APPENDIX 5.14

Phase I Archeological Survey

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE AMARGOSA CREEK SPECIFIC PLAN EIR STUDY AREA, LANCASTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared For:

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7 March 2007

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

An intensive Phase I archaeological survey was conducted for the Amargosa Creek Specific Plan EIR, a 151.6 acres study area located in Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. This investigation involved an archival records search, a review of existing published and unpublished references on local prehistory and history, and an on-foot, intensive survey of the subject property. The study area had been previously surveyed by archaeologists and no cultural resources had been recorded within it. No cultural resources of any kind were found within the study area during the Phase I survey, confirming the previous studies. Development of the study area therefore does not have the potential to result in adverse impacts to significant cultural resources, and no additional archaeological work is recommended for the property.

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1.0
INTRODUCTION

At the request of Mr. Ken Koch, Impact Sciences, Camarillo, California, a Phase I archaeological survey was conducted for the Amargosa Creek Specific Plan EIR study area, in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. The Phase I archaeological survey was intended to provide a background records search to determine if any known archaeological sites were present in the project zone and/or whether the area had been previously studied by archaeologists; an on-foot survey of the project area to identify unrecorded cultural resources; and a preliminary assessment of such resources, should any be found within the subject property. This manuscript constitutes a report on this study. Subsequent sections provide background to the investigation, including the results of the archival record search; a summary of the field surveying techniques employed; the results of the fieldwork; and recommendations.

2.0
BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

2.1 Project Location and Description

The Amargosa Creek Specific Plan EIR study area is a 151.6 acres parcel located in the City of Lancaster, northern Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1). The property is situated on northeastern corner of Avenue L and 10th Street West. The study area sits on the open flats of the Antelope Valley with elevation ranging from approximately 2430 to 2465 feet a.s.l. and falls in an area that previously was cultivated. The bed of the Amargosa River runs SE to NW through the study area; this is currently channelized.

2.2 Ethnographic Background

The Antelope Valley and environs are, unfortunately, one of the most poorly known regions, ethnographically speaking, in California, which is a state that is generally renowned for the detail of its ethnographic record (cf. Kroeber 1925). Thus, the valley contrasts quite sharply with certain of its

immediately surrounding areas, such as the southern Sierra Nevada to the north, for which there is a wealth of ethnographic reports and data, and even the Santa Barbara Channel region to the southwest. Even though the ethnographic inhabitants of this last area were disrupted very early-on by missionization, our record of their lifeways is nonetheless more complete than for the groups that inhabited the Antelope Valley. Luckily, some of the early confusions and misconceptions concerning even such fundamental problems as who the ethnographic inhabitants of the Western Mojave Desert area actually were are now becoming clarified. Earle (1990), in particular, has done much to disentangle previous misconceptions concerning the ethnolinguistic affiliations of the Antelope Valley's inhabitants, and a summary of his recent ethnohistorical conclusions provides an appropriate overview for the aboriginal history of the region.

According to Earle's reconstruction, the Valley was inhabited during the Historic/Protohistoric period by three distinct language-speakers, one group of whom could be further subdivided into two (and perhaps three) fairly distinctive dialects. The most significant linguistic division existed between the Kawaiisu speakers, who lived in Tehachapi Valley, through the southern Sierra Nevada and eastward across Fremont Valley towards Red Mountain and into southern Panamint Valley, and the groups to the south and west in Antelope Valley per se. The Kawaiisu language is a member of the Numic branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family, and is thereby most closely related to the Shoshonean and Paiute languages of the Great Basin.

South and westward of the Kawaiisu were two other members of the Uto-Aztecan language family, but in this instance both were distinct languages belonging to the Takic (as opposed to Numic) branch; specifically to the Serran Takic branch. Along the southwesternmost side of the valley, including the northern foothills of the Liebre Mountains and the southern side of the Sierra Pelona, were the Tataviam, a little-known group identified based on the existence of a few early word lists. Related to them linguistically, but speaking a distinct language, were the better-known Kitanemuk, who occupied the western Antelope Valley and the Tehachapi Mountains west of Tehachapi Pass. Living to the east of the Kitanemuk, who extended to approximately the current location of Highway 14 where it heads north across the Valley, were a group of closely related peoples that Earle (1990) has identified as the Haminat. Apparently, Haminat and Kitanemuk represent dialects of the Serrano language, which also included Serrano proper and

Vanyume (or Beñemé). The study area is a short distance east of Highway 14, and thus probably fell within Haminat territory.

According to Earle's analysis, there was a linguistic continuum along the northern side of the San Gabriel Mountains in the Western Mojave Desert, from the Serrano through the Vanyume and Haminat to the Kitanemuk, at the western end. Haminat, apparently, was more closely linked with Vanyume/Serrano proper than Kitanemuk, although it was still simply a dialectical variation of it. But, with the Serran continuum along the northern side of the San Gabriels, and with all of this linguistic variation present during the Historic period, it is easy to understand how ethnographic confusion developed in regards to this region.

Perhaps more important than these minor linguistic distinctions, similar general cultural patterns were followed by all the inhabitants of the region, with certain minor distinctions. In terms of subsistence, all groups were foragers with food sources derived principally from gathering. The exact plant species exploited was dependent on seasonal availability, as well as geographical/environmental location. In the higher, montane portions of the region, acorn-bearing oak and pinyon pine nuts were staples. In the lower lying, more desertic zones, mesquite, yucca and a variety of other edible plants were emphasized. Hunting also contributed meat protein, and principally emphasized small game, such as hares, rabbits and rodents. However, the notion that these hunter-gatherers based their subsistence to large degree on big-game hunting (such as deer, antelope and mountain sheep) has proven to be an anthropological myth.

Cultural commonalities were also maintained in religious beliefs and practices, which were uniformly based on shamanism. This is predicated upon perceived direct and personal interactions between an individual and the supernatural world, with this interaction founded on entering an altered state of consciousness. Shamans, per se, were ritual specialists who held an unusual degree of interaction with the supernatural world, and thereby acquired a high degree of supernatural power. Although formal rituals and ceremonies were limited in number and elaboration, the shamans served as the ritual officers for these. Further, the shamans also were responsible for painting and pecking the rock art that is found in this region: rock art sites served as their vision quest locales, where they entered trance to acquire supernatural power. And, the art depicted at these sites displayed

the visions and spirits they saw in their altered states of consciousness (Whitley 1988, 1992).

Following general California patterns, there were also a number of similarities in social and political organization. Earle (1990) has suggested that the Haminat may have been organized into exogamous clans and moieties, whereas the western groups, such as the Kitanemuk, might have lacked these, and in this sense the Haminat could have been more like the southern California Desert groups like the Serrano and Cahuilla, with the other groups more similar to the south-central California culture of the Chumash and related peoples. However, given that the exact social organizational systems of the Chumash have yet to be defined (for example, there is still debate whether they were matrilineal or patrilineal), and since we do not yet know whether they had a moiety system or lacked it entirely, it may be too early to draw such fine-grained distinctions concerning social organization.

What is apparent, however, is that the region as a whole apparently lacked any political organization beyond that of the tribelet, or what Earle has identified in the Spanish records as naciones. These were autonomous land-owning groups, focused on a principal village and led by a a headman or chief, and probably comprising a lineage system or clan. In this sense, the Antelope Valley can be said to follow the political organizational pattern found throughout most of Native California. This, of course, further links it with Californian, as opposed to Great Basin, cultural patterns.

2.3 Archaeological Background

Like the ethnographic record, archaeological information for this region is not as complete as we might wish. Still, recent summaries provided by Sutton (1988a, 1988b), combined with a growing amount of archaeological data, allow us to sketch the following outline of the prehistory of the Antelope Valley area.

The earliest inhabitation of this region, like all of California, is currently a point of some controversy. By approximately 12,000 years before present (B.P.) people were at least passing through this area, as evidenced by the discovery of two Clovis-like projectile points immediately northwest of the Antelope Valley (Glennan 1971; Zimmerman et al 1989). However,

inhabitation may have begun somewhat earlier, as recent dating research, including a series of accelerator radiocarbon dates, support inhabitation back to about 15,000 years in the Mojave Desert (Whitley and Dorn 1988, 1993).

Be this early evidence as it may, what is incontrovertible is that, regardless of date of initial occupation, substantial inhabitation did not occur until much later, with the start of the Pinto Period, at about 6000 years B.P. This lasted until approximately 4000 years B.P. A number of sites from this time period are known from the Rosamond area, specifically associated with the prehistoric shoreline of Rosamond Lake. Notably, sites dating to this time period apparently emphasize the use of rhyolite as a lithic resource, almost to the exclusion of crypto-crystallates, such as chert and jasper.

The Pinto Period is followed by the Elko Period, lasting from about 4000 to 2000 years B.P. Although sites from this time period are sometimes considered rare in the Mojave Desert, it is notable that many of the subsequent Rose Spring Period villages (see below) were first occupied during this earlier phase. That is, as has been noted by a number of authors, there seems to be a strong continuity between the Elko Period and subsequent times, with the latter period materials masking or burying the Elko remains. In the Antelope Valley region this begins with a major increase in population beginning about 3000 years B.P. (Sutton 1988b:23), with similar occurrences identified in surrounding areas, such as the Coso Range to the northeast, as well (Whitley et al 1988). Not incidentally, a similar pattern has also been observed in the inland portion of the Santa Barbara Channel region (Whitley and Beaudry 1991).

The Rose Spring Period is differentiated from the earlier Elko phase by the introduction of the bow and arrow and a change from spear points to arrow points, per se. But, as implied above, in all other respects Rose Spring times appear to have been a continuum from the earlier patterns, so that the change in hunting technology was probably less important than we might otherwise presume. Within the Antelope Valley area, Desert Village Complexes, representing a major change in magnitude of settlements, were founded at least by Rose Spring times, and perhaps towards the end of the earlier Elko phase. Two of these have been identified by Sutton in the foothills of the Antelope Valley, with a third between Rosamond and Rogers Dry Lake, and a possible fourth at Koehn Lake. It is possible, if not likely, that these represent the founding of the tribelet system of political

organization in the region.

The Late Prehistoric Period, from 1000 years B.P. to the Historic Period, represents a continued growth in local population, with numbers of people apparently quite high. It is distinguished from previous Rose Spring times by the introduction of ceramics and a change in projectile point types. Sutton notes that a boundary of some sort developed during this period: Desert Side-Notched points, brownware ceramics and obsidian are all common from the Fremont Valley northward; south of this area, in the Antelope Valley proper, ceramics and obsidian are rare, and Cottonwood Triangular points are the predominant projectile point type. This apparently correlates with similar patterns further towards the coast: at about 800-1000 years ago the desert-to-coast obsidian trade dried up, and Rose Spring-like projectile points were replaced by Cottonwood-like points, with Desert Side-Notched points rare.

The Protohistoric/Historic Period, representing the last 300 years, is apparently marked by a major disruption in indigenous settlement, and a corresponding paucity of sites. According to Earle (1990), missionization pulled many of the region's inhabitants away. Subsequently, the Antelope Valley area was used as a staging ground for rustlers and other miscreants, who were raiding the missions' livestock. The result was that the area became somewhat of a no-man's land which, no doubt, has also contributed to the paucity of ethnographic information on it.

2.4 Historical Background

Perhaps because of the use of the Antelope Valley as a staging area for Indian raids on the estancias and missions closer to the coast, Euro-American settlement and development of the area was a little later dating than in other parts of southern California. As a result, the history of the Antelope Valley to about the 1860s principally involved various explorers who traversed it: for example, Pedro Fages crossed the southern valley in 1772; Fr. Garcés crossed the west end and went through Willow Springs in 1776; Jedediah Smith, similarly, went across the western valley in 1827 and also visited Willow Springs, as did John C. Fremónt and his guide Kit Carson in 1844. The Rogers and Manly party - the Jayhawkers or Death Valley '49ers - camped at Willow Springs towards the end of their dramatic 1849 expedition

across the Mojave Desert, as well. And Lt. Edward Beale, at the lead of a caravan of camels, came across the southern side of the valley in his 1857 trip to Fort Tejon (Bancroft 1963; Settle 1963:61; Boyd et al 1982).

It was not until the 1860s that the first settlers moved into this region, settling mostly in the Elizabeth Lake region and the southern foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains, and involved principally in ranching. With the development in 1868 of the Cerro Gordo silver mine in Inyo County, however, the Antelope Valley became a major thoroughfare for the movement of bullion and goods between Los Angeles and the Owens Valley (Chalfant 1933); indeed, efforts to wrestle control over the Inyo silver trade away from Los Angeles became a major theme of California economic history in the 1870s (Nadeau 1965). Los Angeles managed to maintain its monopolization of this trade, nonetheless, with Remi Nadeau's freight-line playing a major part in the transshipment of goods and ore across the valley. Willow Springs and its adobe tavern, again, served as a major stop on this route, with the stage line then essentially heading south (on the route that would eventually be adopted by the railroad), for a 28 mile stretch through Cow Hole to Barrel Springs, at the mouth of Soledad Canyon, and subsequently through the canyon for the uphill climb through the San Gabriel Mountains. Old Nadeau Road, which parallels Pearblossom Highway near the Vincent Hills, is apparently a remnant of this original freight-line route, which proved so instrumental in the growth of Los Angeles as the economic center of southern California. It is a few miles east of the study area.

Shortly after the establishment of the first permanent school in the region, in 1869 at Elizabeth Lake, a number of settlers' colonies sprang-up within the valley, including Wicks, Manzana, Chicago, Kingsbury, John Brown, Old Palmdale and Almondale (Settle 1963). However, the major impetus to settlement resulted with the completion of the Southern Pacific railway through the valley in 1876, fostering the establishment of Rosamond, Lancaster and Palmdale by 1882. The modern town of Palmdale, sometimes referred to in the historical literature as "New Palmdale", was founded on the railroad line about two miles west of the original "Old Palmdale". Cattle ranching served as the major economic pursuit in the valley at this time, and remained so in areas, such as Palmdale, that fell outside of the mining activities that began in the 1880s in the Tropico area near Rosamond.

In 1884 the Atlantic and Pacific Fibre Company, an English corporation,

bought up large sections of land on the southern and eastern sides of the valley, to exploit the Joshua trees (then called "Yucca palms") that were particularly prevalent in those areas. Using Chinese laborers, they hoped to render the cut Joshuas into pulp, and to ship this pulp to England, to be turned into paper. Perhaps luckily for the Joshua trees of the valley, the pursuit was abandoned at the end of 1885 (Settle 1963).

Population and prosperity increased in the valley for the next decade, with Everett Martin and other pioneers, for example, moving in and settling the Little Rock region (east of Palmdale) in the early 1890s. This corresponded with an unusually wet period, during which the alfalfa industry became profitable and dry-farming expanded, particularly along the southern side of the valley. A drought occurred between 1895 and 1897, however, during which "nearly all the people left the valley" (Settle 1963:35). The colony of Manzano, for example, incorporating over 2200 acres of nuts, fruits and raisins, and said to have the largest almond orchard in the world, was abandoned at this time, as was the Almondale colony, located along the Little Rock Creek. Many of the former residents moved back into the valley with the end of the drought, although the colony was effectively broken up by the meteorological disaster (Settle 1963). These vagaries of the weather for the farmer were partly obviated in 1904, when William Burton became the first person to use a gasoline engine to run a water pump to get water from his well, thereby initiating a second boom in the alfalfa industry.

A second episode of colonization in the Antelope Valley occurred after 1914, with the establishment of the utopian community of Llano del Rio (Hine 1953). This was located along Big Rock Creek (whose Spanish name was Llano del Rio; hence the name of the community). Like most California utopian communities of this period, it was populated by socialists and unionists who, at the colony's peak, numbered about 900 people. Unlike many, however, it was an agricultural success from the point of view of its output, which initially emphasized alfalfa, but quickly came to provide almost complete self-sufficiency for the inhabitants. The community's school enrollment totaled 125 children by 1917, and Llano opened one of the first and largest Montessori kindergartens in the state.

In spite of this success, difficulties arose on a series of fronts. The remoteness of the community, 20 miles from the railroad line at Palmdale, was an impediment to any kind of commercial undertaking, and elevated the

cost of any imported goods. Disagreements also developed on the political front, with various factions vying for leadership and control. But the biggest problem was still water. Initial estimates of the potential acre-feet of water available from Big Rock Creek and the underground aquifer were incorrect, and there was no feasible way for the community to meet its potential with the available water. This circumstance was exacerbated when a series of local ranchers sued the colony over its water rights.

The colony split, as a result, in 1917, with most of its members choosing to move to Newllano, a colony established in Louisiana. A smaller group stayed in the Antelope Valley but, due to bad management, they entered into involuntary bankruptcy proceedings in 1918, saddling the Louisiana branch with their debt. This was the effective end of the utopian movement in the Antelope Valley.

Since that time, the Antelope Valley has served as an agricultural zone within Los Angeles County and, increasingly in the last three decades, as part of the greater Los Angeles residential/suburban zone. Initial development occurred at and near the railhead at Palmdale, with the appearance and growth of Lancaster somewhat later. As should be clear from the above, however, the study area per se was peripheral to the historical events of the region, given that it remains undeveloped to this day.

3.0
ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH

An archival records search was conducted at the California State University, Fullerton, Archaeological Information Center (AIC), by AIC staff members to determine: (i) if prehistoric or historical archaeological sites had previously been recorded within the project area; (ii) if the project area had been systematically surveyed by archaeologists prior to the initiation of this field study; and/or (iii) whether the region of the field project was known to contain archaeological sites and to thereby be archaeologically sensitive. The results of this archival record search are included in this document as Appendix A.

The records search indicated that the study area had been systematically surveyed by archaeologists four times previously, and no cultural resources

of any kind had been recorded on it or in the immediate vicinity.

4.0
FIELD SURVEY METHODS

A field survey of the Amargosa Creek Specific Plan EIR project area was conducted by Joseph M. Simon of the W & S Consultants staff on 2 - 3 March 2007. The groundsurface was examined with transects walked across the study area spaced at 10 meter intervals, to identify artifacts or other archaeological indicators that might be present on the groundsurface.

5.0
SURVEY RESULTS

The study area had been previously cultivated and, at the time of the survey, contained a low density cover of introduced grasses and shrubs. Overall, groundsurface visibility on the property was good during the survey. Two canals/channelized streams run through the property, which otherwise is undeveloped.

The Phase I archaeological survey of the Amargosa Creek Specific Plan EIR study area, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California, failed to result in the discovery of cultural resources of any kind, confirming the previous archAeological studies of the property.

6.0
RECOMMENDATIONS

An archival records search, background studies, and an intensive, on-foot surface survey of the Amargosa Creek Specific Plan EIR study area, located in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California, were conducted as part of Phase I archaeological survey. These procedures failed to result in the discovery of cultural resources of any kind.

Based on this fact, development of the Amargosa Creek Specific Plan EIR study area does not have the potential to result in adverse impacts to cultural resources, and we recommend no additional archaeological work on the property. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are uncovered during grading of the study area, however, we recommend that an archaeologist be contacted to evaluate the discovery.

7.0
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8.0

FIGURES

Figure 1 - Location of the Amargosa Creek Specific Plan EIR study area, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

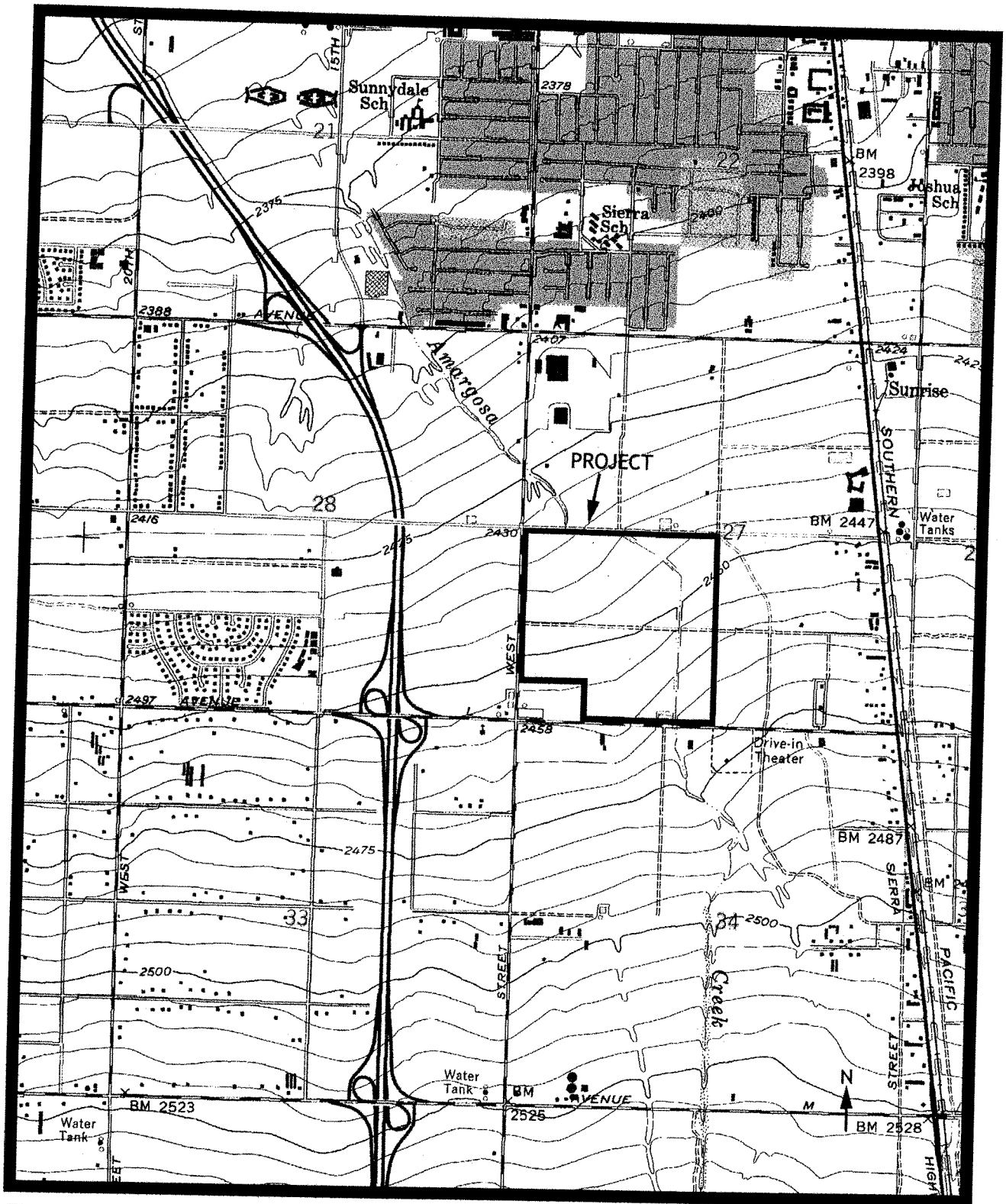

Figure 1: Project location on Lancaster West, CA. 1:24 000 USGS quadrangle.

9.0
APPENDIX A: ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH

South Central Coastal Information Center
California Historical Resources Information System
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Department of Anthropology
800 North State College Boulevard
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846
714.278.5395 / FAX 714.278.5542
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Ventura
Los Angeles
Orange

February 12, 2007 SCCIC # 7318.4486

Mr. Joseph M. Simon
W and S Consultants
2242 Stinson Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805) 581-3577

RE: Records Search for Amargosa Creek Specific Plan Area (151.6 ac.)

Dear Mr. Simon,

As per your request received on February 2, 2007, a records search was conducted for the above referenced project. The search includes a review of all recorded archaeological sites within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site as well as a review of cultural resource reports on file. In addition, the California Points of Historical Interest (PHI), the California Historical Landmarks (CHL), the California Register of Historical Places (CR), the National Register of Historic Places (NR), and the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) listings were reviewed for the above referenced project. The following is a discussion of the findings.

Lancaster West, CA. USGS 7.5' Quadrangle

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

No archaeological sites have been identified within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site. No archaeological sites are located within the project site. No isolates have been identified within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site. No isolates are located within the project site.

HISTORIC RESOURCES:

Copies of our historic maps – Elizabeth Lake (1917) 30' USGS, Lancaster (1933) 6' USGS, and Lancaster (1958) 15' USGS - are enclosed for your review.

The California Point of Historical Interest (2006) of the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation, lists no properties within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site.

The California Historical Landmarks (2006) of the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation, lists no properties within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site.

The California Register of Historic Places (2006) lists no properties within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site. These are properties determined to have a National Register of Historic Places Status of 1 or 2, a California Historical Landmark numbering 770 and higher, or a Point of Historical Interest listed after 1/1/1998.

The National Register of Historic Places (2006) lists no properties within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site.

The California Historic Resources Inventory (2006) lists no properties that have been evaluated for historical significance within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site.

PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS:

Five studies (LA2593*, LA2619*, LA2779*, LA3784*, LA6625) have been conducted within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site. Of these, four are located within the project site. There are four additional investigations located on the Lancaster West 7.5' USGS Quadrangle that are potentially within a 1/8-mile radius of the project site. These reports are not mapped due to insufficient locational information.
(= Located within the project site)*

Please forward a copy of any reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you **do not include** records search maps in your report. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, contact the office at 714.278.5395 Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the SCCIC number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Sincerely,
SCCIC

Thomas David Shackford
Lead Staff Researcher

Enclosures:

(X) Maps – 7.5' USGS Quadrangle, 15' USGS Quadrangle – pages
(X) Bibliography – 1 page
(X) Confidentiality Form
(X) Invoice # 7318.4486

Bibliography: Amargosa Creek Specific Plan

IC ID#: LA2593 **DATE:** 1992 **PAGES:** 18
AUTHOR: NORWOOD, RICHARD H.
FIRM: RT Factfinders
TITLE: Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Amagosa Creek Channelization Project, Avenue L to Avenue K-8 and 10th Street East, Lancaster, Los Angeles County California
AREA:
SITES: None

QUADNAME: Lancaster West
MEMO:

IC ID#: LA2619 **DATE:** 1992 **PAGES:** 17
AUTHOR: NORWOOD, RICHARD H.
FIRM: RT FACTFINDERS
TITLE: Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for the 8th Street West Drainage Channel, Lancaster, Los Angeles County California
AREA:
SITES: None

QUADNAME: Lancaster West
MEMO:

IC ID#: LA2779 **DATE:** 1993 **PAGES:** 19
AUTHOR: NORWOOD, RICHARD H.
FIRM: CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGIST
TITLE: Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for Vesting Tentative Map, Tract 51078 Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
AREA: 120 ac
SITES: CA-LAN-419, LAN--486, LAN-1422H, LAN-1990H

QUADNAME: Lancaster West
MEMO: