

**CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

**Tentative Tract Map No. 17863**

**(APN 3092-421-08)**

**Pinon Hills, California**

Prepared for:  
George Wanis

Prepared by:  
Ms. Alina Landa, Archaeologist  
BS. Cal Poly Pomona  
RCA Associates, Inc.  
15490 Civic Dr. Suite 2014  
Victorville, California

Project No. 2017-17

Type of Study: Phase 1 Cultural Resource Assessment

Resources Recorded: None

## **SUMMARY**

RCA Associates, Inc. is under contract to George Wanis to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the project site in Pinon Hills, California on which a gas station will be constructed. The study was performed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A cultural resources records search, field survey, and Native American consultation were conducted for the project. The records search revealed that no archaeological resources have been previously recorded on the site. Consultation letters to the Native American groups have been provided in Appendix B.

During the field survey, RCA Associates archaeologist (Ms. Alina Landa, BS, Archaeology, Cal Poly Pomona) did not discover any cultural resources, including historic or prehistoric archaeological sites or historic buildings within the project site. As a result, the proposed project is not expected to have any impact on any historic, prehistoric, or historical buildings as per CEQA. Also, no additional cultural resource surveys are recommended, and no monitoring is necessary during proposed activities associated with the development of the proposed project. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during development activities, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

If human remains are encountered during the undertaking, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 597.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of the notification by the NAHC.

## Table of Contents

SUMMARY.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	3
NATURAL SETTING.....	3
Biology.....	3
CULTURAL SETTING.....	3
Prehistory.....	3
Ethnography.....	4
History.....	4
PERSONNEL.....	5
METHODS.....	5
Research.....	5
Field Survey.....	5
RESULTS.....	6
Research.....	6
Field Survey.....	6
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX	
A. Figures	
B. Native American Consultation	
C. Project Site Photographs	

## **INTRODUCTION**

RCA Associates, Inc. is under contract to conduct a Phase 1 Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed project site in Pinon Hills, California. This study is being performed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project site is a 3.01-acre parcel lying South-Westerly of Beekley Road and South-Easterly of Beekley Lane and North-Easterly of Highway 138 (Township 4 North, Range 7 West, Section 23, USGS) A.P.N. 3066-191-04. The proposed project is a gas station and convenience store.

## **NATURAL SETTING**

### **Biology**

The climate of the late Pleistocene allowed pinon-juniper woodland to survive throughout most of the Mojave (Van Devender et al. 1987). During that epoch, the vegetation and climate attracted dire wolf, saber-toothed cat, short-faced bear, horse, camel, antelope, mammoth, pelican, goose, duck, cormorant, and eagle (Reynolds 1988). Common native plants currently include creosote, cacti of various species, rabbit bush, interior gold bush, sage of various species, buckwheat at high elevations, Joshua tree, and seasonal grasses. The current flora is a result of the dry climate of the middle Holocene. Current native animals include coyotes, cottontail and jackrabbits, mice, rats, desert tortoises, roadrunners, raptors, and other bird species (Williams et al. 2008).

## **CULTURAL SETTING**

### **Prehistory**

California's prehistory is punctuated by major environmental shifts, which caused an influence in subsistence and settlement patterns for the Native Americans of the high desert region. During the late Pleistocene, cool and moist temperatures caused glaciation, which led to the creation of pluvial lakes (Antevs 1953). Regional changes in subsistence and settlement patterns during this time of rapid change are defined by cultural periods. These periods are: Lake Mojave, Pinto, Gypsum, Saratoga Springs, and Protohistoric Periods (Warren 1984).

## **Ethnography**

The project site is located on Serrano ancestral territory, which includes the Alliklik, Vanyume, Mohave, and Chemehuevi Indians (Kroeber 1925). The name, “Serrano” describes the tribes who lived in the general region of the San Bernardino Mountains (Kroeber 1925). The Serrano were hunter-gatherers who created tools that allowed them to process acorns, pinon nuts, mesquite, and cacti fruits. Evidence of their settlement here shows that the Serrano used points, scrapers, knives, cores, and some milling stones to process foods (Moratto 1984). The Serrano manufactured baskets, pottery, rabbit-skin blankets, arrows and arrow straighteners, stone pipes, and musical instruments (Bean and Smith 1978:571). The project is located in an area that is very close to a natural water source. It is also near the Mojave River, which was a significant place for travel, trade and settlement.

Pinon Hills lies in the southwestern portion of the Mojave Desert. To recognize a cultural chronology, research focuses on temporal indicators in mixed artifact deposits. Temporal indicators are marked by the following periods: The Paleoindian (12,000 to 10,000 BP) and Lake Mojave (10,000 to 7,000 BP) Periods, Pinto Period (7,000 to 4,000 BP), Gypsum Period (4,000 to 1,500 BP), Saratoga Springs Period (1,500 to 800 BP), Shoshonean Period (800 BP to Contact) (Warren and Crabtree 1986).

## **History**

**Historic Period:** The Historic era of California is divided into the Mission or Spanish Period (1769 to 1831), the Mexican or Rancho Period (1821 to 1848), and the American Period (1848 to present).

**Spanish Period:** The first explorers to come into this region were led by a Spanish priest named Francisco Garcés, who guided Juan Bautista de Anza through the area. In 1771, De Anza led a group from Arizona to create a headquarters at the Mission San Gabriel near what is now known as the City of Pasadena. The Mojave Trail was established in 1776 as a route across the Mojave Desert to the San Gabriel Mission (Beck and Haase 1974).

**Mexican Period:** Spanish rule was overthrown by Mexico in 1791, and missions lost their land holdings as the Mexican government passed the Secularization Act in 1833 (Beattie and Beattie

1974). The notable Old Spanish Trail was established between southern California and Sante Fe, New Mexico in the 1830s (Beck and Haase 1974).

**American Period:** After the Mexican-American War in 1848 and the discovery of gold in California, the Old Spanish Road was founded as a widely-used trade route for the shipment of goods and Mexican mules and horses. This allowed travelers from Salt Lake City to Las Vegas through the Cajon Pass to reach the San Bernardino and Los Angeles areas (Bean and Vane, Young et al 1981). In the 1870s and afterward, small towns in the high desert region and near the Calico Mountains were established as railway stops on the Sante Fe Railroad (Kyle 1990). A silver strike in the Calico Mountains brought upon a great mining boom in 1881 (Schuiling 1984:95).

## **PERSONNEL**

RCA Associates, Inc. cultural resource personnel, Alina Landa (B.S. Archaeology, Cal Poly Pomona), requested the staff at South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) to conduct a cultural resource records search of the site. Ms. Landa conducted field investigations on the site on March 2, 2017. Following receipt of the background data from SCCIC, Ms. Landa also prepared the technical report for this project.

## **METHODS**

### **Research**

A cultural resources records search was conducted by SCCIC on April 26, 2017. The results of the records search are summarized in this report. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) completed a Sacred Lands File search and recommended consultation with relevant Native American Tribes associated with the project area.

### **Field Survey**

A comprehensive archaeological field survey was conducted by Ms. Landa on March 2, 2017. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects in a north-south direction with each transect spaced approximately 10 meters apart. During the field investigations, any potential cultural resource was evaluated.

## **RESULTS**

### **Research**

The NAHC conducted a Sacred Lands file search in April, 2017 and replied with negative results. Potentially interested tribes that are associated with the project were contacted. These groups are: Morongo Band of Missions, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and Serrano Nation of Mission Indians. Copies of the letters to the Native American tribes and consultation with the NAHC are referenced in Appendix B.

An archaeological records search was conducted by SCCIC on April 26, 2017. The results show that no cultural resources have been recorded on the project area or within ½ mile radius of the project area. Only one archaeological study has been performed within the project site boundaries, but only on a small portion of the property. 13 reports and studies have been previously conducted within a ½ mile radius of the property. According to the Historic Map Review, The San Antonio, CA (1903, 1942) 1:62,500 scale historic maps indicate that in 1903 there were some improved roads present. In 1942, one paved road, four buildings and several undeveloped roads were present within the search radius. The Yucca Inn was located very near the project area. As a result, SCCIC recommends that a halt-work condition should be in place for all ground disturbing activities.

### **Field Survey**

During the field survey, Ms. Landa carefully inspected the project site for the presence of any cultural resources, including historic, prehistoric, or historical buildings. No cultural resources were identified within the boundaries of the site. One hundred percent of the project site was inspected during field investigations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

This cultural study was completed pursuant to CEQA. The records search and field survey did not identify any cultural resources, including historic or prehistoric archaeological sites or historic-period buildings, within the project site boundaries. Record search results show that one previous survey has been conducted over a small portion of the project area. The entire project site was not systematically surveyed. A halt-work condition should be in place for all ground

disturbing activities. If previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

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



## REFERENCES

Antevs, E.

- 1953 On Division of the Last 20,000 Years. *University of California Archaeological Survey Reports 22: 5-8*. Berkeley.

Bean, L. J., and C.R. Smith

- 1978 Serrano. In *Handbook of North American Indians, Vol 8: California: 570-574*. R.F. Heizer, ed. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution.

Bean, Lowell John, Sylvia Brakke Vane, and Jackson Young

- 1981 The Ivanpah Generating Station Project: Ethnographic (Native American) Resources. On file at San Bernardino Archaeological Information Center SBCM, Redlands, CA.

Beattie, George W., and Helen P. Beattie

- 1974 *Heritage of the Valley: San Bernardino's First Century*. Biobooks: Oakland.

Beck, Warren A., and Ynez D. Haase

- 1974 *Historical Atlas of California*. Oklahoma City: University of Oklahoma Press.

Kroeber, Alfred L.

- 1925 *Handbook of the Indians of California*. Washington: Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 78. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution. Reprinted in 1976, New York: Dover.

Kyle, D.E.

- 1990 *Historic Spots in California*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Moratto, M.J.

- 1984 *California Archaeology*. Orlando: Academic Press.

Reynolds, R.E.

- 1988 *Paleontologic Resource Overview and Management Plan for Edwards Air Force Base, California*. San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands, California.

Schuiling, Walter C.

- 1984 *San Bernardino County: Land of Contrasts*. Windsor Publications, Woodland Hills, California.

Van Devender, Larry M., Gary L. Shumway, and Russell D. Hartill

- 1987 *Desert Fever: An Overview of Mining in the California Desert*. Living West Press, Canoga Park, California.

Warren, Claude N.

1984 The Desert Region. In *California Archaeology*, by M. Moratto, contributions by D.A. Fredrickson, C. Raven, and C.N. Warren, pp. 339-430. Academic Press, Orlando, Florida.

Warren, Claude N., and R.H. Crabtree

1986 *The Prehistory of the Southwestern Great Basin*. In *Handbook of the North American Indians*, Vol. 11, Great Basin, edited by W.L. d'Azevedo, pp.183-193. W.C. Sturtevant, General Editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

Williams, Patricia, Leah Messinger, Sarah Johnson

2008 *Habitats Alive! An Ecological Guide to California's Diverse Habitats*. California Institute for Biodiversity, Claremont, California.