

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Bowman Solar Project

Unincorporated San Bernardino County, California

Prepared for:

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Prepared by:

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Project No. SPO1401

National Archaeological Data Base (NADB) Information:

Type of Study: Reconnaissance Survey

Resources Recorded: SPO1401-I-1, I-2, and I-3 (Isolated Finds)

USGS Quadrangle: 7.5-minute Goat Mountain (1994), California



BCRCONSULTING LLC

July 9, 2014

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to sPower to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Bowman Solar Project (project) in the Community of Landers, Unincorporated San Bernardino County, California. The project occupies approximately 35 acres, in addition to 1.4 linear miles of interconnection upgrades. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, Native American Consultation, and vertebrate paleontological resources assessment were conducted for the project in partial fulfillment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The records search revealed that six cultural resources studies have taken place resulting in no cultural resources recorded within one mile of the project site. One of the previous studies assessed portions of the project site, and did not record any resources within its boundaries.

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists recorded three isolated finds in highly disturbed contexts. The finds all occurred within the 1.4 miles of proposed interconnection upgrades in the Reche Road frontage. Isolated finds are not associated with archaeological site deposits and are not considered significant resources under CEQA. As a result, the isolates are not considered "historical resources" under CEQA. No other cultural resource discoveries were noted during the field survey. Therefore, no significant impacts related to archaeological or historical resources are anticipated. However, due to prehistoric isolates recorded within the proposed interconnection upgrades along the Reche Road frontage, that portion of the project site is considered sensitive for buried cultural resources. Therefore, BCR Consulting recommends that an archaeological monitor be present during earthmoving activities proposed within the Reche Road frontage. The monitor shall work under the direct supervision of a cultural resources professional who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology. The monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect construction work in the vicinity of any find until the project archaeologist can evaluate it. In the event of a new find, salvage excavation and reporting will be required. Monitoring is not recommended for the portions of the project located south of Reche Road. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during any earthmoving activities within areas not subject to archaeological monitoring, a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

The isolated finds are recorded on Department of Park and Recreation (DPR) 523 Forms in Appendix A; Native American Consultation communications are provided in Appendix B; project photographs are provided in Appendix C; and the paleontological resources assessment is included as Appendix D.

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.

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INTRODUCTION

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to sPower to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Bowman Solar Project (project) in San Bernardino County, California. A cultural resources records search, reconnaissance-level pedestrian field survey, Native American Consultation, and vertebrate paleontological resources assessment were conducted for the project in partial fulfillment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project involves the development of a solar photovoltaic system. It occupies approximately 35 acres, in addition to 1.4 linear miles of interconnection upgrades. The current study has addressed resources located within the project site boundaries (including interconnection upgrades), and within a 500-foot buffer outside the project site and interconnection upgrades. The project site is located in portions of Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16, Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Goat Mountain* (1994) California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

NATURAL SETTING

Geology

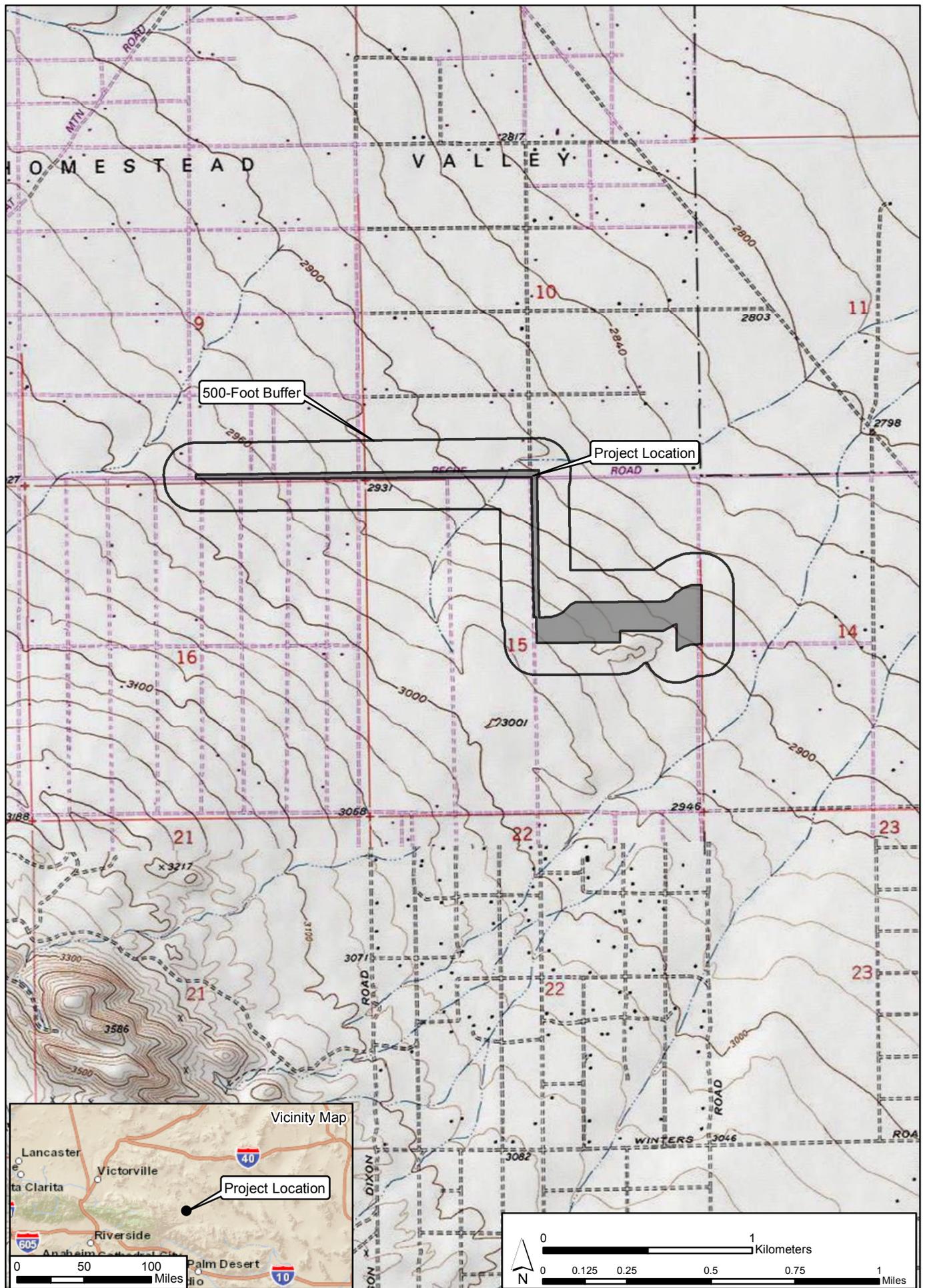
Sediments within the project boundaries include a geologic unit composed of young alluvium deposits formed during the late Pleistocene and Holocene Epochs of the Quaternary Period (Bortugno and Spittler 1986). Field observations during the current study are basically consistent with this reference, and are described in the Field Survey Results section, below.

Hydrology

The project elevation ranges from approximately 2,851 to 2,982 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Residential and road developments have channelized local runoff, although the natural topography historically conveyed water in various intermittent drainages toward Deadman (Dry) Lake approximately 14 miles to the northeast. The area currently exhibits a relatively arid climate, with dry, hot summers and cool winters. Rainfall ranges from five to 15 inches annually (Jaeger and Smith 1971:36-37). Precipitation usually occurs in the form of winter and spring rain or snow at high elevations, with occasional warm monsoonal showers in late summer.

Biology

The mild climate of the late Pleistocene allowed piñon-juniper woodland to thrive throughout most of the Mojave (Van Devender et al. 1987). The vegetation and climate during this epoch attracted significant numbers of Rancholabrean fauna, including dire wolf, saber-toothed cat, short-faced bear, horse, camel, antelope, mammoth, as well as birds which included pelican, goose, duck, cormorant, and eagle (Reynolds 1988). The drier climate of the middle Holocene resulted in the local development of complementary flora and fauna, which remain largely intact to this day. Common native plants include creosote, cacti, rabbit bush, interior golden bush, cheese bush, species of sage, buckwheat at higher elevations



and near drainages, Joshua tree, and various grasses. Common native animals include coyotes, cottontail and jackrabbits, rats, mice, desert tortoises, roadrunners, raptors, turkey vultures, and other bird species (see Williams et al. 2008).

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Context

The prehistoric cultural setting of the Mojave Desert has been organized into many chronological frameworks (see Warren and Crabtree 1986; Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Lanning 1963; Hunt 1960; Wallace 1958, 1962, 1977; Wallace and Taylor 1978; Campbell and Campbell 1935), although there is no definitive sequence for the region. The difficulties in establishing cultural chronologies for the Mojave are a function of its enormous size and the small amount of archaeological excavations conducted there. Moreover, throughout prehistory many groups have occupied the Mojave and their territories often overlap spatially and chronologically resulting in mixed artifact deposits. Due to dry climate and capricious geological processes, these artifacts rarely become integrated in-situ. Lacking a milieu hospitable to the preservation of cultural midden, Mojave chronologies have relied upon temporally diagnostic artifacts, such as projectile points, or upon the presence/absence of other temporal indicators, such as groundstone. Such methods are instructive, but can be limited by prehistoric occupants' concurrent use of different artifact styles, or by artifact re-use or re-sharpening, as well as researchers' mistaken diagnosis, and other factors (see Flenniken 1985; Flenniken and Raymond 1986; Flenniken and Wilke 1989). Recognizing the shortcomings of comparative temporal indicators, this study recommends the findings of Warren and Crabtree (1986), who have drawn upon this method to produce a commonly cited and relatively comprehensive chronology.

Ethnography

The Uto-Aztecan "Serrano" people occupied the western Mojave Desert periphery. Kroeber (1925) applied the generic term "Serrano" to four groups, each with distinct territories: the Kitanemuk, Tataviam, Vanyume, and Serrano. Only one group, in the San Bernardino Mountains and West-Central Mojave Desert, ethnically claims the term Serrano. Bean and Smith (1978) indicate that the Vanyume, an obscure Takic population, was found along the Mojave River at the time of Spanish contact. The Kitanemuk lived to the north and west, while the Tataviam lived to the west. The Serrano lived mainly to the south (Bean and Smith 1978). Historical records are unclear concerning precise territory and village locations. It is doubtful that any group, except the Vanyume, actually lived in the region for several seasons yearly.

History

Historic-era California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish or Mission Period (1769 to 1821), the Mexican or Rancho Period (1821 to 1848), and the American Period (1848 to present).

Spanish Period. The first European to pass through the project area is thought to be a Spaniard called Father Francisco Garces. Having become familiar with the area, Garces acted as a guide to Juan Bautista de Anza, who had been commissioned to lead a group

across the desert from a Spanish outpost in Arizona to set up quarters at the Mission San Gabriel in 1771 near what today is Pasadena (Beck and Haase 1974). This is the first recorded group crossing of the Mojave Desert and, according to Father Garces' journal, they camped at the headwaters of the Mojave River, one night less than a day's march from the mountains. Today, this is estimated to have been approximately 11 miles southeast of Victorville (Marenczuk 1962). Garces was followed by Alta California Governor Pedro Fages, who briefly explored the western Mojave region in 1772. Searching for San Diego Presidio deserters, Fages had traveled north through Riverside to San Bernardino, crossed over the mountains into the Mojave Desert, and then journeyed westward to the San Joaquin Valley (Beck and Haase 1974).

Mexican Period. In 1821, Mexico overthrew Spanish rule and the missions began to decline. By 1833, the Mexican government passed the Secularization Act, and the missions, reorganized as parish churches, lost their vast land holdings, and released their neophytes (Beattie and Beattie 1974).

American Period. The American Period, 1848–Present, began with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In 1850, California was accepted into the Union of the United States primarily due to the population increase created by the Gold Rush of 1849. The cattle industry reached its greatest prosperity during the first years of the American Period. Mexican Period land grants had created large pastoral estates in California, and demand for beef during the Gold Rush led to a cattle boom that lasted from 1849–1855. However, beginning about 1855, the demand for beef began to decline due to imports of sheep from New Mexico and cattle from the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys. When the beef market collapsed, many California ranchers lost their ranchos through foreclosure. A series of disastrous floods in 1861–1862, followed by a significant drought diminished the economic impact of local ranching. This decline combined with ubiquitous agricultural and real estate developments of the late 19th century, set the stage for diversified economic pursuits that have continued to proliferate to this day (Beattie and Beattie 1974; Cleland 1941).

PERSONNEL

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA acted as the Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the current study. Mr. Brunzell also conducted the cultural resources records search at the San Bernardino Archaeological Information Center (SBAIC) located at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands, California. Mr. Brunzell, BCR Consulting Field Director Dan Leonard, PhD, and Staff Archaeologist/Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist Joseph Brunzell completed the field assessment. David Brunzell compiled the technical report, and provided oversight.

METHODS

Research

On June 5, 2014 (prior to fieldwork), a records search was conducted at the SBAIC. This archival research reviewed the status of all recorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, and survey and excavation reports completed within one mile of the project site. Additional resources reviewed included the National Register of Historic Places (National

Register), the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and documents and inventories published by the California Office of Historic Preservation. These include the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures.

Field Survey

An archaeological field survey was conducted on June 11 and 17, 2014. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart across 100 percent of the accessible project site and interconnection upgrades, and within a 500-foot buffer outside the project site and interconnection upgrades.

RESULTS

Research

Research completed through the SBAIC revealed that six cultural resources studies have taken place resulting in the recording of no cultural resources within one mile of the project site. One of the previous studies assessed portions of the current project site, resulting in the recording of no cultural resources within its boundaries. A summary of the records search results is included below.

Table A. Cultural Resources and Studies within One Mile of the Project Site

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle	Cultural Resources Within One Mile of Project Site	Reports Within One Mile of Project Site
Goat Mountain (1994)	None	SB-1060004, 1060005, 1060483, 1061442*, 1062256, 1064234

*Previously assessed a portion of the project site.

Field Survey

The project site exhibited approximately 90 percent surface visibility. Artificial disturbances include impacts from grading for construction and maintenance of residences and roads adjacent to the interconnection upgrades proposed along Reche Road and Bowman Trail. Significant impacts from off-road vehicles were noted within the proposed solar facility boundaries in the south. Additional disturbances noted throughout the entire project site included surface erosion and some native and non-native vegetation growth. Soils range from fine to coarse alluvial sands. During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists recorded three isolated finds in highly disturbed contexts, described below. Department of Park and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms completed for these resources are provided in Appendix A.

SPO1401-I-1. This isolate includes two small jasper interior flakes, each measuring approximately one by one centimeter. One is brownish red and the other is mottled, and both items exhibit platform and bulb of percussion. No other archaeological site materials were found in the vicinity. Disturbances are significant and include grading for construction and maintenance of adjacent residences and roads, in addition to surface erosion and some vegetation growth.

SPO1401-I-2. This isolate includes three small prehistoric ceramic brownware sherds from a single vessel. Disturbances are significant and include grading for construction and maintenance of adjacent residences and roads, in addition to surface erosion and some vegetation growth.

SPO1401-I-3. This isolate includes five small interior jasper waste flakes, apparently derived from two cores. Disturbances are significant and include grading for construction and maintenance of adjacent residences and roads, in addition to surface erosion and some vegetation growth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists discovered three isolated prehistoric finds. The finds all occurred within the 1.4 miles of proposed interconnection upgrades in the Reche Road frontage. Isolated finds are not associated with archaeological site deposits and are not considered significant resources under CEQA. As a result, the isolated finds are not considered “historical resources” under CEQA. No other cultural resource discoveries were noted during the field survey. Therefore, no significant impacts related to archaeological or historical resources are anticipated.

However, due to prehistoric isolates recorded within the proposed interconnection upgrades along the Reche Road frontage, that portion of the project site is considered sensitive for buried cultural resources. Therefore, BCR Consulting recommends that an archaeological monitor be present during earthmoving activities proposed within the Reche Road frontage. The monitor shall work under the direct supervision of a cultural resources professional who meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology. The monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect construction work in the vicinity of any find until the project archaeologist can evaluate it. In the event of a new find, salvage excavation and reporting will be required.

Monitoring is not recommended for the portions of the project site located south of Reche Road. However, if construction personnel identify previously undocumented cultural resources during any earthmoving activities within areas not subject to archaeological monitoring, a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop or divert construction excavation as necessary. If the qualified archaeologist finds that any cultural resources present meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register, plans for the treatment, evaluation, and mitigation of impacts to the find will need to be developed. Prehistoric or historic cultural materials that may be encountered during earthmoving activities include:

- historic artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;
- historic structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements;
- prehistoric flaked-stone artifacts and debitage (waste material), consisting of obsidian, basalt, and or cryptocrystalline silicates;

- groundstone artifacts, including mortars, pestles, and grinding slabs;
- dark, greasy soil that may be associated with charcoal, ash, bone, shell, flaked stone, groundstone, and fire affected rocks.

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 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.

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APPENDIX A
DPR 523 FORMS

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 2

*Resource Name or #: SPO1401-I-1

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: San Bernardino

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: *Goat Mountain, California* Date: 1994 T 2N; R 6E; NE ¼ of Sec 16; SB B.M.

c. Address: N/A

City:

Zip:

d. UTM: Zone: 11s; 559493 mE/ 3791820 mN (NAD83)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation: 2944' AMSL.

From State Route 247 in Landers, turn east on Reche Road. Continue five miles east, park and walk south approximately 20 meters to the resource.

*P3a. **Description:** (Describe resource and major elements: design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
This isolate includes two small jasper interior flakes, measuring approximately 1 by 1 centimeter. One is brownish red and the other is mottled, and both items exhibit platform and bulb of percussion. No other archaeological site materials were found in the vicinity. Local disturbances are significant and include grading for construction and maintenance of adjacent residences and roads, in addition to surface erosion and some vegetation growth.

*P3b. **Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) AP16. Other (Isolate)

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

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



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Detail, 6/11/14, Photo 1

*P6. **Date Constructed/Age:**
 Historic Prehistoric Both

*P7. **Owner and Address:**
sPower
2 Embarcadero Center, #410
San Francisco, California 94111

*P8. **Recorded by:**
David Brunzell
BCR Consulting
1420 Guadalajara Place
Claremont, California 91711

*P9. **Date Recorded:** 6/11/14

*P10. **Survey:** Reconnaissance

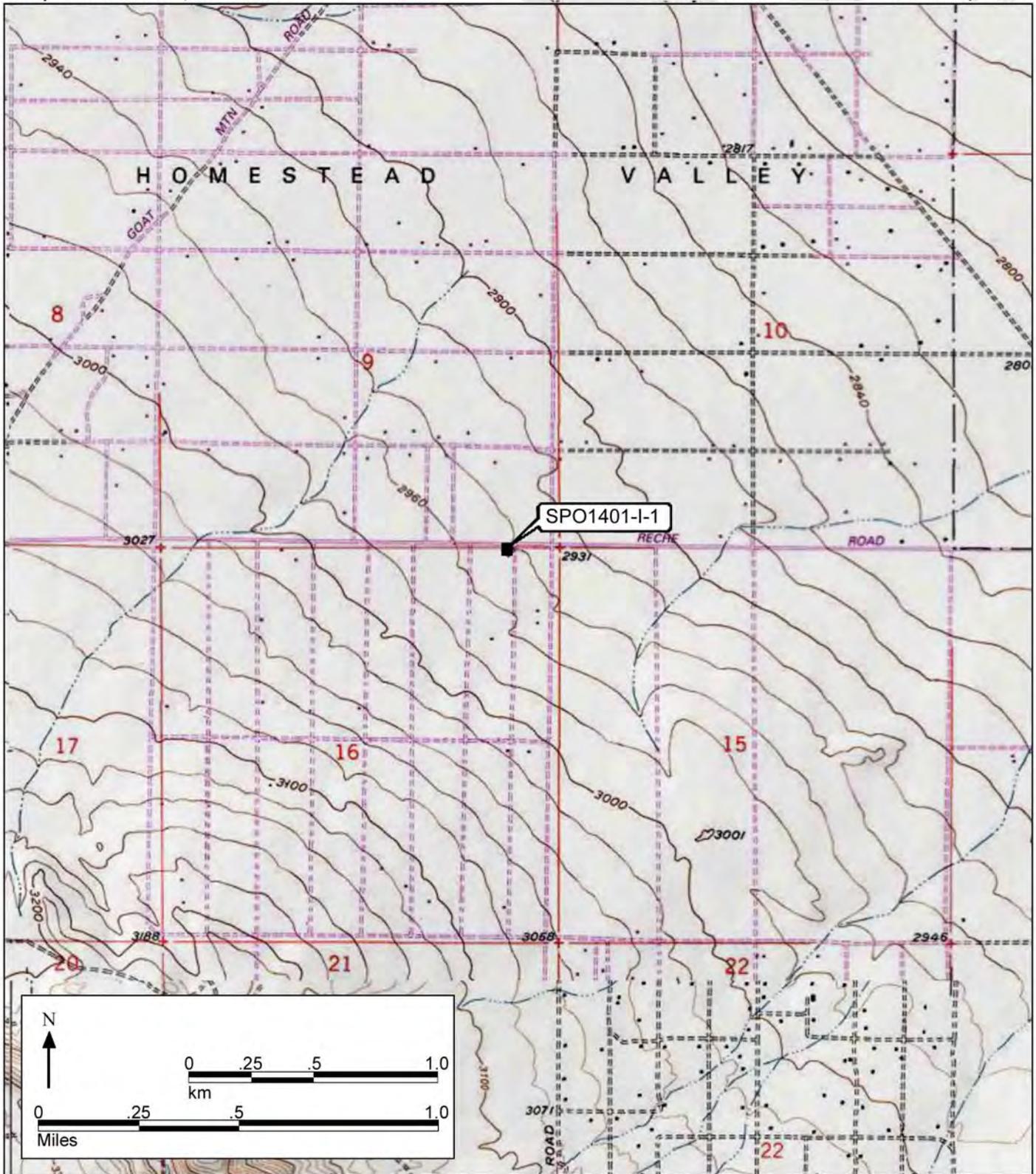
*P11. **Report Citation:** *Cultural Resources Assessment of Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California.* BCR Consulting.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

*Map Name: Goat Hill, California USGS 7.5 Minute Quad

*Scale: 1:24000

*Date of Map: 1994



State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 2

*Resource Name or #: SPO1401-I-2

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*a. County: San Bernardino

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Goat Mountain, California Date: 1994 T 2N; R 6E; NE ¼ of Sec 16; SB B.M.

c. Address: N/A

City:

Zip:

d. UTM: Zone: 11s; 559530 mE/ 3791818 mN (NAD83)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation: 2939' AMSL.

From State Route 247 in Landers, turn east on Reche Road. Continue 5.1 miles east, park and walk south approximately 22 meters to the resource.

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and major elements: design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
This isolate includes three small prehistoric ceramic brownware sherds, apparently from the same vessel. Local disturbances are significant and include grading for construction and maintenance of adjacent residences and roads, in addition to surface erosion and some vegetation growth.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) AP16. Other (Isolate)

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

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



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Detail, 6/11/14, Photo 2

*P6. Date Constructed/Age:
 Historic Prehistoric Both

*P7. Owner and Address:
sPower
2 Embarcadero Center, #410
San Francisco, California 94111

*P8. Recorded by:
David Brunzell
BCR Consulting
1420 Guadalajara Place
Claremont, California 91711

*P9. Date Recorded: 6/11/14

*P10. Survey: Reconnaissance

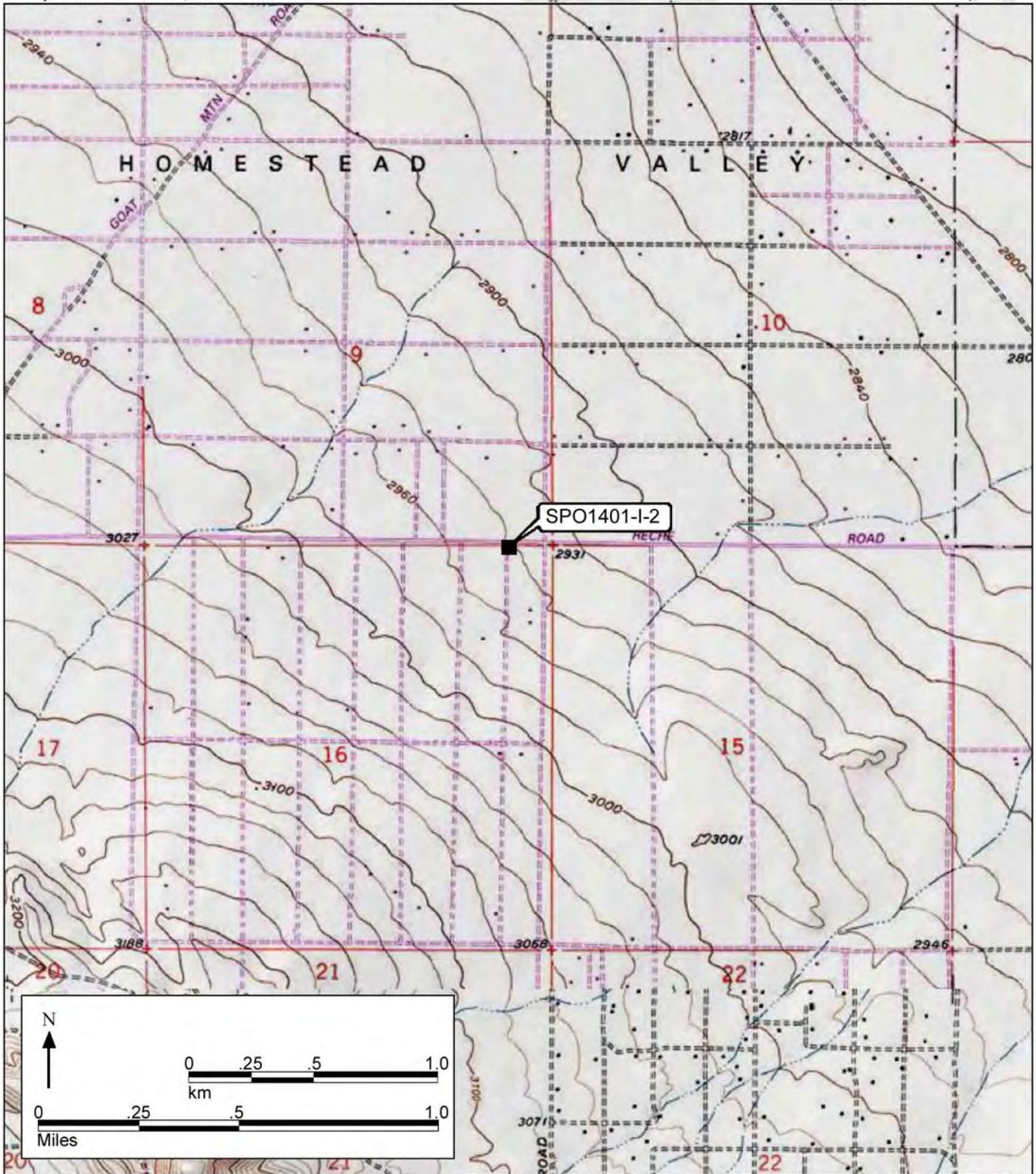
*P11. Report Citation: *Cultural Resources Assessment of Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California.* BCR Consulting.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

*Map Name: Goat Hill, California USGS 7.5 Minute Quad

*Scale: 1:24000

*Date of Map: 1994



State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
 HRI #
 Trinomial
 NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
 Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 2

*Resource Name or #: SPO1401-I-3

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: San Bernardino

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Goat Mountain, California

Date: 1994

T 2N; R 6E; SW ¼ of Sec 10; SB B.M.

c. Address: N/A

City:

Zip:

d. UTM: Zone: 11s; 560285 mE/ 3791884 mN (NAD83)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation: 2858' AMSL.

From State Route 247 in Landers, turn east on Reche Road. Continue 5.5 miles east, park and walk north approximately 40 meters to the resource.

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and major elements: design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
 This isolate includes five small interior jasper waste flakes, apparently derived from two cores. Local disturbances are significant and include grading for construction and maintenance of adjacent residences and roads, in addition to surface erosion and some vegetation growth.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) AP16. Other (Isolate)

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

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



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Detail, 6/11/14, Photo 3

*P6. Date Constructed/Age:
 Historic Prehistoric Both

*P7. Owner and Address:
 sPower
 2 Embarcadero Center, #410
 San Francisco, California 94111

*P8. Recorded by:
 David Brunzell
 BCR Consulting
 1420 Guadalajara Place
 Claremont, California 91711

*P9. Date Recorded: 6/11/14

*P10. Survey: Reconnaissance

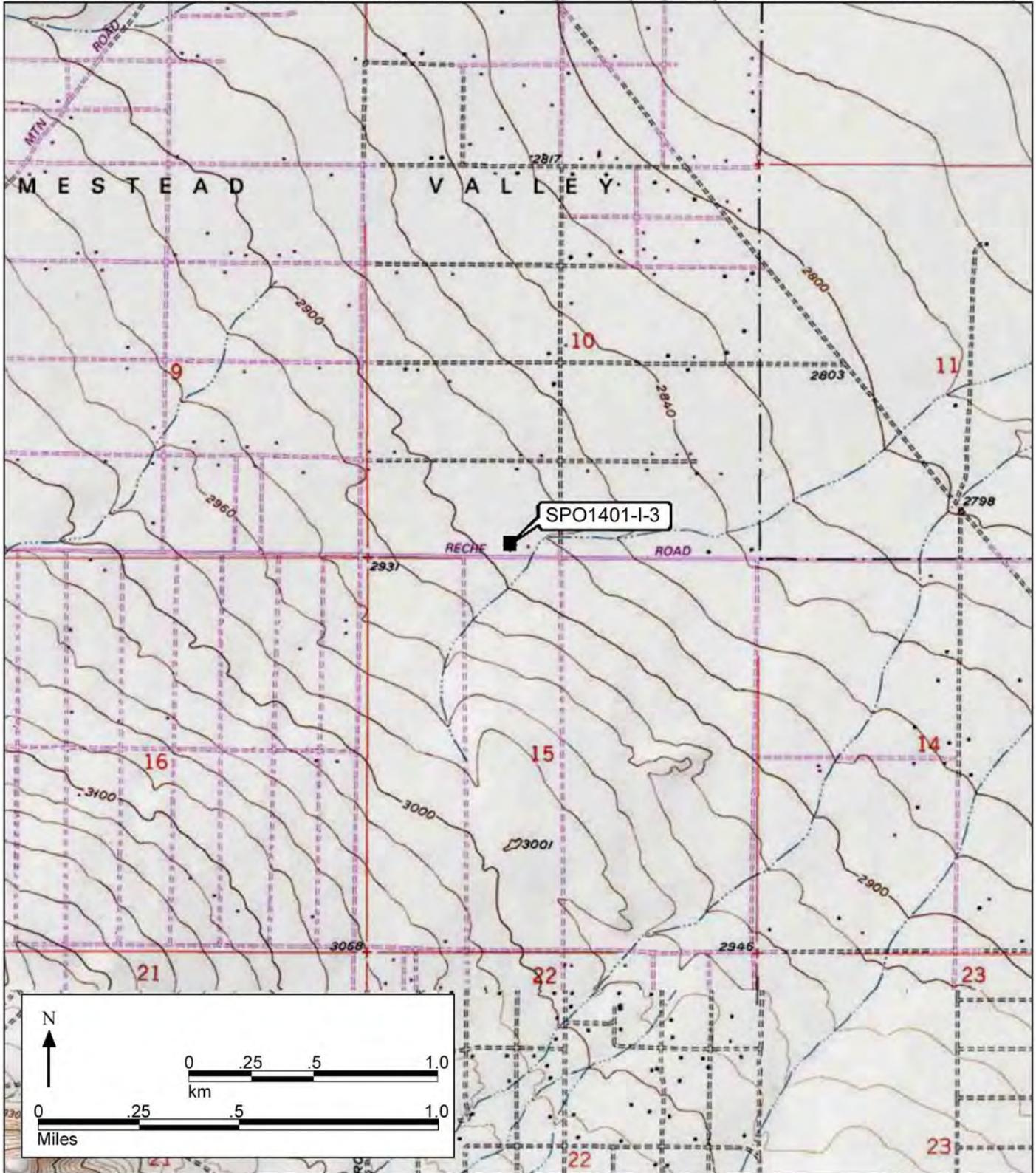
*P11. Report Citation: *Cultural Resources Assessment of Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California.* BCR Consulting.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

*Map Name: Goat Hill, California USGS 7.5 Minute Quad

*Scale: 1:24000

*Date of Map: 1994



APPENDIX B
NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

Subject: BCR Consulting SLF/List of Tribes Request for Bowman Solar Project Near Landers, San Bernardino County

From: David Brunzell (david.brunzell@yahoo.com)

To: ds_nahc@pacbell.net;

Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 6:12 PM

Hi Dave,

I'd like to request a Sacred Lands File search and list of potentially interested tribes for the proposed Bowman Solar Project in Unincorporated San Bernardino County, California. The subject property is located as follows (SBBM; see also attached project location map):

Township 2 North
Range 6 East
Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, 16
USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quad: *Goat Mountain, California* (1994)*

Please send the results and list to my email or the below fax number and please get in touch with any questions.

Thanks,

David Brunzell
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

BCR Consulting LLC
Certified Small Business (SB)
1420 Guadalajara Place
Claremont, California 91711
Tel: 909-525-7078
Fax: 909-992-3065

www.bcrconsulting.net

*SEE REPORT FIGURE 1.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 373-3715
Fax (916) 373-5471
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
E-mail Ds_nahc@pacbell.net



June 18, 2014

Mr. David Brunzell, RPA, Principal

BCR Consulting, LLC

1420 Guadalajara Place
Claremont, CA 91711

Sent FAX to 909-992-3065
No. of Pages: 4

RE: Sacred Lands File Search and Native American Contacts list for the "**Bowman Solar Project;**" located in San Bernardino County, California

Dear Mr. Brunzell:

A record search of the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory **failed to indicate** the presence of Native American traditional sites/places of the Project site(s) or 'areas of Potential effect' (APEs), submitted to this office. Note also that the absence of archaeological features, Native American cultural resources does not preclude their existence at the subsurface level.

In the 1985 Appellate Court decision (170 Cal App 3rd 604), the Court held that the NAHC has jurisdiction and special expertise, as a state agency, over affected Native American resources impacted by proposed projects, including archaeological places of religious significance to Native Americans, and to Native American burial sites.

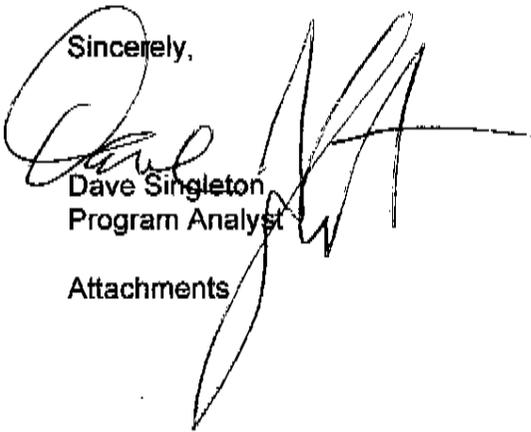
When the project becomes public, please inform the Native American contacts as to the nature of the project (e.g. residential, renewable energy, infrastructure or other appropriate type). Attached is a list of Native American tribes, Native American individuals or organizations that may have knowledge of cultural resources in or near the proposed project area (APE). As part of the consultation process, the NAHC recommends that local government and project developers contact the tribal governments and Native American individuals on the list in order to determine if the proposed action might impact any cultural places or sacred sites. If a response from those listed on the attachment is not received in two weeks of notification, the NAHC recommends that a follow-up telephone call be made to ensure the project information has been received.

California Government Code Sections 65040.12(e) defines 'environmental justice' to provide "fair treatment of people...with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies." Also, Executive Order B-10-11 requires that state agencies "consult with Native American

tribes, their elected officials and other representatives of tribal governments in order to provide meaningful input into... the development of legislation, regulations, rules and policies on matter that may affect tribal communities."

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 373-3715.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Singleton', written over the typed name and title.

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachments

**Native American Contacts
San Bernardino County California
June 18, 2014**

Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
Joseph Hamilton, Chairman
P.O. Box 391670 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
admin@ramonatribe.com
(951) 763-4105
(951) 763-4325 Fax

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Hon. Lynn Valbuena, Chairwoman
26569 Community Center Drive Serrano
Highland , CA 92346
(909) 864-8933
(909) 864-3724 - FAX
(909) 864-3370 Fax

Chemehuevi Reservation
Edward Smith, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1976 Chemehuevi
Chemehuevi , CA 92363
chair1cit@yahoo.com
(760) 858-4301
(760) 858-5400 Fax

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Timothy Williams, Chairperson
500 Merriman Ave Mojave
Needles , CA 92363
(760) 629-4591
(760) 629-5767 Fax

Colorado River Indian Tribe
Dennis Patch, Chairman
26600 Mojave Road Mojave
Parker , AZ 85344 Chemehuevi
crit.museum@yahoo.com
(928) 669-9211-Tribal Office
(928) 669-8970 ext 21
(928) 669-1925 Fax

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
John Valenzuela, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838 Fernandeno
Newhall , CA 91322 Tataviam
tsen2u@hotmail.com Serrano
(661) 753-9833 Office Vanyume
(760) 885-0955 Cell Kitanemuk
(760) 949-1604 Fax

AhaMaKav Cultural Society, Fort Mojave Indian
Linda Otero, Director
P.O. Box 5990 Mojave
Mohave Valley AZ 86440
(928) 768-4475
LindaOtero@fortmojave.com
(928) 768-7996 Fax

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
William Madrigal, Jr., Cultural Resources Manager
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning , CA 92220 Serrano
(951) 201-1866 - cell
wmadrigal@morongo-nsn.
gov
(951) 572-6004 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.6 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting locative Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Bowman Solar Project; located in the Goat Mountain area; San Bernardino County, California for which a Sacred Lands File search and Native American Contacts list were requested.

**Native American Contacts
San Bernardino County California
June 18, 2014**

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Daniel McCarthy, M.S., Director-CRM Dept.
26569 Community Center Drive Serrano
Highland , CA 92346
dmccarthy@sanmanuel-nsn.gov
(909) 864-8933 Ext 3248
(909) 862-5152 Fax

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Nora McDowell, Aha Makav Society
Needles , CA 92363 Mojave
noramcdowall-
antone@fortmojave.com
(760) 629-5767 Fax

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Goldie Walker, Chairwoman
P.O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton , CA 92369

(909) 528-9027 or
(909) 528-9032

Ernest H. Siva
Morongo Band of Mission Indians Tribal Elder
9570 Mias Canyon Road Serrano
Banning , CA 92220 Cahuilla
siva@dishmail.net
(951) 849-4676

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting locative Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Bowman Solar Project; located in the Goat Mountain area; San Bernardino County, California for which a Sacred Lands File search and Native American Contacts list were requested.



July 3, 2014

Joseph Hamilton
Chairman
Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
P.O. Box 391670
Anza, California 92539

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Joseph:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

If you know of any cultural resources in the vicinity that may be of religious and/or cultural significance to your community or if you would like more information, please contact me at 909-525-7078 or david.brunzell@yahoo.com. Correspondence can also be sent to BCR Consulting LLC, Attn: David Brunzell, 1420 Guadalajara Street, Claremont, California 91711. I request a response by August 8, 2014. If you require more time, please let me know. Thank you for your involvement in this process.

Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

Dennis Patch
Chairman
Colorado River Indian Tribe
26600 Mojave Road
Parker, Arizona 85344

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Dennis:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

Hon. Lynn Valbuena
Chairwoman
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
266569 Community Center Drive
Highland, California 92346

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Lynn:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

John Valenzuela
Chairperson
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, California 91322

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear John:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

Edward Smith
Chairperson
Chemehuevi Reservation
P.O. Box 1976
Chemehuevi Valley, California 92363

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Edward:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

Linda Otero
Director
AhaMaKav Cultural Society
P.O. Box 5990
Mohave Valley, Arizona 86440

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Linda:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

Timothy Williams
Chairperson
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Ave.
Needles, California 92363

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Timothy:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

William Madrigal, Jr.
Cultural Resources Manager
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, California 92220

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear William:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

Daniel McCarthy, M.S.
Director-CRM Department
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, California 92346

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Daniel:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

Nora McDowell
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 5990
Needles, California 92363

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Nora:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

Goldie Walker
Chairwoman
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 343
Patton, California 92369

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Goldie:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map



July 3, 2014

Ernest Siva
Tribal Elder
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
9570 Mias Canyon Road
Banning, California 92220

Subject: Tribal Consultation for the Bowman Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Ernest:

This is an invitation to consult on a proposed development project at locations with which you have tribal cultural affiliation. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure the protection of Native American cultural resources on which the proposed undertaking may have an impact. In the tribal consultation process, early consultation is encouraged in order to provide for full and reasonable public input from Native American Groups and Individuals, as consulting parties, on potential effect of the development project and to avoid costly delays. Further, we understand that much of the content of the consultation will be confidential and will include, but not be limited to, the relationship of proposed project details to Native American Cultural Historic Properties, such as burial sites, known or unknown, architectural features and artifacts, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, and cultural landscapes. The proposed project is located in Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The property is depicted on the *Goat Mountain* (1994), *California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle, (see attached map).

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Sincerely,

BCR Consulting LLC

David Brunzell, M.A./RPA
Principal Investigator/Archaeologist

Attachment: USGS Map

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Sent To Joseph Hamilton
 Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No. P.O. Box 341670
 City, State, ZIP+4 Anza, CA 92539

PS Form 3800, August 2006 See Reverse for Instructions

7012 3460 0000 2936 7941

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Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	\$0.00		
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 3.79	07/03/2014	

Sent To Lynn Valbuena
 Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No. 26569 Community Center Dr
 City, State, ZIP+4 Highland, CA 92346

PS Form 3800, August 2006 See Reverse for Instructions

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APPENDIX C
PHOTOGRAPHS



1. Western Terminus of Interconnection Upgrades (East View)



2. SPO1401-I-3 Overview (North View)



3. Project Site Overview North of Summers Road (View West)



4. Project Site Overview South of Herdmans Road (View South)

APPENDIX D
PALEONTOLOGICAL OVERVIEW



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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TDD (909) 792-1462

Leonard Hernandez
Interim Director

18 June 2014

BCR Consulting LLC
attn: David Brunzell, Principal Investigator
1420 Guadalajara Place
Claremont, CA 91711

re: **PALEONTOLOGY LITERATURE AND RECORDS REVIEW, BOWMAN
SOLAR PROJECT, LANDERS REGION, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA**

Dear Mr. Brunzell,

The Division of Geological Sciences of the San Bernardino County Museum (SBCM) has completed a literature review and records search for the above-named project property east of Landers in San Bernardino County, California. The proposed alignment crosses portions of sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16, Township 2 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, as seen on the Goat Mountain, California 7.5' United States Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map (1955 editions, photorevised 1976).

Previous geologic mapping (Bortugno and Spittler, 1986) indicates that the proposed project property is situated upon Pleistocene older alluvium (= unit **Qo**), overlain in some areas by a thin sedimentary veneer of Holocene (recent) alluvium (= **Q**). The Holocene alluvium has low potential to contain fossil resources. In contrast, the surface and subsurface Pleistocene alluvium has high potential to contain significant fossil resources, and so is assigned high paleontologic sensitivity. Throughout the Mojave Desert, Pleistocene older alluvium has frequently been demonstrated to be fossiliferous (Jefferson, 1989, 1991, 1992; Reynolds, 1989; Scott, 1996, 2004; Scott and others, 2004, 2006; Scott and Cox, 2008). This paleontologic potential is dependent to some degree upon the lithology of the sediments under study; some alluvial fans were deposited in relatively high-energy conditions, or else are comprised of cobbles or boulders that are not likely to be conducive to fossil preservation. For this reason, it can be difficult to determine in advance whether or not a given Pleistocene alluvial deposit is likely to yield paleontologic resources.

In the case of the present study area, however, inferences can be drawn from the paleontologic sensitivity of similarly-mapped sediments in the near vicinity. In this case, the identification of significant vertebrate fossils from the nearby Twentynine Palms region (Jefferson, 1992; Scott and Cox, 2008) and the Pinto Basin in Joshua Tree National Park (Scott at others, 2006) confirms that Pleistocene alluvium in this region has high paleontologic potential. For this reason, the Pleistocene older alluvium present in the study area is assigned high paleontologic sensitivity.

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

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For this review, I conducted a search of the Regional Paleontologic Locality Inventory (RPLI) at the SBCM. The results of this search indicate that no paleontologic resource localities are recorded from within the boundaries of the proposed project property, nor for at least one mile in any direction.

Recommendations

The results of the literature review and the check of the RPLI at the SBCM demonstrate that excavation in conjunction with development has high potential to adversely impact significant nonrenewable paleontologic resources present within the boundaries of the proposed project property. A qualified vertebrate paleontologist must develop a program to mitigate impacts to nonrenewable paleontologic resources, including curation of recovered resources (Scott and others, 2004), consistent with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Scott and Springer, 2003), as well as with regulations currently implemented by the County of San Bernardino and the proposed guidelines of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

The County of San Bernardino (Development Code §82.20.040) defines a qualified vertebrate paleontologist as meeting the following criteria:

Education: An advanced degree (Masters or higher) in geology, paleontology, biology or related disciplines (exclusive of archaeology).

Professional experience: At least five years professional experience with paleontologic (not including cultural) resources, including the collection, identification and curation of the resources.

The County of San Bernardino (Development Code §82.20.030) requires that paleontologic mitigation programs include, but not be limited to:

(a) Field survey before grading. In areas of potential but unknown sensitivity, field surveys before grading shall be required to establish the need for paleontologic monitoring.

(b) Monitoring during grading. A project that requires grading plans and is located in an area of known fossil occurrence, or that has been demonstrated to have fossils present in a field survey, shall have all grading monitored by trained paleontologic crews working under the direction of a qualified professional, so that fossils exposed during grading can be recovered and preserved. Paleontologic monitors shall be equipped to salvage fossils as they are unearthed, to avoid construction delays, and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. Monitors shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow removal of abundant or large specimens. Monitoring is not necessary if the potentially-fossiliferous units described for the property in question are not present, or if present are determined upon exposure and examination by qualified paleontologic personnel to have low potential to contain fossil resources.

(c) Recovered specimens. Qualified paleontologic personnel shall prepare recovered specimens to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates. Preparation and stabilization of all recovered fossils is essential in order to fully mitigate adverse impacts to the resources.

(d) Identification and curation of specimens. Qualified paleontologic personnel shall identify and curate specimens into the collections of the Division of Geological Sciences, San Bernardino County Museum, an established, accredited museum repository with permanent retrievable paleontologic storage. These procedures are also essential steps in effective paleontologic mitigation and CEQA compliance. The paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to the initiation of mitigation activities. Mitigation of adverse impacts to significant paleontologic resources is not considered complete until curation into an established museum repository has been fully completed and documented.

(e) Report of findings. Qualified paleontologic personnel shall prepare a report of findings with an appended itemized list of specimens. A preliminary report shall be submitted and approved before granting of building permits, and a final report shall be submitted and approved before granting of occupancy permits. The report and inventory, when submitted to the appropriate Lead Agency along with confirmation of the curation of recovered specimens into the collections of the San Bernardino County Museum, will signify completion of the program to mitigate impacts to paleontologic resources.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Scott", written in a cursive style.

Eric Scott, Curator of Paleontology
Division of Geological Sciences
San Bernardino County Museum