



December 10, 2015

Mr. Ravi Grewal
C/O Ms. Nono Khosa
P.O. Box 729
Baker, California 92309

RE: Cultural Resources Survey for a Proposed Mini Truck Stop Development on Afton Canyon Road, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Mr. Grewal:

At the request of Mr. Ravi Grewal, ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM) conducted a Class III BLM-type intensive pedestrian cultural resource survey for a proposed Mini Truck Stop Development on Afton Canyon Road, San Bernardino County, California (Figure 1). The proposed development consists of constructing multiple structural buildings over approximately 3.41 acres, including an auto fuel canopy, a truck fuel canopy, a one-story truck stop building (including retail space, lounge, laundry, office, kitchen, storage, fast food restaurant, etc.), a one-story auto repair shop with a canopy (including an office), an RV dump, two loading zones, 103 associated parking spaces, and landscaping. In addition to the structural features, a car impound lot is proposed to be located on the southern project area over 2.49 acres, and a vacant lot is proposed along the northeastern project over 1.1 acres (Figure 2).

The objective of the Class III BLM-type survey is to identify and record, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural materials within the undertaking's area of potential effect (APE) for the purpose of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, and the California Environmental Quality Act. Property involved with the proposed development is privately owned and located at 45101 Afton Canyon Road, Baker, California 92309. Specifically, the project area is situated within portions of assessor parcel number (APN) 0542-131-54 and is illustrated on the Dunn, CA, 7.5-minute USGS topographic map in San Bernardino Meridian: T11N, R05E, Section 1 NW ¼, SW ¼, SW ¼ and SW ¼, NW ¼, SW ¼ (Figure 3).

Prior to the field investigations, ASM requested a records search from the South Coastal Information Center on November 2, 2015, in order to identify previously recorded cultural resources and projects within a 1-mile (mi.) radius of the proposed project area. This search was performed by Ms. Lindsey Noyes of the California Historical Resources Information System and was received by ASM on November 23, 2015. The search revealed that 11 cultural resource projects have been previously performed within a 1-mi. radius of the project area resulting in the recording of four cultural resource sites. None of the previously identified cultural resources are located within the defined project area. Tables 1 and 2 list the previously identified cultural resource projects and sites identified as a result of the record search.

Table 1. Previously Conducted Cultural Resource Projects within 1-Mile Radius of Project Area

NADB No.	Author(s)	Date	Title
1060038	Simpson, Ruth D.	1958	<i>The Manix Lake Archaeological Survey</i>
1060046	Grosscup, Gordon L. and Jack E. Smith	1960	<i>Mohave Desert Pipeline Survey</i>
1060047	Simpson, Ruth D.	1960	<i>Archaeological Survey of the Eastern Calico Mountains</i>
1062330	Simpson, Ruth Deette	1964	<i>The Archaeological Survey of Pleistocene Manix Lake (and Early Lithic Horizon)</i>
1061228	Jefferson, George T., Jeffery R. Keaton, and Patrick Hamilton	1982	<i>Manix Lake and The Manix Fault Field Trip Guide to Selected Geomorphic, Stratigraphic, and Structural Features</i>
1062167	Taylor, Thomas T.	1986	<i>Archaeological Survey Report: Talc and Hector 12 KV Distribution Line Right of Ways, San Bernardino County, California</i>
1061734	Shackley, M. Steven, Rebecca McCorkle Apple, Jan Wooley, and Robert E. Reynolds	1987	<i>Cultural and Paleontological Resources Survey: US Spring Fibert Optic Cable Project, Rialto, California to Las Vegas, Nevada</i>
1061820	Peak & Associates, Inc.	1988	<i>Cultural Resource Survey and Clearance for Re-Routed Portions of the Proposed American Telephone and Telegraph Las Vegas to San Bernardino Fiber Optics Communication Route</i>
1062677	Turner, Wilson G.	1992	<i>Final Report on Cultural Use Permit CA-901906</i>
1062771	Macko, Michael E.	1993	<i>Results of an Intensive Archaeological Survey of Two AT&T Fiber Optic Regenerator Sites, FT-6W-LSVG (Afton) & FT-3W-LSVG (Wheaton Spring), San Bernardino County, CA</i>
1067352	Bryson, Luz Ramirez	2007	<i>Archaeological Investigations Along the Northern Side of Interstate 15 Between Afton Canyon Way and Minneola Road in San Bernardino County, California</i>

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within 1-Mile Radius of Project Area

Resource No.	Description	NRHP* Eligibility Status	Within Project Area
CA-SBR-5329 P-36-005329	Lithic Scatter	Unevaluated	No
CA-SBR-7401 P-36-007401	Lithic Scatter	Determined Not Eligible 12/17/1993	No
CA-SBR-13825/H P-36-021519	Lithic Scatter, Rock Features	Unevaluated	No
IF-88-20 P-36-062496	Isolated debitage	Unevaluated	No

*NRHP: National Register of Historic Places

As the proposed project area is situated on privately owned land, permission to access the land was obtained by Project Principal Investigator Diane L. Winslow, M.A., RPA, prior to conducting fieldwork. The survey was conducted on December 2, 2015, by Julie E. Kramer, B.S., under the direction of Ms. Winslow. Due to the land status, no archaeological permits were required for this project. However, ASM holds both federal and California state archaeological permits for which Ms. Winslow is identified as a Principal Investigator.

For the survey, Ms. Kramer followed a basic methodology developed prior to the start of the project with survey transects spaced at 15-meter (m) intervals. Prior to the start of fieldwork, the project area and previously recorded site locations were plotted on an electronic version of a USGS 7.5-minute topographic map, using NAD 83 UTM coordinates. A Trimble GeoXH GPS unit was used to accurately survey within

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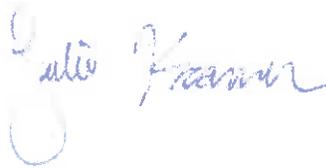
the project area boundaries and map newly discovered cultural resources and modern disturbances. Survey transect positions were tracked with a handheld GeoXH Trimble GPS receiver. The total area surveyed was approximately 7 acres. Visibility during the survey was excellent, with 100 percent of the ground surface visible. Sediment consists of a very light brown sand with pebble- to cobble-sized gravel. Observed vegetation was characteristic of the Mojave Desert plant community and consisted primarily of bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), and very sparse golden cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*) (Photographs 1 and 2).

During the course of the survey a number of modern surface disturbances were observed including a graded dirt road through the northern quadrant of the project area with berms along either side (Photograph 3). The road intersects with Afton Canyon Road at the northwest project area boundary and runs in a gentle west to east curve downslope for approximately 560 feet (170 m) into the project area (Photograph 4). Additionally, portions of the project area have been mechanically bladed, and several push piles are present as a result (Photograph 5). Three rebar stakes with plastic caps stamped '6908/ S7' with upright stakes adjacent to them labeled 'MJC # 113, 114, and 115' were also observed within the project area. Also of note was the presence of copious amounts of modern and sub-modern (1970s' – 2010s') trash (Photograph 6). Observed items include metal pipe fragments, concrete fragments, billboard fragments, milled lumber and wood pallet fragments, nails, rubber tires, various glass bottles and fragments in all colors, plastic bottles, metal and plastic bottle caps, aluminum soda pop, juice, and beer cans, modern ribbed sanitary cans, food wrappings, napkins and other paper materials, plastic utensils, shoes, shoe soles, ceramics, plastic bags, plastic fragments, shot gun shells, lighters, towels, cigarette butts, used diapers, plastic and glass car fragments, and a phone book.

As a result of the survey, the project area was found to be negative for cultural resources. Hence, no further archaeological work is recommended, as no cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed project; therefore, ASM recommends that the project proceed as planned.

Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Julie E. Kramer, B.S.
Associate Archaeologist

Attachments:

Figures 1-3; Photographs 1-6.

FIGURES

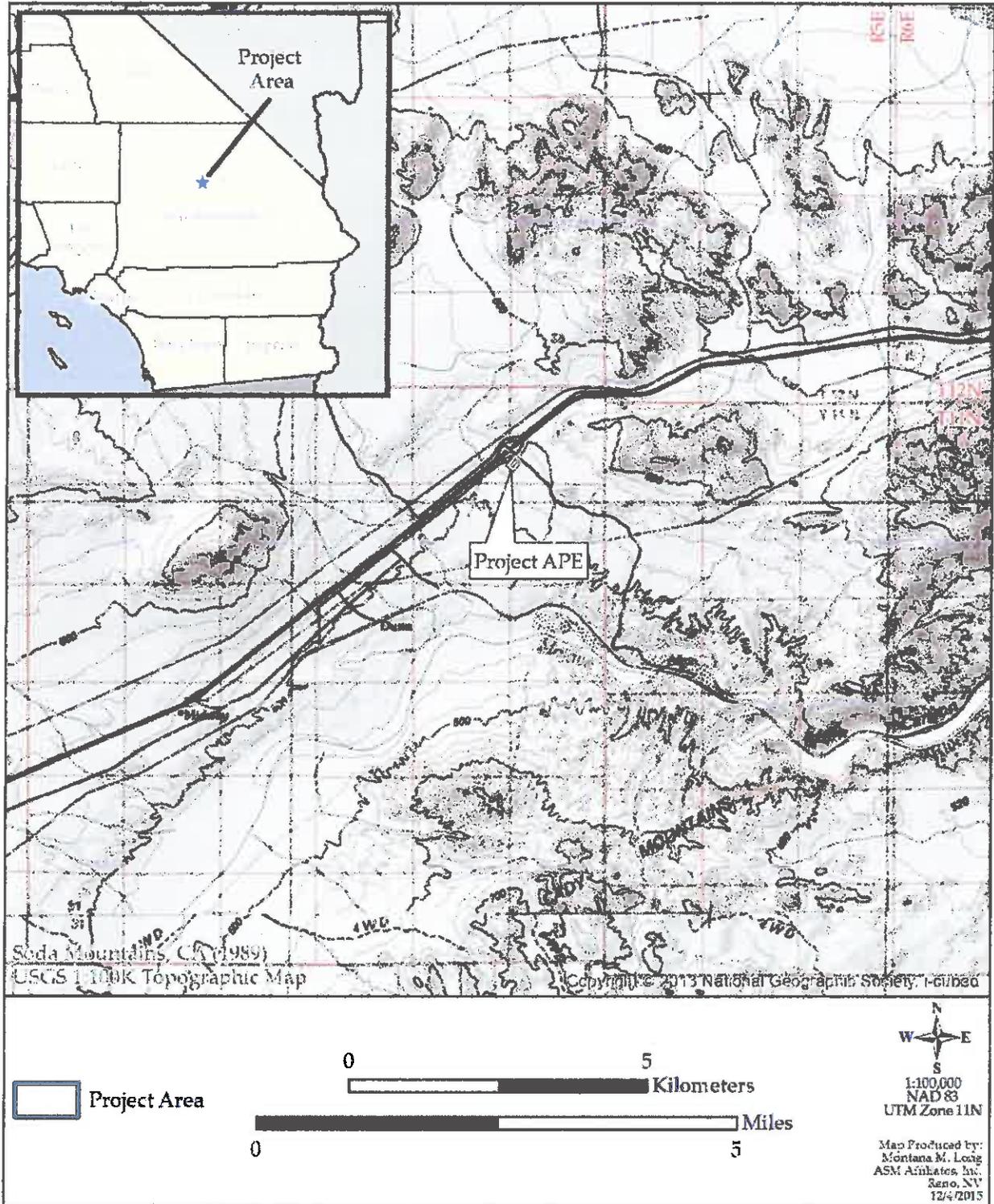


Figure 1. Project vicinity map.

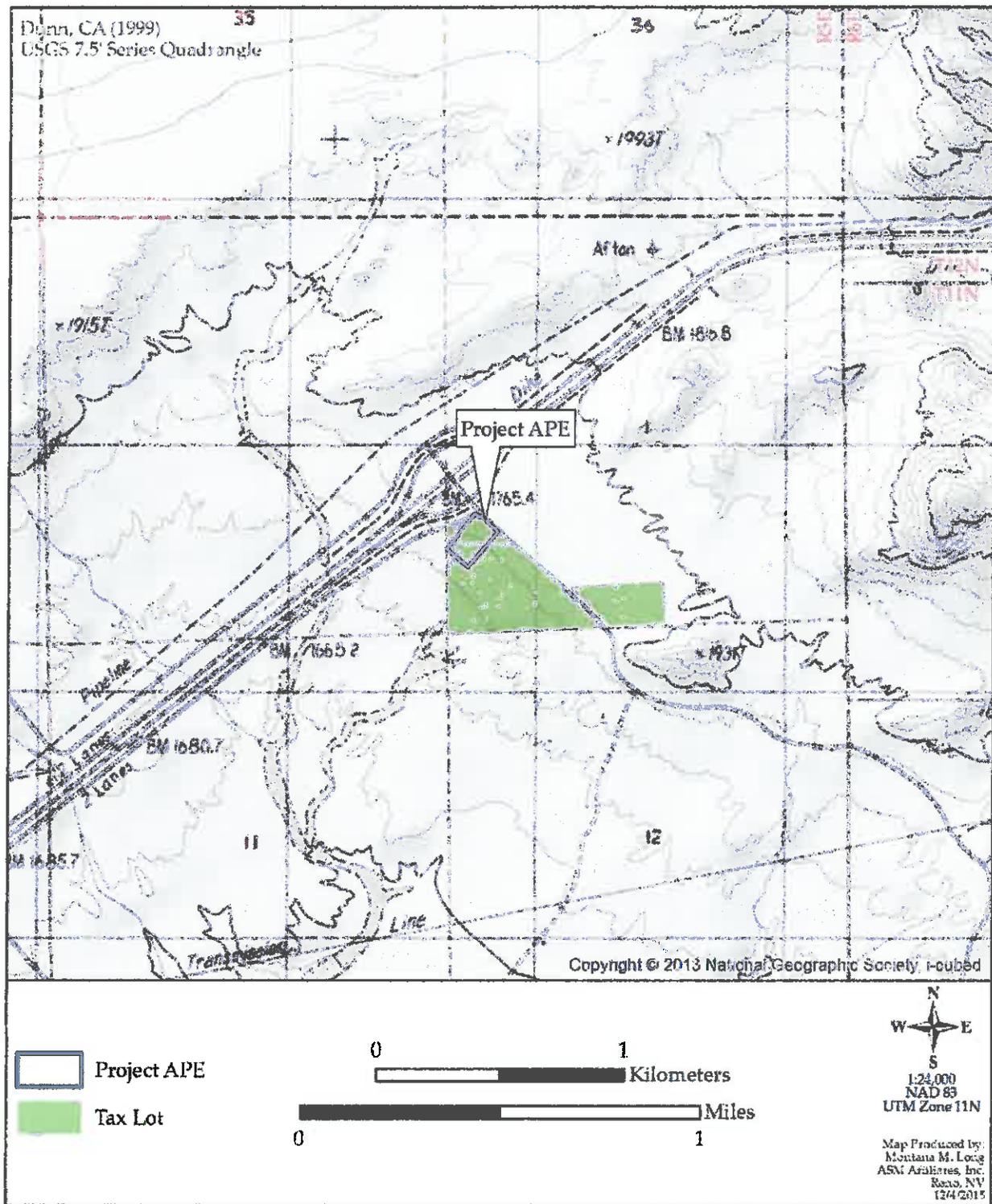


Figure 3. Survey area map.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1. Overview of project area. View looking southwest.



Photograph 2. Overview of project area. View looking northeast.



Photograph 3. Overview of project area showing bladed dirt. View looking south.



Photograph 4. Overview showing bladed dirt road and barbed wire fencing at intersection with Afton Canyon Road. View looking west.



Photograph 5. Overview showing modern trash (foreground) and bladed area and push piles (background). View looking northeast.



Photograph 6. Modern trash observed within project area. View looking north.

