, even though cultural resource consultants often are the first professionals to evaluate newly-discovered or re-examined cultural resources for significance and eligibility for listing on the CRHR, the Lead Agency for a project has the final determination of significance within the context of the project that is triggering the evaluation of eligibility. The Lead Agency can either concur with the recommendation of a cultural resource consultant, object to the recommendation, or determine that more work must be done by the project proponent.

California Penal Code (Section 622.5)

California Penal Code Section 622.5 provides misdemeanor penalties for injuring or destroying objects of historical or archaeological interest located on public or private lands, but specifically excludes the landowner.

California Public Resources Code (Section 5097.5)

The unauthorized disturbance or removal of archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources located on public lands is defined as a misdemeanor by Public Resources Code Section 5097.5.

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5

This code section requires that further excavation or disturbance of land, upon discovery of human remains outside of a dedicated cemetery, cease until a county coroner makes a report. It requires a county coroner to contact the NAHC within 48 hours if the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority and if the coroner recognizes the remains to be those of a Native American.

California Health and Safety Code (Section 7052)

Section 7052 of the Health and Safety Code establishes a felony penalty for mutilating, disinterring, or otherwise disturbing human remains, except by relatives.

California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98

If a county coroner notifies the NAHC that human remains are Native American and outside the coroner's jurisdiction per Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, the NAHC must determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 24 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

The California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (Health and Safety Code §§ 88010-8011) establishes a state repatriation policy intent that is consistent with and facilitates implementation of the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The law ensures that all California Indian human remains and cultural items are treated with dignity and respect, encourages voluntary disclosure and return of remains and cultural items by publicly funded agencies and museums in California, and states an intent for the state to provide mechanisms for aiding California Indian tribes, including non-federally recognized tribes, in filing repatriation claims and getting responses to those claims.

California Senate Bill-18 (SB-18)

SB-18 is a state-mandated program intended to establish between local city and county governments and Native American Tribal Groups, meaningful and ongoing government-to-government consultation as part of the planning process. The purpose of SB-18 is to protect and preserve the cultural places of California Native Americans, both on private and on public lands. Local city and county governments are required to consult with California Tribal Groups about proposed local land use planning decisions, and on the adoption or substantial amendment of general plans, specific plans, or the dedication of open spaces with the purpose of protecting cultural places. Negotiation can result in the development or modification of treatment and management plans for cultural resources.

For the purposes of Section 65351, 64352.3, and 65562.5, "consultation" means the meaningful and timely process of seeking, discussing, and considering carefully the views of others, in a manner that is cognizant of all parties' cultural values and, where feasible, seeking agreement. SB-18 processes take place outside of the CEQA process. CEQA mitigation measures may not be applicable to SB-18 negotiation outcomes, as a culturally-defined "sacred site" cannot be mitigated or compensated.

California Assembly Bill-52 (AB-52)

AB-52 merges many elements of SB-18 with the standard State of California CEQA process, as well as giving voice to non-Federally-recognized tribal groups in the state. AB-52 specifies that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource (TCR), as defined in the law, is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment under CEQA. AB-52 outlines lead agency consultation with all California Native American tribe that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project, defines what constitutes a TCR, provides examples of mitigation measures if the TCR will be impacted by the project, and explains how AB-52 consultation fits into the larger CEQA process.

5.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Envicom completed a physical survey of the entire 160-acre project property. The purpose of the cultural resource pedestrian field survey is to identify any cultural resources that have previously not been identified in existing databases. During the pedestrian field survey, an attempt is also made to identify and newly assess all cultural resources identified within the record search. During this task, any original cultural resource site records are updated, if needed, to reflect current conditions.

The pedestrian survey of the project property is conducted in accordance with Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716, Sept. 29, 1983). Any newly identified cultural resources are mapped using a GPS unit with sub-meter accuracy and recorded on Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms. To address potential paleontological resources, the pedestrian survey also examined any observable exposed rock formations to determine if there are areas of potential paleontological sensitivity within the project area.

The first step of the 2017 pedestrian survey of the North Canyon Ranch project property was to determine through past aerial photography what parts of the property have been subject to modern impacts in the recent past. Since past impacts to the property landscape included extensive earth moving and grading, such areas are assumed to have a 100% disturbed context. Once determined, these areas were removed from the total survey area.

Physical survey efforts of the remaining area were both systematic and opportunistic. Transects of at least 10-meters (30-feet) in width were used to cover the more open areas of the project property. Opportunistic survey routes were used when patches of open visibility without dense vegetation were encountered. Such areas were examined in more detail. Other areas of unusually open landscape, such as paved dirt road beds, were also opportunistically surveyed to take advantage of the greater visibility. Even though opportunistic survey methodology did take place, the entire project property was still subject to systematic examination within the project property boundary. Special effort was also used around CA-LAN-2245, the cultural resource identified in the record search.

6.0 PHASE I SURVEY FINDINGS

This section outlines the findings of the SCCIC record search, the NAHC record search, and the pedestrian survey of the project property, including an examination of historic local maps, USGS maps, and historic Google Earth aerial imagery. It also discusses project region sensitivity for cultural resources, and whether the landscape has natural formations that should be further considered for cultural resource potential.

6.1 RECORD SEARCH RESULTS

On May 3, 2017, Envicom contacted the SCCIC with a request to search their database for cultural resources within the project property, plus a 0.25-mile study area for regional context (see Figure 1). The record search included a request for all complete site records for cultural resources within the project area, as well as copies of any cultural resource technical reports that intersect with the location of the proposed project. The NAHC was also contacted on May 3, 2017, with a similar record search request.

Envicom received the cultural resource records search results from the SCCIC on June 4, 2017. The record search provided a map of all known cultural resources that are located within the project area and within the 0.25-mile study area, as well as all previously published cultural resource reports. The SCCIC report identified that one previously identified cultural resource (P-19-001596/CA-VN-1596) was located within the proposed property. This cultural resource will be discussed in more detail below. The SCCIC record search identified that two cultural resource reports (LA-01483 and LA-01781) included the project area as part of the report subject areas, which will also be discussed in greater detail later.

The SCCIC report identified that nine additional cultural resources (P-56-000638, P-56-000674, P-56-001595, P-00106, P-56-100114, P-56-100115, P-56-100116, P-100154, P-100162) were located within the 0.25-mile project study area. Most of these resources were limited prehistoric archaeological sites, located along semi-annual stream sources within the foothill area.

The record search also identified that thirteen additional cultural resource reports (VN-79, VN-181, VN-280, VN-655, VN-710, VN-918, VN-1268, VN-1655, VN-1716, VN-1834, VN-2209) included locations that were within the 0.25-mile study area.

Finally, the 2017 SCCIC record search also determined that one cultural resource report (VN-00079) provided broad discussions of the project area. Such “overview” documents often contain general historic or prehistoric information, but do not include detailed discussions of cultural resources, and are therefore not relevant for this cultural resource assessment.

RECORD SEARCH SUMMARY:

Previously Identified Cultural Resources Located within the Project Property:

One: P-19-001596/CA-VN-1596 (discussed in more detail below)

Past Cultural Resource Technical Reports Located within the Project Property:

Two: VN-01483 and VN-01781

VN-01483

Anonymous

1994 *The Rancho Tapo and Its History: Revised Final Report*. History Associates Incorporated, Brea, California.

VN-01781

Gust, Sherri, Steven McCormick, and Kim Scott

2007 *Paleontological and Archaeological Assessment Report for the North Canyon Ranch, Tentative Tract 5658, Simi Valley, California*. Cogstone Resource Management, Inc., Santa Ana, California.

Previously Identified Cultural Resources Located within the Project Study Area:

Nine: P-56-000638, P-56-000674, P-56-001595, P-00106, P-56-100114, P-56-100115, P-56-100116, P-100154, P-100162

Past Cultural Resource Technical Reports Located within the Project Study Area:

Thirteen: VN-79, VN-181, VN-280, VN-655, VN-710, VN-918, VN-1268, VN-1655, VN-1716, VN-1834, VN-2209

General Overview Cultural Resource Reports that include the Project Area:

One: VN-00079

A review of twelve historical local and USGS maps also indicated that no historical resources were located within the property boundary through the 1980s, indicating that there is little chance for significant historic cultural resources that are older than 50-years being encountered by the project. A review of historic satellite images through Google Earth showed little change to the project area from 1995 (**Figure 4**) until 2004 (**Figure 5**), when the project property was subject to extensive earth moving and grading concurrently with the construction of the Simi Valley Town Center shopping mall to the south. The property has since experienced revegetation in the impacted areas, however, the original impact areas can still clearly be identified, both on aerial maps (**Figure 6**) and at surface level.

The results from the 2017 NAHC record search were received on May 12, 2017, with negative findings. Envicom did not contact Native American groups on the NAHC list as communications with Tribal Group representative under Assembly Bill-52 is the responsibility of the permitting agency if required as part of this project.

The comprehensive findings from the record search databases was that the project property was not located in an area sensitive for historic cultural resources, however, the large numbers of prehistoric sites located to the west and east of the project area indicated that the project area is moderately sensitive for prehistoric cultural resources. This sensitivity level will be discussed further in the management recommendations section of this report.

Copies of the request letter to the SCCIC and to the NAHC are included in **Appendix A** of this report. The response letter from the NAHC is also included in Appendix A. The findings from the SCCIC as per cultural resource physical location and details are considered confidential by state law and are, therefore, not included in this report. Upon request, the findings of the SCCIC record search can be provided to the Lead Agency with proof that the person handling documents is registered with the SCCIC.



Project property north of the Simi Valley Town Center Mall, Showing Original Terrain (1995 Google Earth aerial image).



Project property north of the Simi Town Center Mall, showing extensive impacts from landscape grading and leveling (2004 Google Earth aerial image).



Project property, showing revegetation since 2004 (2016 Google Earth aerial image).

Discussion of P-19-001595 (CA-VN-1595, a prehistoric archaeological site), and LA-01483 and LA-01781 (cultural resource reports)

The cultural resource report (LA-1483) published by History Associates Incorporated in 1994 included a Discussion of the historic background of Rancho Tapo and the immediate project area. This document did not discuss the archaeological findings of field surveys, but provided a historic context for the area.

The official site form for prehistoric archaeological site CA-VN-1595 was provided by the SCCIC as part of the record search for this project. The site was first recorded in 1999 as part of the survey of 2,800-acres of UNOCAL property north of Simi Valley, of which the subject property is a subdivision. The report of this survey work was not located in the SCCIC records, however, the title of the report is listed in the project site form as being:

Bissell, Ron, Joan Brown, and Marco Bonifacic

1999 *Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of the UNOCAL Property, 2,800 acres in Simi Valley and Moorpark, Ventura County, California*. RMW Paleo Associates, Mission Viejo, California.

This report, then, should be considered as part of the documentary context for the project. This work is also the source of many of the prehistoric archaeological sites found within the project study area.

Cultural Resource CA-VN-1595 was described in 1999 as being a “small specialized use station. Seed collecting and processing are indicated, as is the production or maintenance of edged tools. The site area also contains numerous assayed stones.” The site is further defined as a “lithic scatter” that consisted of “one quartzite scraper and two quartzite flakes. One granitic mano fragment. Numerous assayed stones within the site area,” which was stated as being roughly 2.5-meters, circular, from the sketch map. Impacts to the site integrity were listed as “cattle grazing.”

An opportunistic (not systematic) survey of the project area was completed in 2007 by Cogstone (Gust et al. 2007), with no additional cultural resources being identified within the project area. The 2007 survey concentrated on property areas that had the highest chance of having cultural resources, which concentrated on ridgelines and drainages. Thirteen randomly placed shallow shovel test pits were also used across the property to examine subsurface deposits and soil conditions. It is not known why CA-VN-1595 was not addressed by Cogstone at the time, however, if they had conducted the record search in person, the observer may have concluded that it was located outside the project area since it is so close to the property edge.

No additional cultural resources were identified during the 2007 Cogstone pedestrian survey, and no exposed paleontological rock locations were discovered. CA-VN-1595, therefore, is the only previously recorded cultural resource located within the project boundary. The recommended mitigation measures of the Cogstone document included archaeological and paleontological monitoring of the project, unexpected discovery criteria, and the publication of construction phase monitoring and management plans, as well as a final monitoring report (Gust et al. 2007:24-26).

6.2 2017 PEDESTRIAN SURVEY RESULTS

The Envicom pedestrian survey of the project property was conducted from May 17 to May 19, 2017. The areas surveyed included the entire property (see Figure 3), minus all areas with clear past modern impacts (Figure 3, blue areas). Figure 3 also shows the proposed project development (yellow areas), and

the currently planned open space (colorless areas). Both the development area and the “open space” area were surveyed by Envicom in 2017.

Mr. William Bartram and Ms. Debbie Balam of Envicom surveyed the entire project property on May 17, 18, and 19, 2017. Most of the property is rolling foothill landscape, with native and invasive grasses and short bushes (**Figure 7** and **Figure 8**). Visible were oatgrass, sage, cholla cactus, beaver-tail cactus, yucca, and a variety of short perineal shrub plants. No large trees were observed, and few smaller ones were encountered. Along the southern and eastern parts of the property are extensive modern impacts from past surface grading, grubbing, and clearing, as well as the development of access roads, perimeter fencing, V-ditches, and fuel modification areas (**Figure 9**, **Figure 10** and **Figure 11**). No bedrock or other fossil-bearing rock units were visible, either in the modern impact areas, or on the slopes.

Ground visibility was poor to excellent (0% to 80% visibility), depending on the amount of invasive grass and shrubs present. The areas with the worst visibility were also the areas with the highest modern impacts, which were also not intact for cultural resources. At no point was ground surface visibility impaired in such a way that the survey findings were compromised.

The described location of CA-VN-2245 was observed during the 2017 pedestrian survey, but the location appeared to have been completely impacted during past local grading activities (**Figure 12**). No evidence of the scant lithic scatter material could be found, and the site was concluded to have been destroyed. The site form will be updated to reflect this condition.

The pedestrian survey also did not identify culturally sensitive soils or locations or exposed fossil-bearing rock units that would require a further paleontological assessment prior to construction. The Sespe Formation, which is the base rock unit for the project area, is known for having fossil-rich layers, however, none of this formation was encountered exposed on the surface.

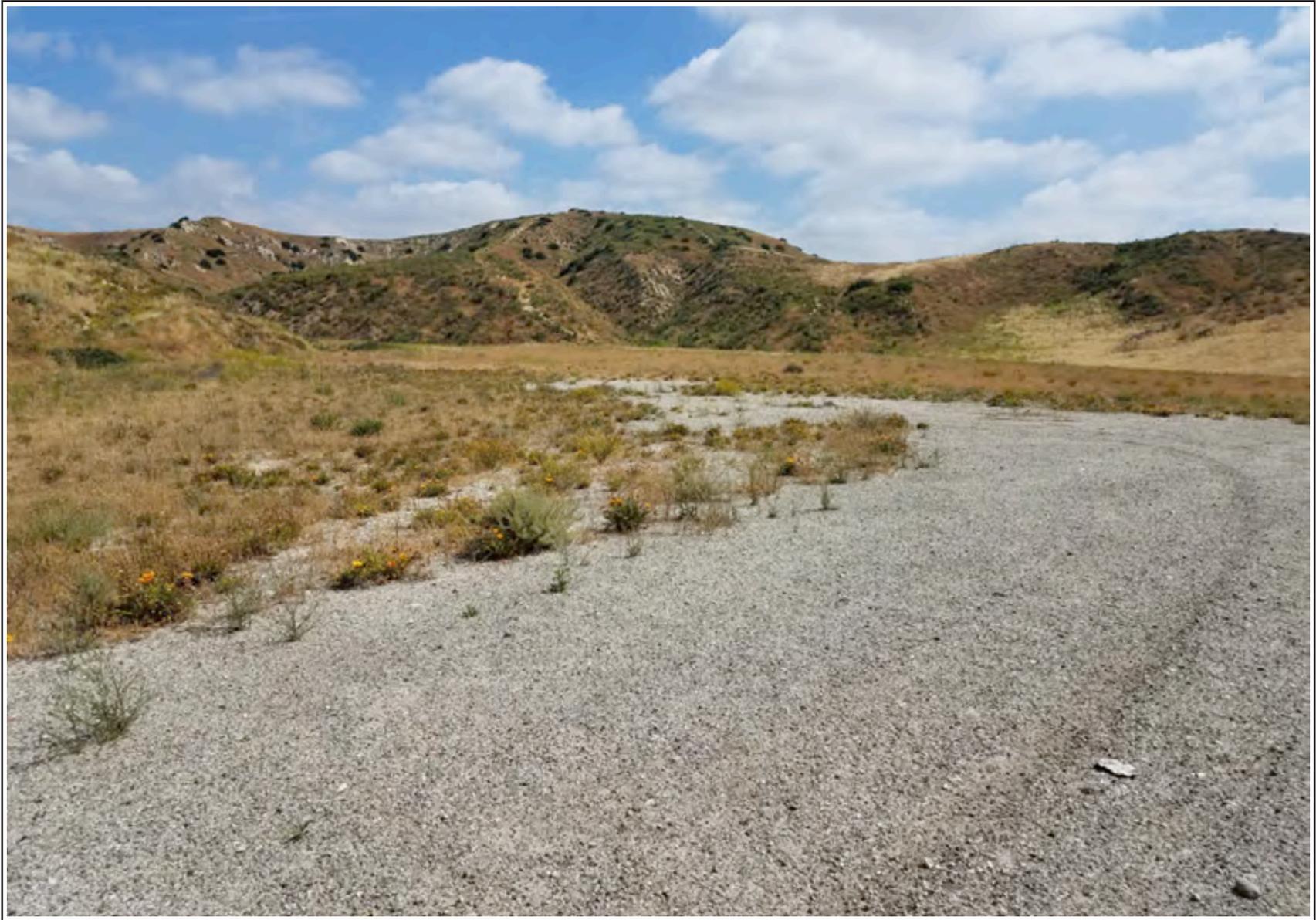
Overall, the information observed during the pedestrian survey matched up well with the findings of the historic maps and historic aerial images, and from the landscape descriptions provided in the latest survey report (Gust et al. 2007) and the original CA-VN-2245 site form (Bissell et al. 1999). Envicom did not identify additional cultural resources within the subject property. However, even though the pedestrian survey did not identify areas of sensitivity, the high number of prehistoric cultural sites east and west of the property within the study area will be considered in determining recommended management and mitigation measures.



Project property, showing mostly intact native landscape, facing east.



Project property, showing mostly intact native landscape, facing northwest.



A view of the graded southern part of the property, facing northeast.



Another view of the impacted southern part of the property, showing V-ditch drain, basin, fencing, and grading, facing east.



View of the fuel modification zone along the eastern part of the property, facing north.



Rough location of CA-VN-1595, showing grading damage.

7.0 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the SCCIC was positive for cultural resources, with a single prehistoric cultural resource (P-19-001595/CA-VN-1595) being located in the extreme southwest corner of the project property. The NAHC record search was negative for cultural resources (including Tribal Cultural Resources). No built environment resources were identified within the property. Further, even though the SCCIC identified cultural resources within the project study area, no cultural resources were identified as being adjacent to the project property that should be considered for further cultural resource assessment. Review of local historic maps and the historic USGS map database was negative for historic cultural resources within the project area.

The pedestrian survey was negative for observable cultural resources on the surface, and did not find evidence of prehistoric cultural resource P-19-001595/CA-VN-1595 (a sparse lithic and groundstone scatter of artifacts), concluding that the site had been destroyed since original recordation. The pedestrian survey also did not identify culturally sensitive soils or locations or exposed fossil-bearing rock units that would require a further paleontological assessment prior to construction. The findings from the Phase I survey of the project property was, therefore, negative for cultural and paleontological resources, with no further cultural resource or paleontological tasks being recommended prior to the completion of the entitlement process.

The cultural resource context of the project area, however, was determined to be moderately sensitive for *prehistoric* cultural resources, mostly due to clusters of prehistoric cultural resources along seasonal stream terraces to the east and west, which were of concern. The cultural resource context was not determined to be sensitive for *historic* cultural resources, due to none being identified within or near the property in the in historic databases or on historic maps. The *paleontological* resource context was determined to be sensitive for fossil resources, due to the Sespe Formation dominating the project property.

Due to the above findings, Envicom recommend the following construction phase compliance measures to be in place during the ground disturbance phase of the project only:

Construction Phase Monitoring/Communication/WEAP Plan:

A qualified archaeologist and a qualified paleontologist will develop a Construction Phase Monitoring Plan that will cover the unexpected discovery of archaeological and paleontological resources. This Plan will also include a communication plan in case of unexpected archaeological or paleontological resource discovery. Finally, this plan will include a Worker Environmental Awareness Plan (WEAP), which will be administered to all construction phase team members.

The communication plan will clearly indicate who shall be called and in what order in the case of discovery of archaeological or paleontological resources (described in more detail below), as well as the daily and weekly duties of the field monitor

Archaeological Monitoring Measure:

Because the project is within a region of moderate sensitivity for prehistoric cultural resources, due to prehistoric site clusters to the east and west of the property, Envicom recommends that a cultural resource monitor be present for grading of the top 1.5-feet of native soils within the proposed project grading limit (see Figure 3, yellow area). Monitoring will take place to the edge of the grading limit, however, monitoring will not be necessary within the previously disturbed areas of the site (see Figure 3, blue area).

Monitoring will take place during all grubbing and clearing tasks, as well as during all earth moving of the native soil layer (assumed to be 1.5-feet in depth). If the archaeological monitor determines that potential native soils exist below 1.5-feet in depth, then the monitor can recommend to the compliance team that additional monitoring should take place. Additional monitors will be used if the distance between active construction teams will limit a single monitor from observing subsurface impacts.

Envicom does not recommend that a Native American monitor be present due to the soils being only moderate for cultural resources, however, if prehistoric artifacts are found during monitoring, then a Native American monitor should be included to represent the interests of the local Native American Tribal Groups. Monitoring with both the archaeological monitor and the Native American monitor should progress until no more prehistoric artifacts are found for a minimum of one (1) day of grading, at which point the Native American monitor can be released from monitoring duty.

Paleontological Monitoring Measure:

Because the project is within a region of sensitivity for paleontological resources, Envicom recommends that a paleontological resource monitor be present for grading past the top 1.5-feet of native soils within the entire project grading limit. Again, additional monitors will be used if the distance between active construction teams will limit a single monitor from observing subsurface impacts.

Final Archaeological and Paleontological Monitoring Report:

At the end of the project, a Construction Phase Monitoring Report will be drafted and submitted to the Lead Agency as proof of compliance. This report will summarize monitoring tasks and findings, and will provide all daily monitoring log documentation. If artifacts or fossils are recovered from disturbed contexts during monitoring, those artifacts and/or fossils will be professionally cleaned, organized, analyzed, and submitted to an authorized curatorial facility, with the cost being covered by the project proponent.

Archaeological or Paleontological Discovery Compliance Measure:

If buried materials of potentially-archaeological or paleontological significance are accidentally discovered within an undisturbed context during any earth-moving operation associated with the proposed project, then all work in that area shall be halted or diverted away from the discovery to a distance of 50-feet until a qualified senior archaeologist or paleontologist can evaluate the nature and/or significance of the find(s). The communication plan will be followed and the Lead Agency will be immediately notified of the discovery. Construction will not resume in the locality of the discovery until consultation between the senior archaeologist/paleontologist, the project manager, the Lead Agency, the applicants representative, and all other concerned parties, as to response to the discovery can occur and a consensus response concluded.

If a significant cultural or paleontological resource is discovered during earth-moving, complete avoidance of the find is preferred. However, further survey work, evaluation tasks, or data recovery of the significant resource may be required by the Lead Agency if the resource cannot be avoided.

In response to discovery of resources, the Lead Agency may also establish additional appropriate mitigation measures for continued site development, which may include additional archaeological and/or Native American monitoring, additional paleontological monitoring, subsurface testing, evaluation of the find, or data recovery. All responses to the discovery of a significant cultural resource will be outlined in a Resource Management, Evaluation, or Data Recovery Report submitted to the Lead Agency. Any

required additional monitoring will be outlined in an addendum to the Monitoring Plan, which will also be submitted to the Lead Agency prior to the recommencement of ground-disturbance activities.

Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains Compliance Measure:

The inadvertent discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbances; State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 addresses these findings. This code section states that in the event human remains are uncovered, no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination as to the origin and disposition of the remains pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. The Coroner must be notified of the find immediately, together with the City and the property owner.

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 within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials and an appropriate re-internment site. The Lead/Permitting Agency and a qualified archaeologist shall also establish additional appropriate mitigation measures for further site development, which may include archaeological and Native American monitoring or subsurface testing. All responses to the discovery of human remains will be outlined in a Recovery and/or Management Plan submitted to the Lead Agency. Any required monitoring will be outlined in a Construction Phase Monitoring Plan, which will also be submitted to the Lead Agency prior to the recommencement of ground-disturbance activities.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

Envicom Corporation completed in July of 2017 a Phase I cultural resource assessment of the 160-acre North Canyon Ranch residential subdivision located in Simi Valley, Ventura County, California. This assessment included a cultural resource record search at the South Central Coast Information Center and at the Native American Heritage Commission. Additional databases examined include historic regional maps, historic USGS maps, and historic Google Earth images. A pedestrian survey of the subject property was also completed, which assessed previously identified cultural resources within the project area as well as surveyed the property for new cultural resources.

The record searches identified that a single previously recorded cultural resource, P-56-001596 (CA-VN-1596), was located within the extreme southwest corner of the proposed project property. This resource was described as a small prehistoric lithic and groundstone scatter, however, examination of the resource area in 2017 concluded that the cultural resource had been destroyed between the time of original recordation and the present. The 2017 Envicom pedestrian survey found no additional resources within the project property.

The SCCIC record search did, however, identify that the region was moderately sensitive for prehistoric cultural resources. Examination of paleontological maps indicated that the project area is also sensitive for paleontological resources. Though these sensitivity levels did not warrant additional pre-construction cultural resource or paleontological resource assessments, they do trigger a recommendation of construction phase monitoring as a mitigation measure for the project.

In summary, the findings of the record searches and the pedestrian survey were that no cultural resources existed within the proposed project property and that no further cultural resource tasks would be recommended prior to construction. However, due to the moderate sensitivity for prehistoric cultural resources and the sensitivity for paleontological resources, construction phase monitoring was recommended. Additional mitigation measures dealing with construction phase monitoring plans and inadvertent discovery situations were also recommended.

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APPENDIX A

**Letter to SCCIC, Letter to the NAHC,
and Response Letter from NAHC**

May 3, 2017

Stacy St. James, Coordinator
South Central Coastal Information Center
C.S.U.F., Dept. of Anthropology, MH 426
800 N. State College Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846

Attn: Ms. St. James

Subj: **North Canyon Ranch Residential Subdivision Cultural Resource Assessment (#17-720-101)**

Dear Ms. St. James:

Envicom is requesting an **EXPEDITED** record search of the SCCIC database for cultural resources within the attached Project area, plus a 0.25-mile buffer. **We also request the complete reports and/or site records for any cultural resources found within the project area only.**

The Project is located at:

Latitude: 34°17'22.55"N
Longitude: 118°46'15.41"W
Township: T2N
Range: R20W
Quad: Simi Valley West, CA

Envicom appreciates the SCCIC's help with this request. For correspondence or questions regarding this Project, please contact Wayne Bischoff at 818-879-4700 (wbischoff@envicomcorporation.com).

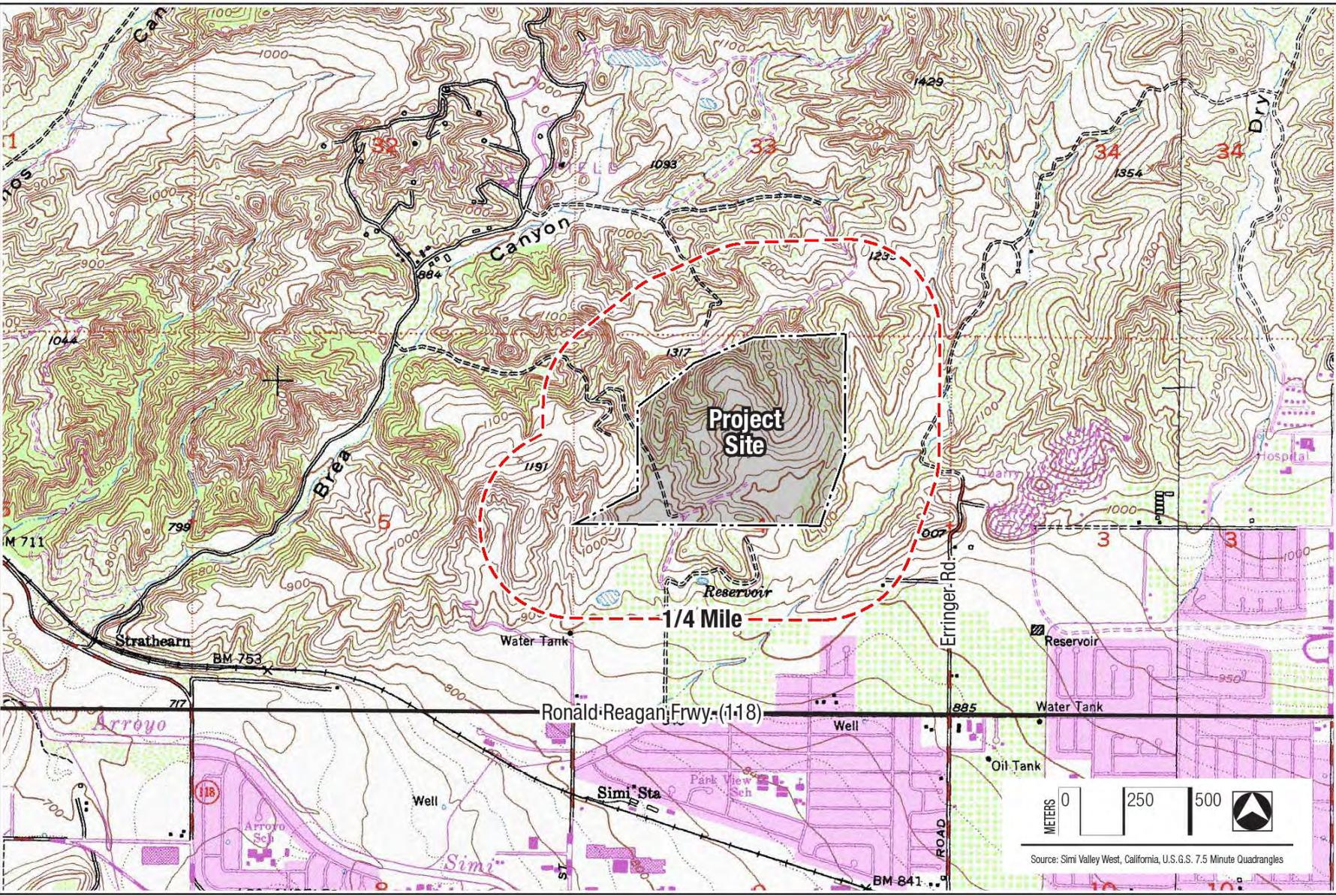
Sincerely,



Dr. Wayne Bischoff
Director of Cultural Resources

Attachment:

Project vicinity map on 1:24,000 topographic map



Source: Simi Valley West, California, U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangles

May 3, 2017

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Room 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Subj: **North Canyon Ranch Residential Subdivision Cultural Resource Assessment (#17-720-101)**

Greetings,

Envicom is requesting a record review of your records for cultural resources for the Project area, plus a 0.25-mile buffer. We also request a list of Tribal Group representatives for the area in case we need to contact their offices.

The Project is located at:

Latitude: 34°17'22.55"N

Longitude: 118°46'15.41"W

Township: T2N

Range: R20W

Quad: Simi Valley West, CA

Envicom appreciates the NAHC's help with this request. For correspondence or questions regarding this Project, please contact Wayne Bischoff at 818-879-4700 (wbischoff@envicomcorporation.com).

Sincerely,



Dr. Wayne Bischoff
Director of Cultural Resources

Attachment:

Project vicinity map on 1:24,000 topographic map



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Environmental and Cultural Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., ROOM 100
West SACRAMENTO, CA 95691
(916) 373-3710
Fax (916) 373-5471



May 12, 2017

Dr. Wayne Bischoff

Email to: waynebischoff@gmail.com

RE: North Canyon Residential Subdivision #17-720-101, Ventura County

Dear Mr. Bischoff,

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 preclude the presence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources for cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and/or recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans tribes who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the 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 to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these tribes, 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 me at frank.lienert@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Lienert".

Frank Lienert
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts
5/12/2017**

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
Kenneth Kahn, Chairperson
P.O. Box 517 Chumash
Santa Ynez , CA 93460
kkahn@santaynezchumash.org
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805-427-0015

Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians
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Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
Mia Lopez, Chairperson
Chumash
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Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians
Eleanor Arrellanes
P.O. Box 5687 Chumash
Ventura , CA 93005
805-701-3246

This list is current only 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 Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessments for the updated contact list for North Canyon Residential Subdivision #17-720-101, Ventura County