

# **Cultural Resources Survey for the Lane Ranch Towne Center Project in Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California**

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Submitted To

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Lancaster West 7.5-min. quad.  
35 acres  
No resources identified



## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

At the request of Christopher A. Joseph and Associates and in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) performed a cultural resources study for the proposed Lane Ranch Towne Center Project in the western portion of the City of Lancaster in northern Los Angeles County. The project encompasses approximately 35 acres and will involve creating a commercial development that requires a General Plan amendment and a zone change.

Prefield background research revealed that three previous archaeological investigations have been conducted within the project area. No archaeological sites or paleontological resources have been identified within the project area during those studies. Æ archaeologists completed a pedestrian survey of the project area in June 2007. No archaeological sites or isolated artifacts were identified during the survey.

Field notes, maps, and a complete set of photographs from the current investigation are on file at Æ's office in Fresno, California. A copy of the final version of this report will be submitted to the South Central Coastal Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Fullerton.



# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b> .....	5
2.1	REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT.....	5
2.2	PREHISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY.....	7
2.2.1	Paleoindian Period (prior to 10,000 B.P.).....	7
2.2.2	Lake Mojave Period (10,000–7000 B.P.).....	7
2.2.3	Pinto Period (7000–4000 B.P.).....	7
2.2.4	Gypsum Period (4000–1500 B.P.).....	8
2.2.5	Rose Spring/Saratoga Springs Period (1500–800 B.P.).....	8
2.2.6	Late Prehistoric Period (800–300 B.P.).....	8
2.2.7	Ethnographic Period (300 B.P to present).....	9
2.3	HISTORY.....	10
<b>3</b>	<b>METHODS</b> .....	11
3.1	RECORDS SEARCH.....	11
3.2	NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION.....	11
3.3	FIELD SURVEY.....	11
<b>4</b>	<b>FINDINGS</b> .....	13
4.1	RECORDS SEARCH.....	13
4.2	NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION.....	13
4.3	FIELD SURVEY.....	14
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	17
5.1	SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.....	17
5.2	DEFINITION OF IMPACTS.....	17
5.3	PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES.....	18
5.3.1	Impact CR-1: Exposure of Previously Unidentified Cultural Resources.....	18
5.3.2	Mitigation Measure CR-1.....	18
5.3.3	Significance after Mitigation.....	18
<b>6</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	19

## APPENDICES

- A** Qualifications of Key Personnel
- B** Records Search Results
- C** Native American Consultation

**FIGURES**

1-1 Lane Ranch Towne Center project area, view to the east.....1  
1-2 Project location in Los Angeles County, California .....2  
1-3 Survey location at intersection of 60th Street and Avenue L .....3  
  
4-1 Lane Ranch residence, view to the west .....14  
4-2 Historic hay baler, view to the south .....15

**TABLES**

4-1 Known Cultural Resources Investigations Within the Project Area.....13

# 1 INTRODUCTION

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared for a commercial development in the City of Lancaster. The development includes two anchor stores, a drug store, three submajor stores, four buildings with shops, and two restaurants. The project requires a General Plan amendment to change the area's mixed designation to Commercial (C) and a zone change to Commercial Planned Development (CPD).

On behalf of Christopher A. Joseph and Associates, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) performed a cultural resources survey for the proposed development. The project area is within the boundaries of the city of Lancaster in northern Los Angeles County (Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The approximately 35-acre survey area lies in Township 7 North, Range 13 West, Sections 27 and 35 as shown on the Lancaster West, California, 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle (Figure 1-3). The survey parcel lies on the southeast corner of the intersection of 60th Street West and Avenue L.

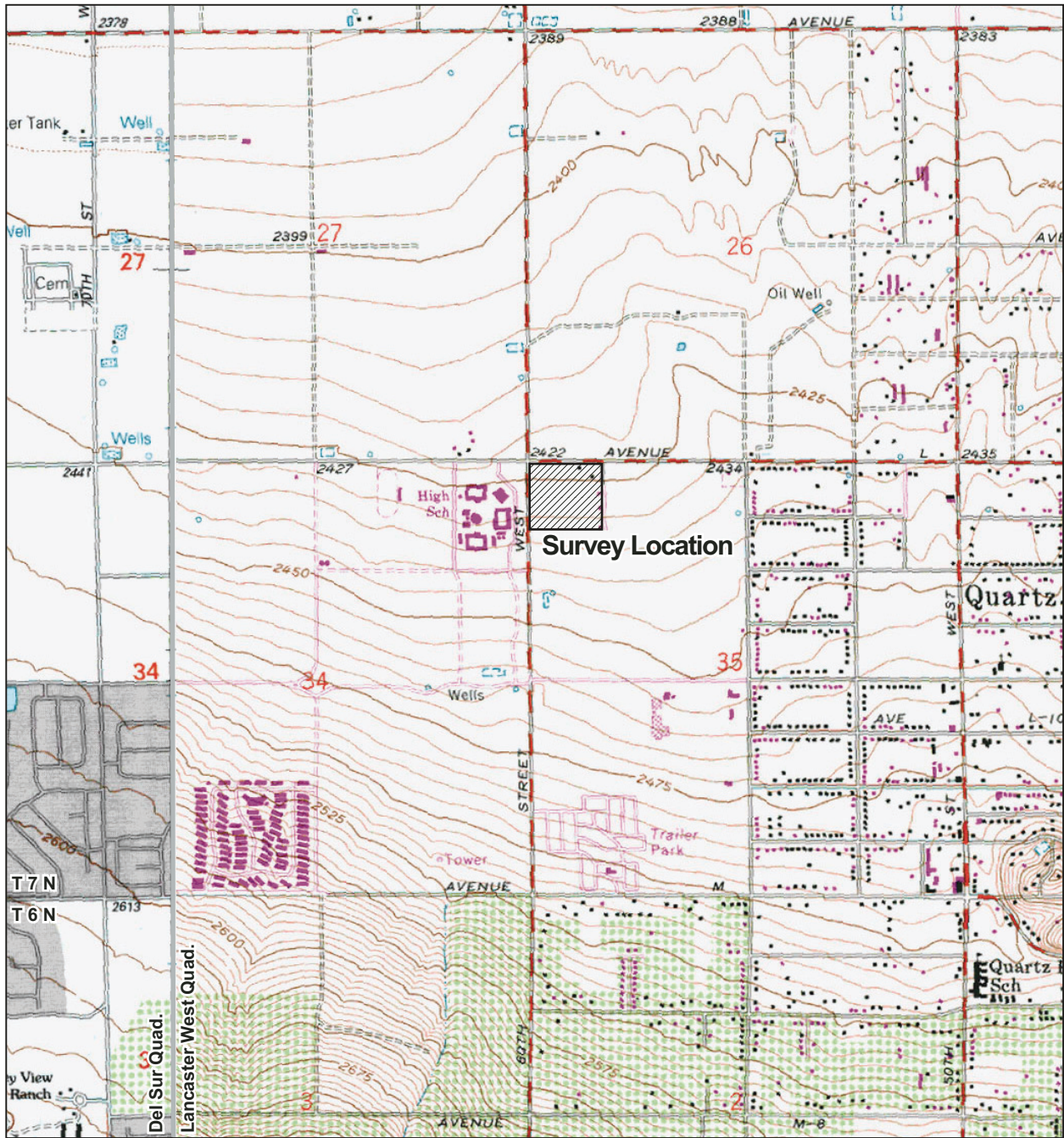


**Figure 1-1 Lane Ranch Towne Center project area, view to the east.**



Figure 1-2 Project location in Los Angeles County, California.





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U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute  
 Topographic Quadrangle  
**Del Sur and Lancaster West, CA**  
 T 7 N - R 13 W  
 1958, Photorevised 1974  
 Del Sur 1995

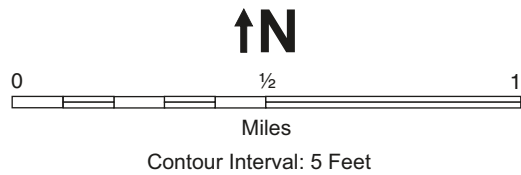


Figure 1-3 Survey location at intersection of 60th Street and Avenue L.

Preparation and approval of the EIR is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which mandates that state, county, and municipal agencies consider the impacts of their projects on the biological and cultural environment (California Public Resources Code Sections 21100 et seq.). The archaeological work documented in the report was carried out in accordance with state regulations and the report has been prepared in accordance with California Office of Historic Preservation standards outlined in *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format*.

Jay Lloyd served as Æ's project manager for these cultural studies, supervised the archaeological survey, and prepared the technical report. His résumé is provided in Appendix A. Arturo Ruelas and David Price participated as field technicians.

## BACKGROUND

This chapter describes the prehistoric and ethnographic cultural setting of the project area. Both prehistorically and ethnographically, the nature and distribution of human activities in the region have been affected by such factors as topography and the availability of water and biological resources. Therefore, prior to a discussion of the cultural setting, the environmental setting of the project area is summarized below.

### 2.1 REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The project area lies along the western edge of Antelope Valley in the western Mojave Desert. Antelope Valley is a triangular valley bordered on the south by the San Gabriel Mountains, on the southwest by the Sierra Pelona Range, and on the northwest the Tehachapi Mountains. Rogers Lake is north of the project area and Highway 395 is to the east. Elevations in the region range from 2,270 feet above sea level at the valley floor to 8,214 feet above sea level at the crest of the San Gabriel Mountains. The project area lies at 2,425 feet above sea level.

The western Mojave Desert is hydrated by a playa system consisting of three primary lakebeds—Rosamond, Rogers, and Buckhorn—surrounded by a number of smaller playas. The three larger playas lie within Edwards Air Force Base. Rogers Dry Lake is the largest, covering approximately 46 square miles. Rosamond Dry Lake covers approximately 21 square miles and Buckhorn approximately 2.5 square miles. Today these lakebeds are usually dry, only occasionally covered in water following large winter storms. During the late Holocene, the Antelope Valley was a closed basin, and all run-off from the surrounding mountains flowed into the lakebed complex. The project area lies just west of Amargosa Creek, one of the major drainages flowing from the Sierra Pelona Mountains. Other water sources in the project vicinity include Big Rock Creek and Little Rock Creek, which drain the San Gabriel Mountains; Cottonwood Creek and Los Alamos Creek from the Tehachapi Mountains; and an unnamed drainage originating near the town of Mojave that flows through the Bissell Hills east of Rogers Lake and forms the major fan on its western shore. Additionally, numerous springs occur in the region. The closest one is the now dry Lovejoy Springs, which watered a small valley nestled within Lovejoy Buttes east of the project area. The larger drainages and springs were likely a major factor in site location throughout the desert region.

Geologically, the western Mojave Desert is bounded to the north and south by the Garlock and San Andreas faults, respectively. A series of buttes lie within this bounded zone. These buttes—Alpine, Black, Saddleback, Piute, and Lovejoy—are igneous remnants of once higher hills that have been reduced by erosion or buried by debris (Norris and Webb 1990:223). They are composed of granitic rocks like coarse quartz monsonite, red rhyolite, sandstone, tuff, limestone, and basalt. Lovejoy Buttes, in particular, contains muscovite and biotite granite, and small amounts of biotite quartz monsonite (Leighton and Cotton 1967). Much of the valley floor consists of unconsolidated quaternary alluvium composed of silts, sands, poorly developed soils, and gravels (Dibblee 1967).

During prehistoric times, native populations sought rhyolites; fine-grained silicates such as jasper, chert, chalcedony, and quartzite; basalt; granite; and schist for the manufacture of flaked and ground stone tools. Good quality rhyolite is available at the Fairmont Buttes in the western Antelope Valley (Sutton 1982) and Rosamond Hills (Noble 1954; Wright and Troxel 1954). Fine-grained silicates also occur locally on the eastern edge of the valley, while basalt is present in the Rosamond Hills. Abundant schist and steatite deposits occur in the Sierra Pelona Mountains west of Palmdale. Other materials commonly used by native populations in Antelope Valley, such as obsidian and fused shale, are not local to the area but were available through trade or direct procurement.

Antelope Valley is often referred to as the “high desert” due to the elevations of the playas at 2,270 feet and the surrounding foothills between 3,000 and 4,000 feet. As a high desert in the rain shadow of the steep San Gabriel Mountains, it is secluded from the moderating effects of marine air and experiences wide diurnal and seasonal temperature variations. Daytime high temperatures average between 56°F in the winter and a 98°F in the summer. Winter nights often drop below freezing and occasionally it snows. Typical of a California Mediterranean climate, rain falls in the winter, while summers are long and dry. Rainfall is low, from 5 to 9 inches annually, with the southern foothills receiving more precipitation than the drier, lower plains.

As Sutton (1988) explains, during the late Pleistocene the valley contained several springs, seeps, and marshy areas supporting herds of horses, camels, and mammoths. As the glaciers retreated between 12,000 and 10,000 years ago, the climate became warmer and drier; vegetation communities shifted to higher elevations, and the animals moved with them. The lake levels fluctuated widely during the early Holocene, and the modern plant and animal communities of the Antelope Valley did not become established until after 4300 B.P. Based on studies of pollen and pack rat middens, it is believed that desert vegetation began replacing the low-elevation woodlands of the Mojave Desert between 12,000 and 8,000 years ago (Mehring 1967; Parker 2002; Van Devender and Spaulding 1979).

Vegetation in the Antelope Valley consists primarily of saltbrush scrub, creosote bush scrub, and Joshua tree woodland plant communities. The saltbrush scrub community, adapted to high salinity, occurs near the shorelines of the dry lakebeds. The creosote bush scrub is found on the valley floor above the immediate confines of the playas, and the Joshua tree woodland community is found in the higher elevations on gentle slopes. These communities produce plant species such as beavertail cactus, chia, buckwheat, creosote bush, rabbitbush, sagebrush, Mormon tea, saltbush, Joshua trees, mesquite, and junipers. Various plants were used for foods and medicines by Native American people in prehistoric times, and many species provided materials for weaponry, baskets, cordage, digging sticks, shelter, and fuel. These plant communities also provided habitat for various birds, insects, and reptiles. Mammals that may have been hunted by Native American groups include small rodents (e.g., kangaroo rats, wood rats, and ground squirrels), black-tailed hare and jackrabbit, cottontail, coyote, spotted skunk, kit fox, bobcat, and mule deer, although their numbers have declined in modern times (Parker 2002). Pronghorn, bighorn sheep, and black bear are presumed to have existed in the region (see Graves 1930; Sutton 1988) and were likely hunted by the native population as well.

## **2.2 PREHISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

Although archaeologists first took interest in the western Mojave Desert in the 1930s, little systematic research was done in the region prior to the 1960s. Efforts since the 1960s have led to a prehistoric cultural chronology that can be divided into seven periods distinguished by paleoclimatic variations and differences in adaptive strategies (Warren 1984).

### **2.2.1 Paleoindian Period (prior to 10,000 B.P)**

The earliest archaeological evidence of cultural activity in the western Mojave Desert occurs during the terminal Pleistocene, a period marked by rising temperature and precipitation and unstable climate. Although evidence of a Paleoindian occupation in the region is sparse, marked by a single Clovis point recovered from the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains (Glennan 1971), the valley was likely an ideal place for the exploitation of late Pleistocene megafauna. Recent research at Searles Lake basin in the eastern Mojave Desert has identified geoglyphs and artifact concentrations dating back 11,000 years (Barna 2004). Archaeologists hypothesize that the earliest occupants of the region led a foraging lifestyle focused around lakeshore or wetland environments (Davis 1978; Moratto 1984). Population density was presumable quite low. The tool kit included large lanceolate and fluted points (e.g., Clovis or Folsom) for hunting game, as well as crescents, graters, scrapers, choppers, perforators, and numerous small formalized and informal flake tools (Davis 1978). Ground stone implements were rare, indicating that processed seeds or nuts did not play a significant dietary role.

### **2.2.2 Lake Mojave Period (10,000–7000 B.P.)**

Most of the early material identified within the valley dates to the Lake Mojave Period when the climate was much drier than the preceding period with intermittent moist episodes. Numerous sites dating to this period have been found within the southwestern Great Basin and the northern Mojave Desert, suggesting a considerable population increase during this time. Local sites from this interval include CA-KER-322, on the northwestern fringe of Rogers Lake (Peak 1974, 1976; Sutton 1979), and CA-KER-760, northeast of Rogers Lake (Robinson, personal communication 1980 in Sutton 1988). Lake Mojave artifacts include large percussion-flaked foliate and stemmed points and knives (typically Lake Mojave and Silver Lake types), stone crescents, and a wide variety of scrapers, graters, and perforating tools. Ground stone implements continue to be rare. Sutton (1988:30) noted that much of Antelope and Fremont valleys may have been covered by Pleistocene Lake Thompson. Because the relief in the valley is slight, extensive marshlands may have ringed the lake. Such marshes are among the most productive of habitats, and Davis (1978) argued that these wetlands would have attracted early occupants. Thus, it is presumed that the adaptive strategy was one of generalized hunting and gathering focused on the exploitation of wetland resources.

### **2.2.3 Pinto Period (7000–4000 B.P.)**

A generalized hunting and gathering strategy continued into the Pinto Period; however, it underwent marked changes with the onset of greater aridity. Population decreased in response to variable and unstable climatic conditions and a decrease in permanent wetland habitats beginning in the mid-Holocene. This period corresponds to Antevs (1953) Altithermal (i.e., hot and dry), although recent research suggests that in the Antelope Valley this aridity was punctuated by wet

episodes (Grayson 1993; Mehringer 1986). Sites dating to this period tend to be small temporary seasonal camps located near streams and seasonal water sources. They lack developed middens but contain a diverse tool kit consisting of Pinto projectile points, other flaked stone tools, and ground stone milling slabs and handstones. The appearance of milling tools indicates an increased reliance on seeds and nuts from the scrub and chaparral plant communities as wetland resources diminished. Rhyolite, fine-grained basalts, and poorer quality chert and quartz materials tend to dominate the lithic assemblages.

#### **2.2.4 Gypsum Period (4000–1500 B.P.)**

The Little Pluvial episode occurs between 5000 and 2000 B.P., marking a period of increased precipitation that intensified every thousand years until circa 1900 B.P. Modern vegetation and climate were well established by 4300 B.P., and mesquite trees, oaks on the valley margins, and piñon were readily available. The mortar and pestle were introduced to process mesquite pods, acorns, pine nuts, yuccas, and agaves. The archaeological record is marked by the appearance of large village sites reflecting a transition from seasonal migration to year-round or semisedentary settlements (Sutton 1988). The presence of coastal marine shell artifacts (e.g., *Olivella* beads) and Coso obsidian indicate that long-distance exchange systems were in place. Milling tools of various types dominate the artifact assemblages; diagnostic flaked stone artifacts include Humboldt, Elko, Gypsum, and Rose Spring projectile points.

#### **2.2.5 Rose Spring/Saratoga Springs Period (1500–800 B.P.)**

This period is marked by moderate climatic conditions interrupted by severe drought at 1000–900 B.P. Adaptive strategies remain similar to the Gypsum Period, evinced by large village sites with deep middens reflecting a subsistence strategy focused on hunting and gathering and a continuation of trade networks with coastal and other outside groups (Moratto 1984:423; Sutton 1981:217). The biggest difference from the preceding period is the replacement of the atlatl, or spear thrower, by the bow and arrow. Projectile points diagnostic of this period include Rose Spring and Cottonwood points. Also prevalent are stone beads and schist and steatite ground stone artifacts reflecting the development of a regional stone trade. Schist and steatite stone workshops have been identified at habitation sites along Amargosa Creek west of Palmdale (Earle 2004). The end of the period is marked by a shift away from obsidian importation and an increased use of local cryptocrystallines. Earle (2004) suggests that changes in regional networks of raw material exchange may be associated with a drought episode (circa 850–650 B.P.) and the migration of Numic-speaking populations out of southeastern California.

#### **2.2.6 Late Prehistoric Period (800–300 B.P.)**

Adaptive strategies of the Rose Spring/Saratoga Springs Period continued during the Late Prehistoric Period. With the amelioration of climatic conditions and an increase in precipitation circa 600 B.P., despite a severe drought around 500 B.P., population increased and subsistence practices featured more intensive exploitation of a variety of both large and small mammals and some fish. The number of special-purpose sites appears to increase, use of Coso obsidian declines, and coastal trade items, particularly shell, increase. Use of Rose Spring and Cottonwood points continues during this period, while Desert Side-notched types are also introduced. Late period sites in the Antelope Valley are distinguished from other late period sites in the southern Mojave Desert by their general lack of pottery. Moratto (1984) and others argue

that this suggests that the southwestern Hakataya influence so prevalent along the Mojave River valley was relatively minor in Antelope Valley because trade between the coast was well established. Interestingly, however, a surprising number of ceramic sherds have been found at CA-LAN-192 and other sites in the buttes (Earle 2004). Additional study of these sherds is necessary to determine their type. As Earle (2004) points out, their presence, along with the numerous shell beads, may reflect the existence of a coastal trans-Colorado trade route through the Antelope and the Mojave River valleys. Alternatively, the pottery may be of Numic origin, suggesting affiliation with Numic speaking groups.

### **2.2.7 Ethnographic Period (300 B.P to present)**

The western Mojave Desert was occupied by at least five groups of Shoshonean speakers at the time of first contact with Europeans: four from the Takic family of Shoshonean speakers and one from the Numic family. These include the Kawaiisu, Numic speakers who lived in Tehachapi Valley and throughout the southern Sierra Nevada in the vicinity of Lake Isabella and Walker Pass; the Tataviam (Takic), who occupied the Santa Clarita Valley, with territory that extended north to the southwestern edge of Antelope Valley; the Kitanemuk (Takic), who resided south of the Kawaiisu and north of the Tataviam on the northwestern edge of the west end of Antelope Valley; the Serrano (Takic), of the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, and their valley floor neighbors the Vanyume Serrano, who resided along the Mojave River in the Victorville region and in the southern and southwestern portions of Antelope Valley; and the Haminat people of the present-day Lancaster and Palmdale region (Antelope Valley Indian Museum [AVIM] n.d.; Padon and Love 2004). It is suggested that three of the groups, the Kitanemuk, Kaminat, and Vanyume Serrano, spoke a closely related language that may have been a dialect of the same language spoken by the mountain-dwelling Serrano (AVIM n.d.).

The limited ethnographic information provides few specifics about the daily life of each group. Bean and Smith (1978) offer some information about the Vanyume and Serrano, while Blackburn and Bean (1978) present background on the Kitanemuk; however, overall little is known about the ethnographic period in Antelope Valley. In general, the native occupants lived in large permanent winter villages and dispersed into smaller mobile gathering groups during the late spring, summer, and fall months to harvest piñon nuts, mesquite, yucca, buckwheat, chia, berries, and other seasonally available foods. The villages were exogamous and marriage was patrilocal. Each village was ruled by a headman whose position was inherited from his father. The villages appeared to be politically independent, despite marital ties with other villages.

The groups maintained friendly relations with one another; intermarriages, for example among the Vanyume and Serrano, allowed for trade in food and raw materials. The Kawaiisu lived amicably with their southern neighbors, the Kitanemuk, and are known to have participated in cooperative antelope drives with the Yokuts of the San Joaquin Valley (AVIM n.d.). Although most of the groups shared similar cultural traits and practices, there were some differences. For example, the Kitanemuk buried their dead while the Serrano typically cremated their deceased; however, many of the groups shared in the practice of burning possessions of the dead as offerings (AVIM n.d.).

With the development of the Franciscan mission system, numerous Serrano people were relocated to the missions between 1800 and 1820. Earle (AVIM n.d.) suggests that small Numic-

speaking groups of Chemehuevi-Southern Paiute affiliation migrated into the western Mojave Desert from the east and settled across the valley and the San Gabriel Mountains from the 1840s to as late as 1890.

## **2.3 HISTORY**

The first Europeans to enter Antelope Valley were Spanish soldiers and missionaries exploring the interior of Alta California in the 1770s. In 1772, Captain Pedro Fages passed through the valley while searching for mission deserters; his expedition took him through Tejon Pass and ultimately into the San Joaquin Valley. Four years later, Father Francisco Garces traveled through Antelope Valley along the Mojave Indian Trail. California Historic Monument No. 130 in Rosamond marks the location where the Franciscan friar stopped at Willow Springs (Tipton 1988). Trappers such as Jedediah Smith and Kit Carson journeyed through Antelope Valley in the 1820s and were followed by John Fremont, who explored the region in 1844 (Palmdale City Library 2004).

California's accession to the Union in 1850 led to several infrastructural developments in the region. Established in 1848, Fort Tejon protected an important point along the north-south wagon route and warded off Indian attacks in the area. Willow Springs became a stage stop in 1860 (Tipton 1988), and a telegraph line connecting San Francisco and Los Angeles was strung through the Mojave Desert that same year (County of Los Angeles Public Library 2000). Nevertheless, Antelope Valley remained largely undeveloped. It was not until 1876, when the Southern Pacific Railroad completed its line through the valley and stations were established at Lancaster, Alpine (Palmdale), and Acton, that more permanent settlements took hold (Palmdale City Library 2004). Like most of California, the supply of water has been the limiting factor for growth in the Mojave Desert region.



## **3 METHODS**

### **3.1 RECORDS SEARCH**

The staff at the South Central Coastal Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Fullerton performed a records search on 18 July 2007. The records search covered a study area encompassing the 35-acre survey area and a 1-mile buffer zone. The study area is larger than the survey area to ensure that all potential project locations would be included in the records search. The records search was conducted to identify previous archaeological investigations and previously recorded prehistoric and historical sites and features within the study area. This was accomplished by reviewing the information center's files and base maps, as well as listings on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Points of Historical Interest, the California Historical Landmarks, the California Register of Historical Resources, and the California State Historic Resources Inventory. Detailed results of the records search are included as Appendix B.

### **3.2 NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION**

Æ contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on 11 June 2007 to request a current list of local contacts and a review of the sacred lands file at the NAHC. The NAHC provided contact information for eight local Native American representatives. In July 2007, Æ submitted a letter to each contact with details about the project to solicit information and provide an opportunity for expression of interest or concern regarding the project. A follow-up telephone call was made to each of the contacts. Correspondence with the NAHC and the local representatives is provided in Appendix C.

### **3.3 FIELD SURVEY**

Æ completed an intensive pedestrian survey of the 35-acre project area on 29 June 2007. The survey was accomplished by a crew of archaeologists walking parallel and meandering transects spaced 5-10 meters apart. Survey of the project area was guided by a copy of the USGS Lancaster West 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle and project maps depicting the study area.

The parcel was photographed using a Nikon Coolpix 880 digital camera. Photo records and digital photos are on file at Æ's office in Fresno, California.



## 4 FINDINGS

### 4.1 RECORDS SEARCH

The records search revealed that 28 previous archaeological investigations have been documented within or adjacent to the 1-mile radius study area with the earliest occurring in 1976 and the most recent in 2007. Three studies have been conducted within or adjacent to the 38-acre project area (Table 4-1). One report documents a survey and assessed impacts of development on four properties (Singer and Atwood 1989). Another report documented an archaeological survey conducted in support of Southern California Edison's Antelope-Bailey Reconductoring Project (Jordan 2007). The third study is the cultural resources technical report for the City of Lancaster General Plan update (Tang et al. 2006). Bibliographical information for the reports of previous studies conducted within the entire study area are provided in Appendix D.

**Table 4-1  
Known Cultural Resources Investigations Within the Project Area**

Information Center Report No.	Type of Investigation	Reference
LA1919	Archaeological survey of four properties	Singer and Atwood 1989
LA7991	City of Lancaster General Plan update	Tang et al. 2006
LA8168	Archaeological survey for utility reconductoring	Jordan 2007

Five archaeological sites and three isolated artifacts were identified within the 1-mile radius study area during the records search. None of the sites or isolates are located within the Lane Ranch project area.

### 4.2 NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

As noted, Æ contacted the NAHC for a review of their sacred lands file on 11 June 2007. No sacred lands or other Native American cultural resources are listed with the NAHC for the project area (Appendix C).

On 6 July 2007, Æ submitted letters detailing the project and requesting comments to the following eight local tribal contacts: Charles Cooke; Beverly Salazar Folkes; Henry Duro, Chairperson of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians; Randy Guzman-Folkes, Director, Cultural and Environmental Department of the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians; Ron Andrade, Director of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission; Delia Dominguez of the Kitanemuk and Yowlumne Tejon Indians; John Valenzuela, Chairperson of the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians; and Robert Robinson, Historic Preservation Officer for the Kern Valley Indian Council. Follow-up telephone calls were

placed on 20 July 2007. To date, none of the contacts has expressed any concerns regarding the project.

### 4.3 FIELD SURVEY

The project area is located along the western edge of the Antelope Valley in the western Mojave Desert within the city of Lancaster. The project vicinity consists of recent residential developments to the north, south, and east. A high school is located across the street to the west. The surveyed area consists of the “Lane Ranch & Co.,” a large ranch complex with residences, barns, stables, stalls, pens, equipment storage yards, and open pasture (Figure 4-1).



**Figure 4-1 Lane Ranch residence, view to the west.**

Surface visibility ranged from less than 10 percent in the pastures to 100 percent in the open fields. Survey coverage was 100 percent and no evidence of prehistoric or historical archaeological sites, historical buildings or structures, or other cultural resources were encountered within the project boundaries.

Although no historical resources were recorded during the survey, it should be noted that there are multiple pieces of historical farm equipment located throughout the ranch complex (Figure 4-2). The pieces are mixed in with modern farm machinery currently being used by the ranch. Therefore, although these pieces predate the ranch itself they do not represent a historical component of the Lane Ranch. Considering the ranch’s business providing livestock and equipment to the movie industry, it is highly likely that the pieces were acquired for that purpose.



**Figure 4-2** Historic hay baler, view to the south.

Many of the observed pieces are listed as available for rent on the ranch's website ([www.laneranch.net](http://www.laneranch.net)).



## 5

# RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

At the request of Christopher A. Joseph and Associates, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. performed a cultural resources study for the proposed Lane Ranch Towne Center Project in the city of Lancaster in northern Los Angeles County.

The results of the records search showed that three previous cultural resources investigations have been conducted within the project boundaries. An additional 25 investigations have been conducted within 1 mile of the project area. No cultural resources were identified within the project area as a result of the records search.

A search of the NAHC sacred lands file failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources within the immediate project area. To date, no responses have been received and no concerns have been expressed by the Native American representatives contacted.

No prehistoric or historical archaeological sites were identified during the field survey.

### 5.2 DEFINITION OF IMPACTS

The CEQA requires consideration of project impacts on archaeological or historical sites deemed to be historical resources. If the project will cause a substantial adverse change in the characteristics of a resource that convey its significance or justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register, or a local register, either through demolition, destruction, relocation, alteration, or other means, then the project is judged to have a significant effect on the environment according to the CEQA guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations [CCR], Chapter 3).

Historical resources are places or objects that are important for scientific, historical, and religious reasons to cultures, communities, groups, or individuals. Historical resources may include archaeological sites, architectural remains, and other artifacts that provide evidence of past human activity. Historical resources can also include places of importance in the traditions of a society. To determine impacts to historical resources, it is necessary to assess the significance of resources and the effects of the project on their significance. The significance of resources in the project area is based on their importance to scientific-historic research, their importance to Native Americans, and their educational and community value for the general public.

Section 15064.5 of the CEQA guidelines pertains to the determination of the significance of impacts to archaeological and historic resources. Direct impacts can be assessed by identifying the types and locations of proposed development, determining the exact locations of cultural resources within the project area, assessing the significance of the resources that may be affected, and determining the appropriate mitigation.

Direct impacts may occur by:

- Physically damaging, destroying, or altering all or part of the resource;
- Altering characteristics of the surrounding environment that contribute to the resource's significance;
- Neglecting the resource to the extent that it deteriorates or is destroyed; or
- The incidental discovery of cultural resources without proper notification.

Indirect impacts primarily result from the effects of project-induced population growth. Such growth can result in increased construction as well as increased recreational activities that can disturb or destroy cultural resources. Due to their nature, indirect impacts are much harder to assess and quantify.

### **5.3 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

The CEQA guidelines for mitigating impacts to archaeological resources are provided in 14 CCR 15126.4. Achieving CEQA compliance with regard to treatment of impacts to significant cultural resources requires that a mitigation plan be developed for the resource. Preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to significant archaeological resources. Considering that no surface-visible cultural resources were identified during the survey, the following impact was determined to be salient to the Lane Ranch Project.

#### **5.3.1 Impact CR-1: Exposure of Previously Unidentified Cultural Resources**

It is possible that buried or concealed archaeological sites, features, or other cultural properties eligible for listing in the California Register could be present within the area designated for development and could become exposed during the course of construction or other project-related activities. Such sites or features might include aboriginal middens or artifact scatters, remnants of aboriginal houses, fire hearths, human burials and cemeteries, and historical dumps and trash deposits. Disturbance of such features is considered a *significant but mitigable* impact.

#### **5.3.2 Mitigation Measure CR-1**

All contractors and subcontractors shall be informed about the potential for archaeological discoveries during construction, and all construction personnel should be informed on the appropriate responses to such discoveries. The information will include a description of the kinds of cultural resources that might be encountered during construction and the steps to be taken if such a find is unearthed.

If buried or concealed cultural resources are discovered during excavation, construction, or related development work, all such work is to cease in the vicinity of the find and a qualified archaeologist shall be notified. The find shall be properly investigated and appropriate mitigative and/or protective measures (if necessary) shall be taken. If human remains are found, procedures for their treatment shall follow CEQA guidelines in 14 CCR 15064.5(e).

#### **5.3.3 Significance after Mitigation**

Impacts would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of these mitigation measures.



























































## FAX TRANSMISSION

FAX (559) 229-2019 Phone (559) 229-1856

**TO:** Native American Heritage Commission  
**FAX NO.:** (916) 657-5390  
**FROM:** Jay Lloyd  
**DATE:** June 11, 2007  
**RE.:** Request for Search of Sacred Lands Inventory File and Contact List  
**Number of pages, including this cover sheet:** 2

Dear Mr. Wood

Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is currently providing cultural resources services to Christopher A. Joseph and Associates in support of two Environmental Impact Reports for proposed developments at the southeast corner of 60th Street West and Avenue L, and the northwest corner of the same interchange in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County.

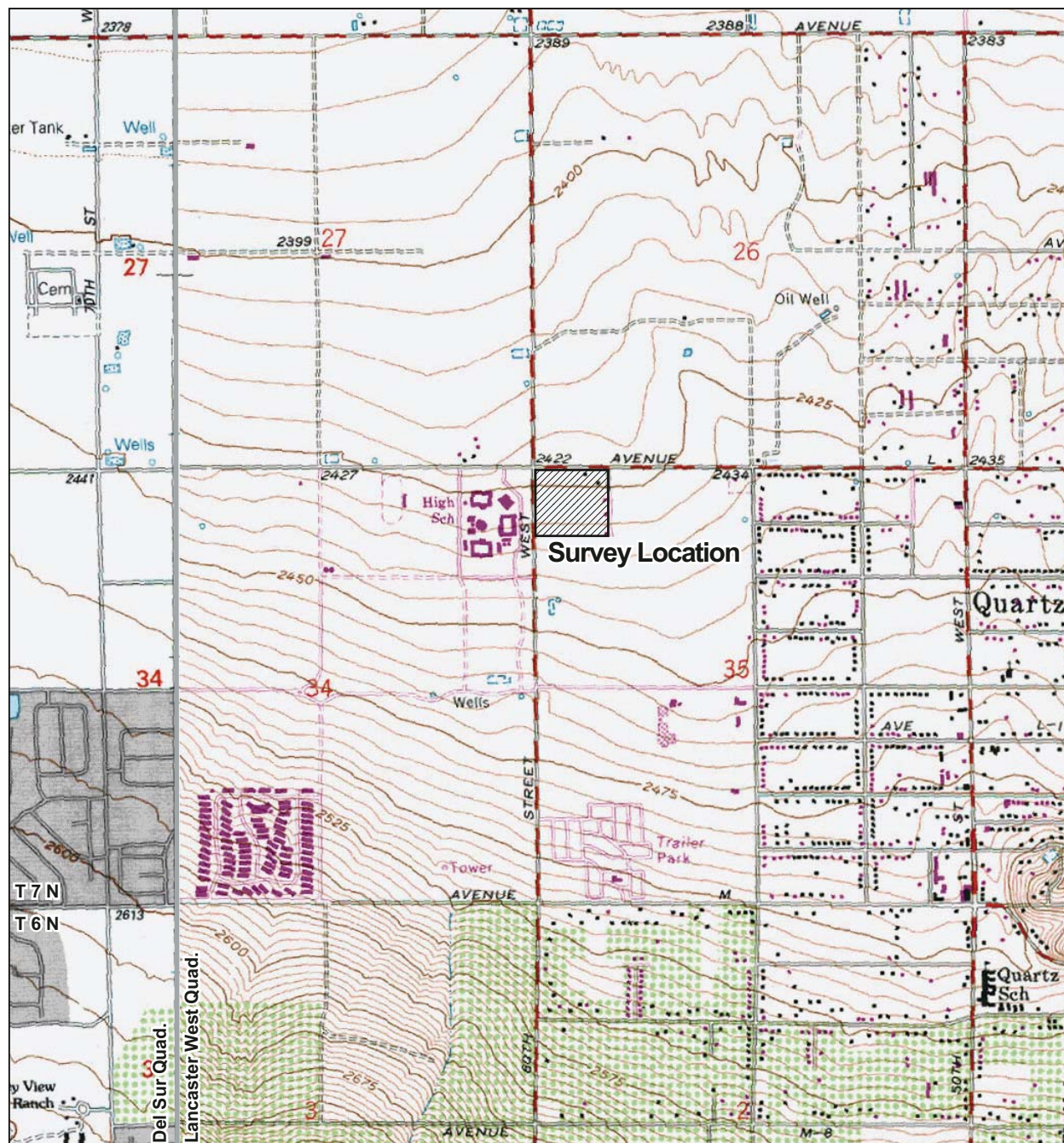
The project is in the City of Lancaster at the southeast and northwest corners of the intersection of 60th Street West and Avenue L. Its legal description is T7N, R13W, sections 34 and 35, as shown on the Lancaster West, CA USGS 7.5 quadrangle (see map). Æ formally requests that you review the Sacred Lands Inventory Files for sacred or sensitive areas that may be within or near the project area.

Additionally, we request the names and contact information of the Native American representatives in the project vicinity in order to provide those individuals with information regarding the project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information at (559)-229-1856. Please FAX the results to us at (559) 229-2019. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jay Lloyd  
Project Director

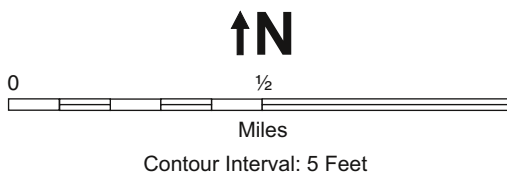
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Confidential: Not for Public Distribution

Prepared by Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute  
 Topographic Quadrangle  
**Del Sur and Lancaster West, CA**  
 T 7 N - R 13 W  
 1958, Photorevised 1974  
 Del Sur 1995



**Survey location at intersection of 60th Street and Avenue L in Lancaster**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Governor***NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
 (916) 653-6251  
 Fax (916) 657-5380  
 Web Site [www.nahc.ca.gov](http://www.nahc.ca.gov)  
 e-mail: [ds\\_nahc@pacbell.net](mailto:ds_nahc@pacbell.net)



June 20, 2007

Jay Lloyd  
 Project Director  
 Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

Sent by FAX: 559-229-2019  
 Number of pages: 2

Re: Development Project at 60<sup>th</sup> Street West and Avenue L , Lancaster, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

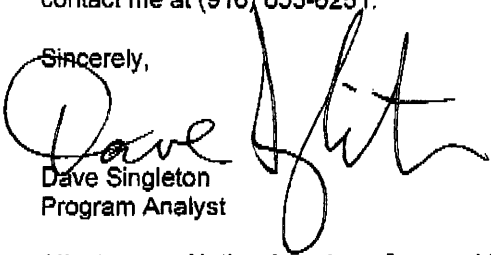
The Native American Heritage Commission was able to perform a record search of its Sacred Lands File (SLF) for the affected project area. The SLF failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the Sacred Lands File does not guarantee the absence of cultural resources in any 'area of potential effect (APE).'

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries once a project is underway. Enclosed are the nearest tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. A List of Native American contacts are attached to assist you. The Commission makes no recommendation of a single individual or group over another. It is advisable to contact the person listed; if they cannot supply you with specific information about the impact on cultural resources, they may be able to refer you to another tribe or person knowledgeable of the cultural resources in or near the affected project area (APE).

Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude the existence of archeological resources. Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in Section 15370 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when significant cultural resources could be affected by a project. Also, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction and mandate the processes to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery. Discussion of these should be included in your environmental documents, as appropriate.

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

  
 Dave Singleton  
 Program Analyst

Attachment: Native American Contact List

**Native American Contacts  
Los Angeles County  
June 18, 2007**

**Charles Cooke**  
32835 Santiago Road  
Acton , CA 93510  
(661) 269-1422  
(661) 733-1812

**Chumash  
Fernandeno  
Tataviam  
Kitanemuk**

**LA City/County Native American Indian Comm**  
**Ron Andrade, Director**  
3175 West 6th Street, Rm. 403  
Los Angeles , CA 90020  
(213) 351-5324  
(213) 386-3995 FAX

**Beverly Salazar Folkes**  
1931 Shadybrook Drive  
Thousand , CA 91362  
805 492-7255

**Chumash  
Tataviam  
Fernandeno**

**Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians**  
**Delia Dominguez**  
981 N. Virginia  
Covina , CA 91722  
(626) 339-6785

**Yowlumne  
Kitanemuk**

**San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**  
**Henry Duro, Chairperson**  
26569 Community Center Drive  
Highland , CA 92346  
(909) 864-8933  
(909) 864-3370 Fax

**Serrano**

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

**Fernandeno  
Tataviam  
Serrano  
Vanyume  
Kitanemuk**

**Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians**  
**Randy Guzman-Folkes, Dir. Cultural and Environmental Department**  
601 South Brand Boulevard, Suite 102  
San Fernando , CA 91340  
ced@tataviam.org  
(818) 837-0794 Office  
(805) 501-5279 Cell  
(818) 837-0796 Fax

**Fernandeno  
Tataviam**

**Kern Valley Indian Council**  
**Robert Robinson, Historic Preservation Officer**  
P.O. Box 401  
Weldon , CA 93283  
brobinson@mchsi.com  
(760) 378-4575 (Home)  
(760) 549-2131 (Work)

**Tubatulabal  
Kawailsu  
Koso  
Yokuts**

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

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of 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 local Native American with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Development Project at 60th Street West and Avenue L in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California for which a Sacred Lands File search was requested.



**EXAMPLE**

5090 North Fruit Avenue  
Suite 101  
Fresno, CA 93711-3064  
(559) 229-1856  
FAX (559) 229-2019

---

6 July 2007

Charles Cooke  
32835 Santiago Road  
Acton, CA 93510

RE: Development Projects at 60<sup>th</sup> Street West and Avenue L, Lancaster, Los Angeles County,  
California.

Dear Mr. Cooke:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) provided your name to us as person who has knowledge of cultural resources in the northeastern Los Angeles County area.

Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is currently providing services to Christopher A. Joseph and Associates (CAJA) in support of the Lane Ranch Towne Center and The Commons at Quartz Hill projects in Lancaster. The projects are subject to the California Environmental Quality Act which requires agencies to assist the NAHC in its efforts to preserve and protect locations of sacred or special cultural and spiritual significance to Native Americans under State Public Resources Code §5097.9.

Specifically, the project lies in T7N, R13W, Sections 27 and 35, as shown on the Lancaster West, CA USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle (see attached map).

If you have information regarding the study area or have interest in the project, please phone me or send a letter to my attention. Your comments will be included in our cultural resources inventory report. You can contact me during normal business hours (559-229-1856, ext. 15). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Lloyd", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jay Lloyd  
Associate Archaeologist

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