

December 27, 2017

Randy Arnold, President
RCA Associates, Inc.
15555 Main St. #D4-235
Hesperia, CA 92345

Subject: Cultural/Paleontological Resource Assessment for the Route 66 Market and Gas Project (APN 0467-101-12), Located at 26426 National Trails Highway, Helendale, County of San Bernardino, California (DUKECRM Project C-0237)

Dear Mr. Arnold;

Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC (DUKECRM) is under contract to perform a cultural resources assessment of the proposed Route 66 Market and Gas Project (Project), located at 26426 National Trails Highway in Helendale, San Bernardino County, California. This report has been prepared to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Project is situated at the southwest corner of National Trails Highway and Vista Road, in the unincorporated community of Helendale in Section 5, Township 7 North, Range 4 West, Lot 2 of San Bernardino County, as depicted on the USGS *Helendale, California 7.5"* quadrangle map (see Attachment 1 for Project Vicinity, Location, and Aerial maps). The Project is comprised of 1.72 acres of vacant land, as shown on Book 467, page 10 in the Office of the County Recorder of San Bernardino County. The Project proposes development of a gas station with a total of six pumps; a 4,998 square foot convenience store/fast food facility with a Type 21 liquor license, tobacco, and propane sales; and associated entrances, parking, lighting, sidewalks, signage, and landscaping.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Record Search

A records search was performed at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) on October 9, 2017, by Archaeologist Matthew Stever, M.A., RPA. The results of the records search indicate that the Project has not been previously surveyed. There have been nine cultural resources studies conducted within a one-mile radius of the Project. They include three linear surveys, five small surveys (approximately 10 acres or less), and one large survey (more than 50 acres). In total, less than 20% of the one mile radius has been surveyed for cultural resources. Table 1 presents eight of the nine cultural resource studies within one mile of the Project. The report omitted from the table was single power pole replacement reports with negative results approximately .8 miles north of the project.

The results of the record search indicate there are no cultural resources recorded within the Project. However, there are four resources within one mile of the Project. CA-SBR-3033/H includes the (prehistoric) Old Mojave Trail or Road, and historic Old Government Road, .5 miles west of the project. It is unknown if CA-SBR-3033/H has been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR). CA-SBR-6693H, is located west of the Project and it is the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF) Railroad. Due to its length, various segments of the AT&SF has been evaluated for listing on the NRHP/CRHR and have been ineligible, while other segments have been found eligible for listing. It is unknown if the segment closest to the Project has been evaluated.

Table 1. Cultural Resource Studies within One Mile of the Project

Report No.	Year	Author	Affiliation	Title	Resources reported on in current Project
SB-00078	1967	Walker, Clifford E.	San Bernardino County Museum Association	Life and Adventure Along the Mojave River Trail	36-003033
SB-01327	1982	Sutton, Mark	Author	M.J. Baxter Explosives Storage Site	None
SB-01734	1987	Shackley, Steven, et al.	Dames and Moore	Cultural and Paleontological Resources Survey: US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project, Rialto, California to Las Vegas, Nevada.	None
SB-01758	1988	De Munck, Victor	Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Associates	Environmental Impact Evaluation: A Cultural Resource Assessment of 11.70 Acres of Land Designated as Assessor's Parcel No. 467-142-12 in Vicinity of Helendale, San Bernardino County, California	None
SB-04247	1997	Lerch, Michael	M. K. Lerch and Associates	Cultural Resources Inventory & Evaluation of the P&V Enterprises Phase V Land Exchange, Barstow, San Bernardino County, CA.	36-008702
SB-05055	1998	Lerch, Michael	M.K. Lerch and Associates	Reach 1B, 2, 3A Addendum: Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation of the Mojave River Pipeline Project, Phelan to Minneola, San Bernardino County, California	None
SB-5433	2006	Jordan, Stacey	Jones & Stokes	Archaeological Survey Report for the Southern California Edison Company New Circuit DSP-Daylight O/O Helendale Substation, San Bernardino County, California. (WO#6073-5321, AI36-5312)	None
SB-07283	2012	Underbrink, Susan	TRC	Class III Cultural Resource Survey for BNSF Railway 2013 Bridge Renewal Project, San Bernardino County, CA	None

Site CA-SBR-8702 was recorded as a stone circle and associated surface artifacts, and is located approximately .8 miles south of the Project. CA-SBR-8702 was determined to not be eligible for listing upon the NRHP. P-1518-2, located approximately one mile north of the project, was recorded as a prehistoric village site in 1939, and reported destroyed or built over by 1973, and could not be relocated in 2002 (Estes 2002). The recording of this site has been inconsistent and therefore the actual location is largely unknown.

Though outside the one mile radius, nine prehistoric resources are located just over one mile to the south near CA-SBR-8702. These sites consist primarily of lithic scatters, though rock cairns and a trail is present. None of these resources is listed on the NRHP or CRHR, nor are they listed in the Historic Properties Directory for San Bernardino County.

While not listed at the SCCIC as a resource upon the Helendale Quadrangle Map, the Project abuts CA-SBR-2910H, the National Old Trails Highway/U.S. Highway 66/Route 66. This famous road runs nearly 300 miles through California (Bischoff 2005) and is both eligible for and listed on, the NRHP and CRHR (Roland et al. 2011). A letter report dated July, 2016, evaluates the section of National Trails Highway immediately north of the Project due to the repair of washouts along the roadway (Hatheway 2016) and summarizes three previous NRHP and CRHR eligibility determinations have been made for CA-SBR-2910H. See Table 2 below for an accounting of resources within one mile.

Table 2: Cultural Resources Within One Mile of Project

Primary #	Description	Distance
P-1518-2	Prehistoric Village Site	~1-mile, north
CA-SBR-2910H	National Trails Highway/Route 66	Adjacent, east

Primary #	Description	Distance
CA-SBR-3033/H	Old Mojave Trail/Old Government Road	~1/2-mile, west
CA-SBR-6693H	Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF) Railroad	~1/4-mile, west
CA-SBR-8702	Prehistoric Stone Circle and Associated Surface Artifacts	~3/4 mile, south

Historic Aerial Photographs

A review of historic aerial photographs, dating to 1952, show the soils within the Project have been disturbed, likely by vegetation control disking or grubbing. A small structure appears on the property in the 1968 photograph at the same time as, and likely associated with, the buildings immediately west of the Project (Historicaerials.com 2017). This is likely the shed that is currently standing on the property. No other structures or features are noted on the property.

Field Survey

A 10 meter transect pedestrian survey of the Project (Figures 1-4 below) was conducted by Mr. Stever on October 13, 2017. The topography is flat, and soils are characterized as Cajon Gravelly Sand, alluvium derived from granitic parent material (USDA-NRCS 2017). Vegetation consisted primarily of scrub juniper, creosote bush, and non-native grasses. The Project appears to have been at least surficially disturbed by vegetation control and/or grading, as well as modern refuse dumping. Surface visibility was excellent at approximately 85%. One resource, seen in historic aerial photographs, was confirmed to be a small shed enclosing a water tank, and was designated site C-0237-001H (see Historic Resource Evaluation section below). No other archaeological or paleontological resources were observed on the surface.



Figure 1: Project overview.



Figure 2: Project overview.



Figure 3: Project overview.



Figure 4: Project overview.

Buried Sites Testing Program

At the request of the lead agency, on the recommendation of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, a limited excavation program was conducted to determine if there are any buried archaeological sites within the project. Six 50 cm by 50 cm Shovel Test Pits (STPs) and six auger holes in the bottom of each STP were excavated on December 12 and 13, 2017 by Field Director Nicholas F. Hearth, M.A., RPA and Archaeologist Mathew Stever M.A., RPA. The purpose of the excavations was to test for the presence or absence of archaeological material, to examine soil stratigraphy and past depositional environments, and to aid in assessing the archaeological sensitivity of the Project. Three STPs and auger locations were based on the Project plan and assumed that the locations of the in-ground fuel tanks, septic vault/drain field, and the physical building footprint would be the areas of deepest earth moving activity. Additionally, three arbitrary locations within proposed parking lot/ paved areas were chosen to ensure adequate coverage of the parcel. The locations of the STPs were recorded using a Spectra Precision Mobile Mapper 20 GPS unit with sub-meter post-processing accuracy.

The STPs were manually excavated using a shovel at each of the six locations (Figure 5 below) and all soils were screened through ¼ inch mesh. Each STP was given a consecutive number (STP's 1-6), and each was 50cm x 50 cm in size to a maximum of 1 meter deep. The STPs were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels, and all levels were excavated using the highest corner of the STP as an arbitrary datum to record depth below ground surface. No cultural artifacts or features were encountered in the STPs.

Additionally, due to the estimated depths of Project excavation, a three inch diameter, manually operated auger was used to bore a hole in the bottom of each STP (Figure 6 below), and attempted to reach a depth of 10 ft. below ground surface. The locations of the STPs and augers correlate, so Auger 1 was placed in the bottom of STP 1. A shovel was used to prepare the bottom of each STP for auguring, creating a flat spot for the soil extraction bucket, which was necessary due to the extremely dry, loose nature of the sand falling out of the auger head. The corner of each STP selected for auguring was soaked with water to prevent loose sand from refilling the auger hole. All soil from auguring was screened through ¼" mesh. When a potential impasse was reached with the sand auger head, a dig bar was used to attempt to break up the obstruction, and a standard soil auger head was used to attempt to remove the obstruction before impasse was determined.



Figure 5: DUEC R M personnel excavating STP-6.



Figure 6: DUEC R M personnel excavating AUG-4.

The soil strata profile of each STP was recorded using USDA soil texture descriptions and Munsell colors to gain an understanding of the geomorphology of the Project. Soils were observed during auguring, and any changes were recorded. The STPs and augers were backfilled after excavation was complete and the data were completely recorded. During backfilling, care was taken to not damage the sidewalls. No archaeological or paleontological materials were discovered in any of the STP's or auger holes. Table 2 below presents the locations and depths of the STPs and auguring.

Table 2: STP/Auger Locations, Depths, and Results

STP/ Auger	UTM Location(E/N)	STP Depth (cmbs)	Auger Depth (cmbs)	Soils/Stratigraphy	Cultural Material Present
1	470041/3843377	90	110	Fill soils from surface to 22 cm. A1, 22-29cmbs, medium silty sand with cobbles. 29-90cmbs, fine silty sand with cobbles	No
2	470022/3843344	90	160	Disturbed H1, surface to 45cmbs, , context bad. H2, 45-90cmbs, medium-fine sandy silt with 20% gravels and 5% cobbles	No
3	469997/3843315	75	133	H1, surface to 25cmbs, coarse sandy silt, 10% gravels H2, 25-47cmbs fine silty sand, 3% gravels. H3, 47-75cmbs, coarse silty sand, 3% gravels.	No
4	470045/3843356	90	190	H1, Surface to 50cmbs, Medium coarse sand with minor silt. 20% gravels, cobbles increasing with depth and poorly developed silt lensing. H2, 50-90cmbs, Medium sand with trace silt and 20% gravels and cobbles	No
5	470058/3843333	90	200	H1, Surface to 34cmbs, medium silty sand, 20% gravel and cobbles, and with poorly developed silt lensing and a weak transition to H2. H2, 34-90cmbs, Medium sand with 20% gravel and cobbles, massive.	No
6	470045/3843310	63	133	H1, Surface to 50cmbs, silty sand with grit and 10% gravel and cobbles. Poorly defined lensing of gravels. H2, 50-63cmbs, fine silty sand with same contents as H1.	No

*cm bs = centimeters below ground surface

Historic Resource Evaluation

The historic shed discovered on-site was given a temporary site number: C-0237-001H. This resource was recorded and evaluated for the CRHR/NRHP by Dana Supernowicz, M.A. RPA. Site C-0237-001H consists of a single-story, wood or stick-frame, gabled roof shed used to shelter a well and pump, see Figures 7 and 8 below. The structure measures approximately 8' x 10' with a 9' high roof plate. The shed rests on a poured concrete footing or stem wall foundation. Besides the simple rectangular shape or massing and gable roof clad with wood sheathing (presumably the shed had a tin or asphalt shingle roof), other character defining features include a small gable vent at the apex or ridgeline of the roof, v-groove wood exterior wall cladding, a wooden paneled door, and a simple rectangular window on one gable end, lacking the window frame and glass. The interior of the shed features a galvanized steel water tank and other miscellaneous material related to the tank. The interior walls are not sheathed and appear to be 1" x 6" framing. Immediately adjacent to the shed is a chain link fence and a remodeled circa 1960s California Ranch style residence beyond the fence.



Figure 7: C-0237-001H overview southwest.



Figure 8: C-0237-001H overview northwest.

Despite the fact that the subject property retains relatively good integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the subject property does not appear to be eligible for the NRHP nor CRHR. This finding is based largely upon the property's overall lack of association with the National Trails Highway during its primary period of use, and, ultimately, significance to the motoring public. Nor does the property have direct association with the Small Tracts Act of 1938. Although the property was once likely associated with 15401 Vista Road, this association is diminished, due to a parcel split and a variety of contemporary improvements to the Vista Road property. The pump house shed likely served the Vista

Road property at one time, but was subsequently abandoned. In regards to NRHP Criterion D and CRHR Criterion 4, no evidence was found to support a finding that the property contains archaeological data of significance. Please see Attachment 3 for the complete evaluation on California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Forms.

PALEONTOLOGY

The geology in the vicinity of the Project has been mapped by Dibblee and Minch (2008) at a scale of 1:62,500. A review of this map indicated that the Project is located on surficial sediments (*Qa*) of the Holocene Epoch (11,700 years ago to today), specifically alluvial silt, sand, and gravel of valley areas derived from adjacent higher ground (Dibblee and Minch 2008). Because of their young age, Holocene-age deposits have not accumulated enough biological material to contain significant paleontological resources, and are assigned a low sensitivity at the surface. However, Holocene-age deposits can transition with depth into older deposits of the Pleistocene Epoch (2.5 million years ago to 11,700 years ago), which would have a higher sensitivity. A records search by the Division of Earth Sciences of the San Bernardino County Museum revealed no documented fossil localities within the Project boundaries or within several miles in any direction (Gilbert 2017). Paleontologist Benjamin Scherzer, M.S., also performed a search of the online collections at the University of California Museum of Paleontology, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the online Paleobiology Database, and other published literature for fossil localities from Pleistocene-age deposits in or near (within 5 miles) the Project. This search produced no fossil localities within the Project, but did produce one fossil locality near the Project which has produced remains of rabbit and hare (*Sylvilagus* sp., *Lepus* sp.), rodent (*Perognathus* sp., *Dipodomys* sp., *Thomomys* sp., *Neotoma* sp.), horned lizard (*Phrynosoma* sp.), and mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) (Jefferson 1989). The surficial sediments (*Qa*) in the Project have a low sensitivity in the shallower levels, but due to the potential to transition at depth into fossiliferous Pleistocene deposits, they are assigned a high sensitivity at depth.

Impacts Analysis and Recommendations

DUKE CRM evaluated the proposed Project for impacts to cultural and paleontological resources according to CEQA. Based on a lack of previously recorded prehistoric archaeological sites in the one mile vicinity, the disturbed nature of the soils from vegetation control, and negative results from field survey and buried sites testing, the likelihood of encountering prehistoric archaeological resources is low. C-0237-001H, a historic shed, is likely associated with the residences immediately west of the Project is not eligible for the CRHR/NRHP. The negative results of the STP's and augers indicate the possibility of historic-aged archaeological deposits are also low. The sensitivity of this Project for archaeological resources is considered low as there is little potential to impact archaeological resources.

The Project plans alterations along the frontage of National Trails Highway/Route 66 (CA-SBR-2910H), which is considered eligible for the CRHR/NRHP. These alterations include a 40-foot-wide driveway entrance and sidewalk, curb, and gutter on either side of the driveway. These alterations will likely not require removal of portions of the existing National Trails Highway/Route 66. However, they will change the setting and character of the National Trails Highway/Route 66 along the project. This change to the setting is considered minor and not significant as it does change eligibility of the National Trails Highway/Route 66; it is still considered eligible for the NRHP/CRHR. Due to the disturbed nature of the soils, the negative results of subsurface testing, and the minimal impact to Route 66, DUKE CRM does not recommend archaeological monitoring of the Project, and recommends that the Project will have no significant impacts on cultural resources. If previously unidentified cultural materials are un-earthed during ground disturbing activity, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and make recommendations.

Based on the results of the Paleontological Record Search, the sensitivity for paleontological resources is low in surficial sediments; however, the sensitivity can increase at depth to high. This would be considered a potential significant impact. In order to mitigate this potential impact to a level that is less than significant under CEQA, DUKE CRM recommends paleontological monitoring as described below:

- a. The applicant shall retain a San Bernardino County qualified paleontologist who meets County's requirements for paleontologists.
- b. The qualified paleontologist shall be on-site at the pre-construction meeting to discuss monitoring protocols.
- c. A paleontological monitor, working under the direct supervision of the qualified paleontologist, shall be on-site to observe ground disturbing activities below 6 feet in depth from the surface. If no paleontological resources are observed after 50 percent of ground disturbance is complete, paleontological monitoring may be reduced to part-time or spot-checks.
- d. The paleontological monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect excavation efforts if paleontological resources are discovered.
- e. In the event of a paleontological discovery the monitor shall flag the area and notify the construction crew immediately. No further disturbance in the flagged area shall occur until the qualified paleontologist has cleared the area.
- f. The qualified paleontologist shall quickly assess the nature and significance of the find. If the specimen is not significant it shall be quickly removed and the area shall be cleared.
- g. If the discovery is significant the qualified paleontologist shall notify the applicant and the County immediately.
- h. In consultation with the applicant and the County the paleontologist shall develop a plan of mitigation which will likely include salvage excavation and removal of the find, removal of sediment from around the specimen (in the laboratory), research to identify and categorize the find, curation of the find in a local qualified repository, and preparation of a report summarizing the find.

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

Thank you for contacting DUKE C R M on this request. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact DUKE C R M at (949) 356-6660 or by e-mail at mattstever@dukecrm.com.

Sincerely,

DUKE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC



Matthew Stever, M.A. RPA
Archaeologist

Attachment 1: Project Maps
Attachment 2: STP Map
Attachment 3: DPR 523 Form

REFERENCES CITED

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1989 Late Pleistocene and Earliest Holocene Fossil Localities and Vertebrate Taxa from the Western Mojave Desert, in, R.E. Reynolds, ed., *The West-central Mojave Desert: Quaternary Studies Between Kramer and Afton Canyon*, Special Publication, San Bernardino County Museum Association, Redlands, California, p. 27-40.

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USGS (United States Geological Survey)

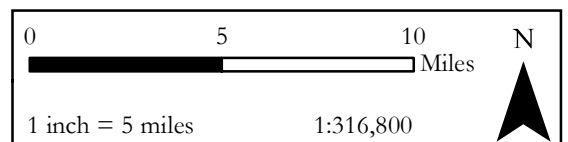
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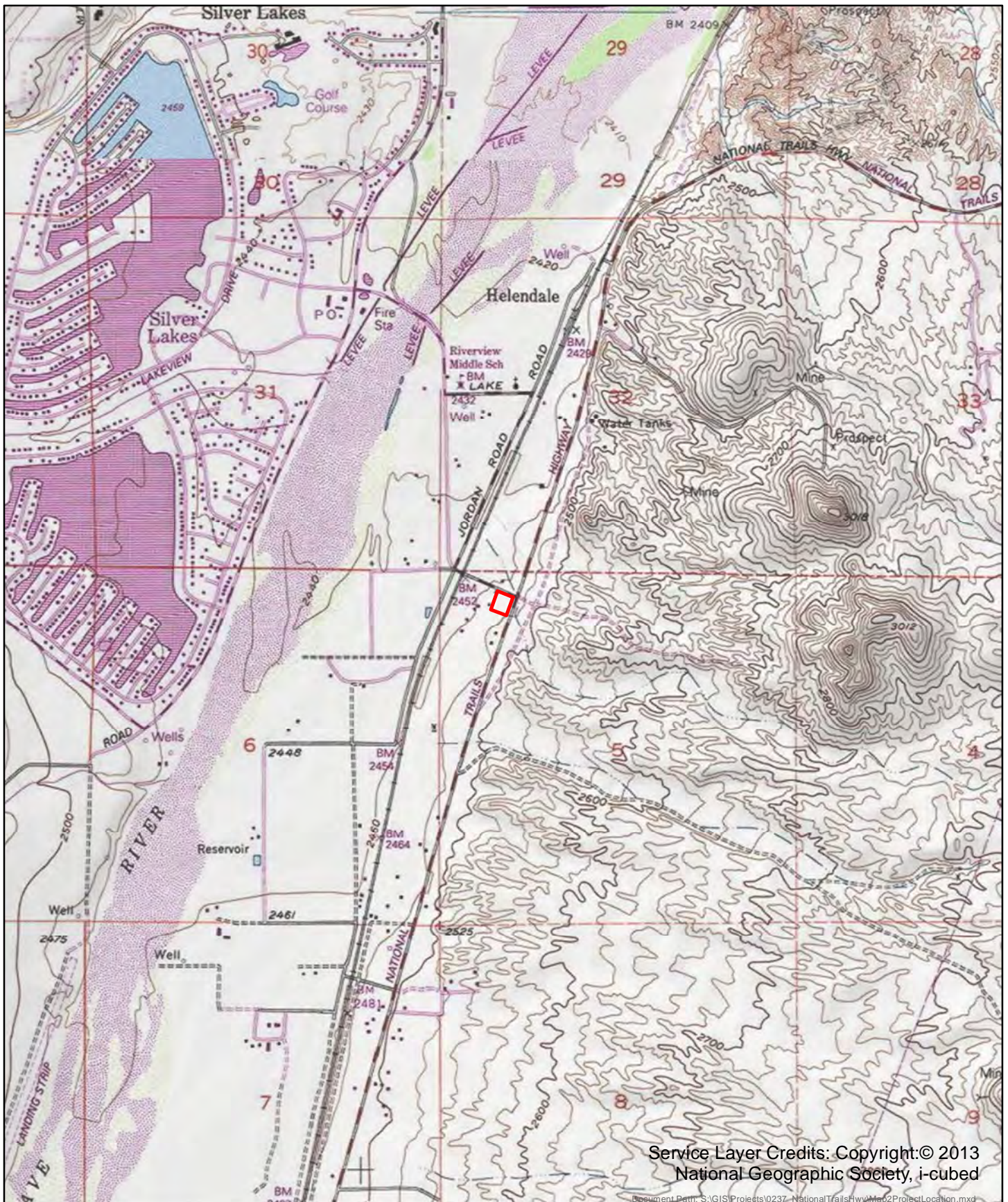
Attachment 1

PROJECT LOCATION, VICINITY, AND AERIAL MAPS



Map 1- Project Vicinity
26426 National Trails Hwy
San Bernardino County





Service Layer Credits: Copyright:© 2013
National Geographic Society, i-cubed

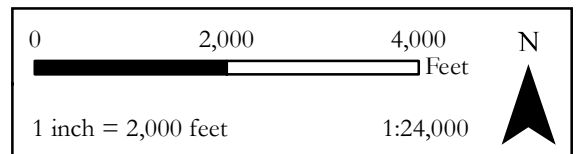
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Map 2- Project Location

26426 National Trails Hwy
San Bernardino County



Project Boundary
Helendale USGS
7.5-Min. Quadrangle
Township 7 N, Range 4 W,
Section 5






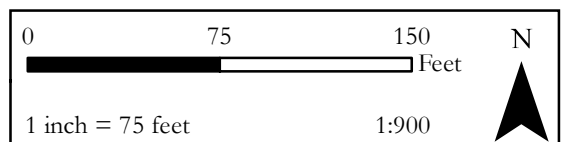
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MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar

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Map 3- Project Aerial
26426 National Trails Hwy
San Bernardino County



 Project Boundary
Helendale USGS
7.5-Min. Quadrangle
Township 7 N, Range 4 W,
Section 5



Attachment 2

STP Location Map



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MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar

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Shovel Test Pit Locations

26426 National Trails Hwy
San Bernardino County



- Shovel Test Pit
- Project Boundary



1 inch = 50 feet

1:595



Attachment 3

DPR 523 Forms



PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code: _____
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

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*Resource Name or #: 26426 National Trails Highway Shed

P1. Other Identifier: APN 046-710-113

*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

*a. County: San Bernardino

*b. USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Helendale, California

c. Address: 26426 National Trails Highway

City: Helendale

Zip: 92342

d. UTM:

e. Other Locational Data (APN #): The subject structure is located in the rear of 26426 National Trails Highway (APN 046-710-112), adjacent to a single-family residential house and commercial property at 15401 Vista Road on a separate parcel (APN 046-710-113).

*P3a. Description: The property consists of a single-story, wood or stick-frame, gabled roof shed used to shelter a well and pump. The structure measures approximately 8' x 10' with a 9' high roof plate. The shed rests on a poured concrete footing or stem wall foundation. Besides the simple rectangular shape or massing and gable roof clad with wood sheathing (presumably the shed had a tin or asphalt shingle roof), other character defining features include a small gable vent at the apex or ridgeline of the roof, v-groove wood exterior wall cladding, a wooden paneled door, and a simple rectangular window on one gable end, lacking the window frame and glass. The interior of the shed features a galvanized steel water tank and other miscellaneous material related to the tank. The interior walls are not sheathed and appear to be 1" x 6" framing. Immediately adjacent to the shed is a chain link fence and a remodeled circa 1960s California Ranch style residence beyond the fence.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP4 - Ancillary building

*P4. Resources Present: ☐ Building ☒ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects).



P5b. Description of Photo: Looking at the shed with the single-family residence behind the shed.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☒ Historic
Circa late-1950s or 1960s.

*P7. Owner and Address:

*P8. Recorded by: Dana E. Supernowicz, Historic Resource Associates, 2001 Sheffield Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762.

*P9. Date Recorded: December 12, 2017

*P10. Type of Survey: ☒ Architectural

Describe: Field Survey

*P11. Report Citation: Architectural Evaluation Study of the 26426 National Trails Highway Project, 26426 National Trails Highway, Helendale, San Bernardino County, CA 92342. Prepared for Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC, 18 Technology Drive, Suite 103, Irvine, CA 92618. Prepared by Historic Resource Associates, 2001 Sheffield Drive, El Dorado Hills, California 95762. December 2017.

*Attachments: Building, Structure, and Object Record; Photograph Record

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 7

*Resource Name or #: 26426 National Trails Highway Shed

NRHP Status Code: 6Z

- B1. Historic Name:** Undetermined
B2. Common Name: Pump House Shed
B3. Original Use: Pump House Shed
B4. Present Use: Abandoned
***B5. Architectural Style:** Vernacular Utilitarian Shed
***B6. Construction History:** Based upon historic maps, aerial photographs, and construction materials, the pump house shed appears to have been either moved to its present location or reconstructed on its current side in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The materials used in the shed structure appear to predate its construction on the current site.
***B7. Moved?** ☐ No ☐ Yes ☒ Unknown **Date:** **Original Location:**
***B8. Related Features:** Single-family remodeled California Ranch style residence, power lines, and chain-link fence.
B9a. Architect: N/A **B9b. Builder:** Undetermined
***B10. Significance: Theme:** Post-World War II Residential/Commercial Development **Area:** Helendale/San Bernardino County
Period of Significance: Late 1950s-early 1960s **Property Type:** Vernacular Utilitarian **Applicable Criteria:** NRHP A, B, C, and D; CRHR 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The subject property is located in Helendale in San Bernardino County. Helendale or Silver Lakes is an unincorporated census-designated community located in the Victor Valley of the Mojave Desert. The town lies along US Route 66/National Trails Highway, west of the Mojave Freeway (I-15), between Barstow and Victorville (USDI, National Park Service 2011). The historic context for the subject property is rooted in the Small Tract Act of 1938 and the modern-era of residential development that occurred in eastern San Bernardino County during the 1950s and 1960s, associated with improved highways and motorized travel.

The Mojave Desert was one of the last places in the "lower 48" where the federal government granted free homesteads to anyone who was willing to improve the land. Five-acre parcels were deeded by the federal government under the Small Tract Act, one of the last of the government's homestead acts. The government's goal was to distribute 457,000 acres of desert that the Bureau of Land Management deemed disposable, most of it in California. By the time the act was repealed in 1976, about 36% of the land was privately owned. The rest is federally protected desert. Under amendments to the act, homesteaders were granted a deed only if they built a structure with dimensions not less than 20.5 No x 27.4 No (12 feet by 16 feet). No water or power was required for the homestead (Republic of Molossia Website 2017). Ironically, many, if not most of the homesteads failed in the first decade, in large part due to a reliable water source.

Based upon historic aerial photographs and topographic maps, between 1952 and 1957 a residential house appears to have been constructed on the adjacent parcel at 15401 Vista Road (APN 046-710-113). By 1968, the subject structure had been built or moved to its present location. By the 1970s, several outbuildings appear on topographic maps and other buildings were moved to different locations, forming the building complex to the west, accessed via Vista Road. Thus far there is no evidence to suggest the subject parcel was developed as part of the Small Parcel Act of 1938, but the impetus for development in this part of the desert was certainly aided by the act (Refer to BSO, Page 3 of 7).

- B11. Additional Resource Attributes:** N/A
B12. References: Feller, Walter. "National Old Trails Highway," <http://digital-desert.com/historic-roads/national-trails.html>, Accessed December 11, 2017; Gudde, Edwin G. *California Place Names*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1969; Hatheway, Roger G. Cultural Resource Compliance Letter/Report: California U.S. Highway 66/National Trails Highway Emergency Washout Repairs, North of Helendale/Vista Road, San Bernardino County, California, 2016; Republic of Molossia Website. Republic of Molossia: Desert Homestead Province and National Monument, www.molossia.org/desert.html, accessed December 11, 2017; USDI, National Park Service. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for US Highway 66 in California, 2011; Hatheway, Roger G. Cultural Resource Compliance Letter/Report: California U.S. Highway 66/National Trails Highway Emergency Washout Repairs, North of Helendale/Vista Road, San Bernardino County, California, 2016.
B13. Remarks:
B14. Evaluator: Dana E. Supernowicz, Architectural Historian, 2001 Sheffield Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
Date of Evaluation: December 12, 2017

(This space reserved for official comments.)

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

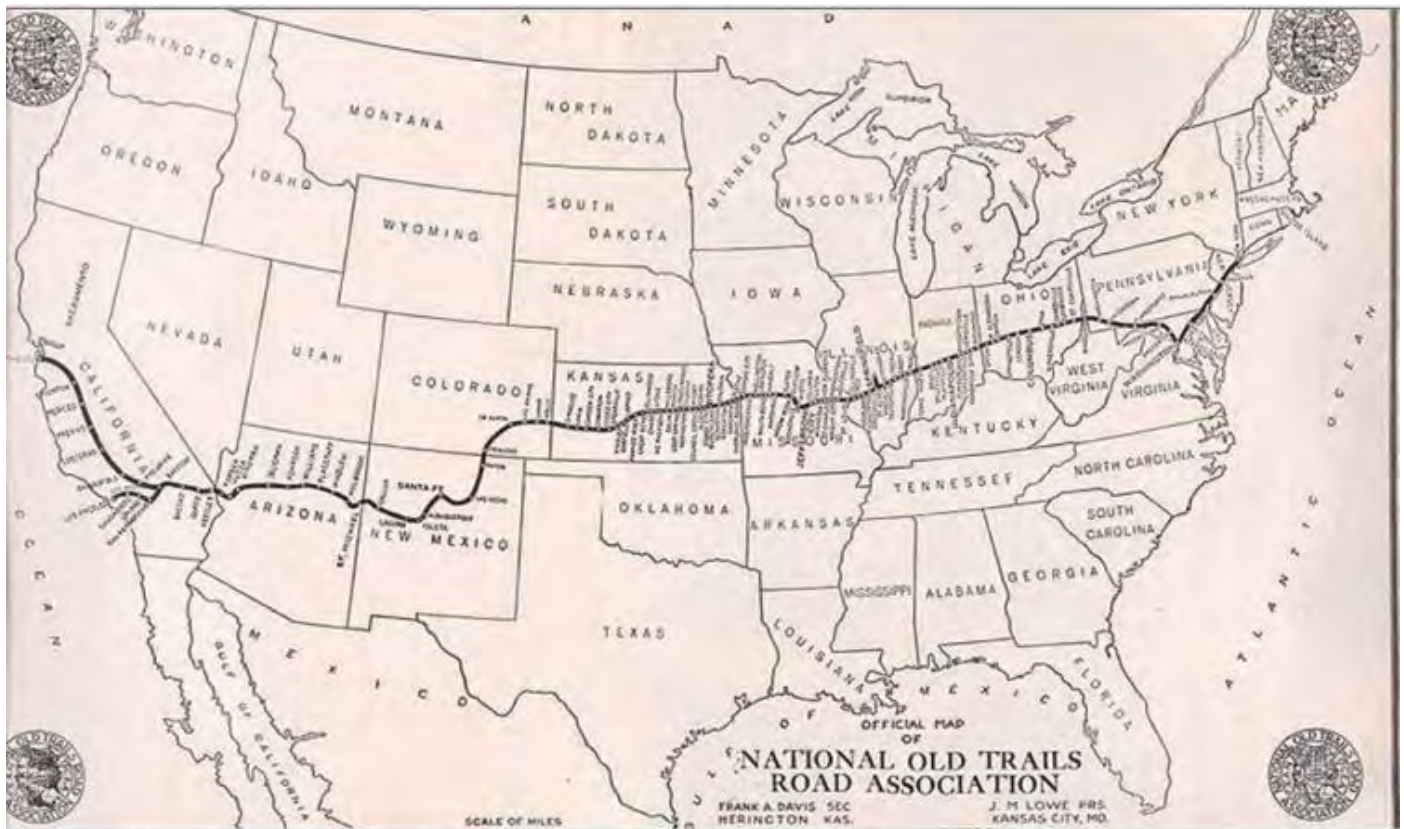
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*Resource Name or #: 26426 National Trails Highway Shed

NRHP Status Code: 6Z

***B10. Significance: (Continued):**

As previously noted another historic context associated with the subject property is transportation. Immediately east of the property is the National Trails Highway. Present-day Interstate 40 roughly follows the route of U.S. Highway 66, John Steinbeck's famous "mother road." The route developed initially as cross-desert motorists drove as close as possible to the Santa Fe Railway tracks, because the presence of settlements along the line made it easier to obtain supplies and help if needed. The alignment eventually became known as the "National Old Trails Road," or today as the National Trails Highway. The Automobile Club of Southern California placed signs along its route from Los Angeles to Kansas City in 1914 and produced maps of the road for motorists and to promote its use (Hatheway 2016).



Map of the National Old Trails Highway (www.cityprofiles.com).

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

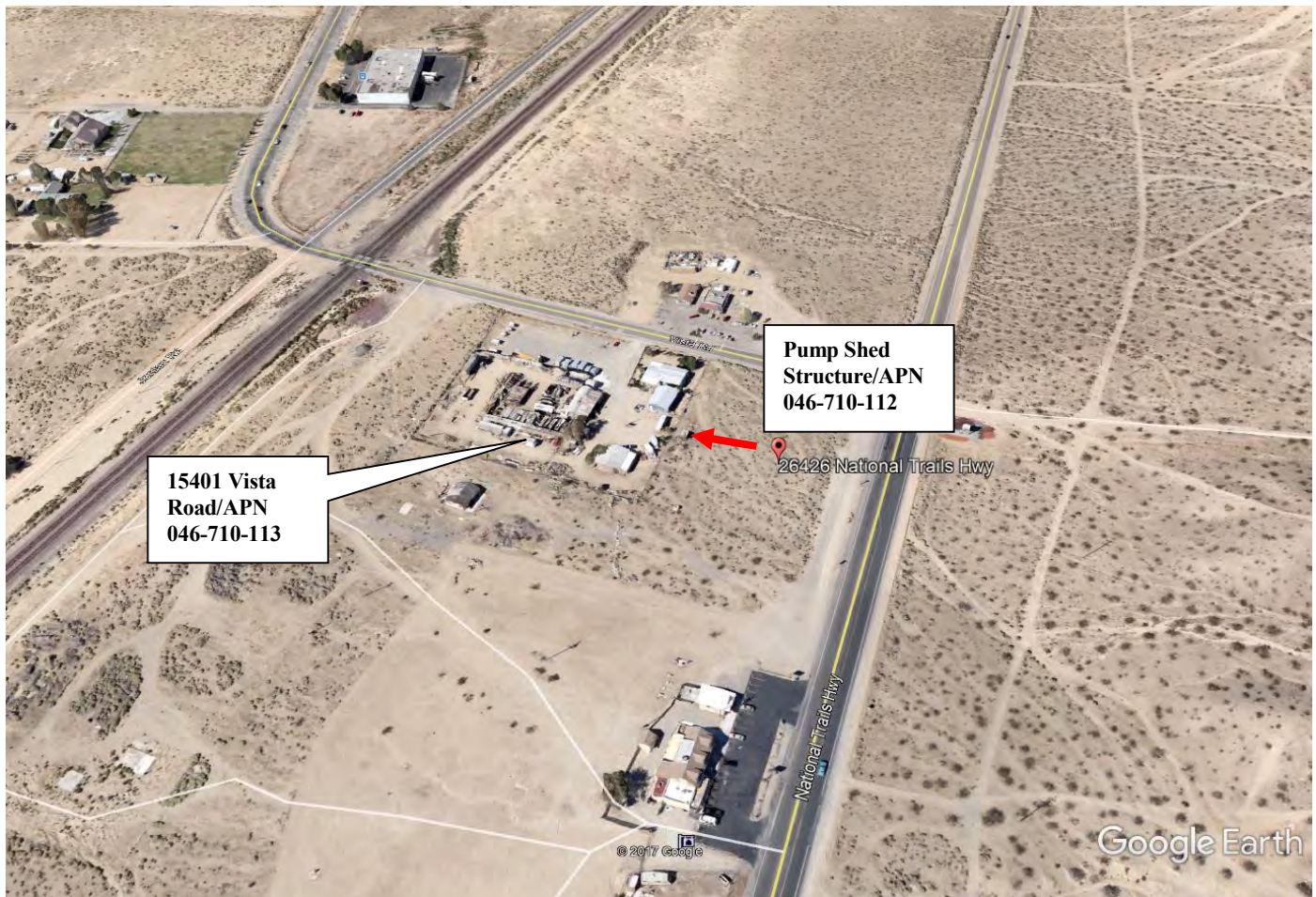
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*Resource Name or #: 26426 National Trails Highway Shed

NRHP Status Code: 6Z

***B10. Significance: (Continued):**

The route was designated U.S. Highway 66 in 1926, and paving through the Mohave Desert was completed in 1931 by state agencies, assisted by federal funds. The road was realigned several times; the initial route through Fenner and Goffs was bypassed in 1931 by a shorter route with a steeper grade. The federal government passed legislation in 1956 that called for the construction of a system of limited access, high speed, multiple lane interstate highways, which ultimately resulted in the construction of Interstate 40 that bypassed much of the National Old Trails Highway, which garnered its present name after 1985. Nostalgia for Route 66 has increased as the convenience and speed of the interstates has become a fixed part of American culture, and desert towns near the Mojave Preserve like Needles, Goffs, Essex, Amboy, and Barstow count Route 66-related tourism as a significant economic engine (Feller 2017).



Aerial Photograph 2017 (Google Earth).
The red arrow points to the subject property.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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*Resource Name or #: 26426 National Trails Highway Shed

NRHP Status Code: 6Z

***B10. Significance: (Continued):**

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The subject property was evaluated for the National Register and for the California Register of Historic Resources.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria

Criterion A: Event

Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Criterion B: Person

Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Criterion C: Design/Construction

Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Criterion D: Information Potential

Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

As the National Register points out, “when evaluated within its historic context, a property must be shown to be significant for one or more of the four Criteria for Evaluation - A, B, C, or D.” The rationale for judging a property's significance and, ultimately, its eligibility under the Criteria is its historic context and integrity. The use of historic context allows a property to be properly evaluated in a variety of ways. The key to determining whether the characteristics or associations of a particular property are significant is to consider the property within its proper historic context (USDI, National Park Service. n.d.).

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) Criteria

The regulatory framework for this historic resource evaluation lies within the guidelines imposed for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) under Public Resources Code section 5024.1. CEQA guidelines define a significant cultural resource as “a resource listed in or eligible for listing on the CRHR. A historical resource may be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR if it:

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, represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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*Resource Name or #: 26426 National Trails Highway Shed

NRHP Status Code: 6Z

*B10. Significance: (Continued):

Even if a resource is not listed in, or determined eligible for listing in, the CRHR, the lead agency may consider the resource to be an "historical resource" for the purposes of CEQA provided that the lead agency determination is supported by substantial evidence (CEQA Guidelines 14 CCR 15064.5). According to the state guidelines, a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource or a unique archaeological resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15064.5[b]). CEQA further states that a substantial adverse change in the significance of a resource means the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired. Actions that would materially impair the significance of a historical resource are any actions that would demolish or adversely alter those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR or in a local register or survey that meet the requirements of PRC 5020.1(k) and 5024.1(g).

In addition, the resource must retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Factors to be considered include:

- a. a structure removed from its original location is eligible if it is significant primarily for its architectural value or it is the most important surviving structure associated with a historic person or event; and
- b. a birthplace or grave is eligible if it is that of a historical figure of outstanding importance and there is no other appropriate site or structure directly associated with his or her productive life.
- c. a reconstructed building is eligible if the reconstruction is historically accurate, if the structure is presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan; and if no other, original structure survives that has the same association.
- d. properties that are primarily commemorative in intent are eligible if design, age, tradition or symbolic value invest such properties with their own historical significance.
- e. properties achieving significance within the past fifty (50) years are eligible if such properties are of exceptional importance.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The subject property, a modest wood or stick frame shed appears to have been reconstructed or moved to its present location in the late-1950s or most likely 1960s, when various improvements were made to 15401 Vista Road, a residential/commercial property located immediately to the west. It is also likely the two parcels were at one time combined in a larger parcel. The construction of the tank house shed appears to predate the other improvements on the adjacent parcel, providing additional evidence it was either reconstructed on the site or moved to its present location. The fact that the shed has a rather contemporary poured stem wall footing or foundation seems to confirm its relatively recent construction or reconstruction on the current site.

In order for a property to be significant under any criteria, it must retain integrity. The National Park Service, along with state and local agencies, define integrity as retaining location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In applying the definition of integrity to the subject property, the following findings are made below:

Location - The subject property retains its original location since the late 1950s or early 1960s, but may have moved to the present site from another nearby location or rebuilt on its present location.

Design - The subject property retains its original design, however, it is in extremely poor condition and the window frame and glass are missing, as is roof cladding.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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*Resource Name or #: 26426 National Trails Highway Shed

NRHP Status Code: 6Z

***B10. Significance: (Continued):**

Setting - The setting of the property is largely intact, although the adjacent property has been modernized and expanded with new buildings and structures since the 1970s.

Materials – The structure retains most of its original materials, although in poor condition, with the exception of roof cladding and the only window in the building.

Workmanship - The workmanship of the structure is rudimentary or utilitarian, which is expected for a structure of this type and function.

Feeling - The feeling of the property is diminished, due to modernization of the nearby residence and business.

Association - The property's association has dramatically diminished, due to numerous alterations to the property to the west along Vista Road. Its association with the National Trails Highway remains the same.

APPLICATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

In summary, despite the fact that the subject property retains relatively good integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the subject property does not appear to be eligible for the NRHP nor CRHR, under any of the aforementioned criteria. This finding is based largely upon the property's overall lack of association with the National Trails Highway during its primary period of use, and, ultimately, significance to the motoring public.

Nor does the property have direct association with the Small Tracts Act of 1938. Although the property was once likely associated with 15401 Vista Road, this association is diminished, due to a parcel split and a variety of contemporary improvements to the Vista Road property. The pump house shed likely served the Vista Road property at one time, but was subsequently abandoned. In regards to NRHP Criterion D and CRHR Criterion 4, no evidence was found to support a finding that the property contains archaeological data of significance.