

## **APPENDIX C**

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### **Cultural Resources Memo**

November 30, 2023

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**Cultural Resources Memo for the Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, Landers,  
San Bernardino County, California**

Dear Mr. Friedman,

This letter report summarizes a cultural resources study conducted by ASM Affiliates (ASM) for the Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, Landers, San Bernardino County, California. The study was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The results of this analysis will assist the County of San Bernardino (County) in determining whether the Project has the potential to cause significant effects in accordance with CEQA.

This letter report is divided into the following sections: Introduction, Methodology, Archival Research, Cultural and Environmental Setting, Survey Results, Regulatory Context, Conclusion, and References. Figures and photographs are included as Attachment A; a summary of the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) records search as Attachment B; and Native American correspondence in Attachment C.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project (proposed Project) is situated on the east side of Belfield Boulevard, north of Reche Road, in the community of Landers within an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County (Figure 1). The proposed Project comprises two adjacent parcels totaling approximately 5.78 acres. The Project site is located on Assessor Parcel No. (APNs) 630031050000 and 630031060000. It lies within the southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 2 North, Range 6 East, illustrated on the USGS Landers, CA 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 2). The Project site is located in a mostly undeveloped, rural area. Most land surrounding it is vacant, with two single-family residences situated on the west side of Belfield Road across the street from the Project site (Figure 3).

## METHODOLOGY

ASM began this updated study by conducting a records search at the SCCIC and requesting a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) held by the NAHC. Upon receipt of the NAHC results, information query letters were sent to each of the tribal contacts provided. ASM then conducted an archaeological reconnaissance field survey on September 14, 2023, to determine whether there have been any significant changes to the subject parcel; the field visit was conducted by ASM Senior Archaeologist Sherri Andrews, M.A., RPA.

## ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

### SCCIC Records Search Results

The SCCIC records search was conducted to determine whether the Project area has been previously subject to systematic survey as well as the presence or absence of previously documented cultural resources within the Project area. The search included all records and documents on file with the SCCIC, as well as the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) Historic Properties Directory. The search was undertaken on August 8, 2023. Summary tables from the SCCIC are included as Attachment B.

A total of six previous reports were identified within a 1-mile (mi.) radius of the project area as a result of the records search (Table 1), none of which includes the current Project area.

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resource Projects Conducted within the 1-Mile Records Search Radius

Report No. (SB-)	Year	Author(s)/Affiliation	Title
00743	1979	Sutton, Mark Q.	Archaeological Clearance of Bighorn Mountain Water Agency Project, Landers
01442	1984	Rector, Carol	Bureau Of Land Management Land Sale, Barstow Resource Area, Landers
02158	1974	Mortland, Carol A.	Archaeological Impact Evaluation: Southern California Edison Proposed Generating Station in Upper Johnson Valley and Associated Transmission, Gas and Fuel Routes
02515	1992	Lerch, Michael K.	Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Morongo Basin Pipeline Project, Hesperia to Landers, San Bernardino County, California
03094	1993	Lerch, Michael K.	Addendum To: Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Morongo Basin Pipeline Project, Hesperia to Landers, San Bernardino County, CA
06388	2008	McKenna, Jeanette A.	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Two Pipeline Alignments for the San Bernardino County Special Districts Department, CSA 70, Zone W-4, Pioneertown and Landers, San Bernardino County California

Three resources have been previously documented within the 1-mi. records search radius, but none appear within the Project area (Table 2). These resources are prehistoric in age, and each include a single isolated artifact.

Table 2. Resources Previously Recorded within the 1-Mile Records Search Radius

Primary # (P-19-)	Trinomial (CA-SBR-)	Date Recorded (Recorded by)	Description	Attribute Codes*
060245	--	1984 (C. Rector)	Prehistoric core	AP16. Other (isolate)
060247	--	1984 (C. Rector)	Prehistoric flake	AP2. Lithic scatter

### Historical Image Research

Historic aerials from 1953, 1970, 1983, 1989, 1995, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020 were analyzed on [historicaerials.com](http://historicaerials.com), as were historic topographic maps dated 1956, 1958, 1964, 1976, 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

Historic imagery reveals that the parcel has never been developed. The 1970 aerial and 1976 topo show a small structure on each of the parcels to the north, south, and west of the proposed Project. It appears that the structures to the north and south may have been removed by 2005, possibly leaving concrete pads in their place (inferred by the absence of shadows), while the parcels to the west become more developed over time. The 2018 and 2020 images show an object near the northern edge of the Project parcel; it may be a trailer or recreational vehicle.

### NAHC Sacred Lands File Search

A request for a search of the Sacred Lands File held by the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was made by ASM on July 26, 2023. This search was undertaken to supplement the SCCIC records search to inquire as to whether resources important to local Native American groups may exist within the proposed Project area that may not appear within the CHRIS system. The NAHC response of August 22, 2023, was negative for the presence of resources filed with them within the Project area. A list of 36 tribal contacts who may have interest in the Project area was provided with the NAHC response. Informational query letters were sent to each of these contacts. Two responses have been received to date. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians replied on September 8, 2023, that the Project is not located within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area, deferring to other tribes in the area. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians also replied on September 8, 2023, indicating that the area might be sensitive for cultural resources but requesting some additional information to confirm, and requesting government-to-government consultation with the County pursuant to AB 52. The NAHC response, sample query letter, and responses received to date are provided with this memo as Attachment C.

## CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### Natural Setting

The census-designated, unincorporated community of Landers is located in the high desert within the southern portion of the Mojave Desert in San Bernardino County, approximately 110 mi. east of the City of Los Angeles, and north of the San Bernardino Mountains. Landers is a sparsely populated, largely rural community lying within in an area known as Homestead Valley within the Morongo Basin. It is 14 mi. (23 km) north of the City of Yucca Valley. It lies just

north of Flamingo Heights, is bordered by Joshua Tree to its southeast, and by Johnson Valley to the north. The community is bounded on its northeast and east by the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), commonly known as 29 Palms. Pioneertown is to the southwest and California State Route 247, named “Old Woman Springs Road” in the area, passes through Landers from Yucca Valley en route north to Barstow. Pipes Wash runs roughly north-south just to the east of the Project. The largely flat parcel lies at approximately 3,050 ft. above mean sea level, with a very gentle slope from south to north. The Project parcel is flanked on the west by Belfield Boulevard and it lies just north of the intersection of Belfield and Reche Road. The setting surrounding the Project itself is primarily vacant open desert land.

The project area exhibits a relatively arid climate, with dry, hot summers and cool winters. Annual rainfall ranges from 5 to 15 inches, with precipitation usually occurring in the form of winter and spring rain or snow at high elevations, and occasional warm monsoonal showers in late summer (Jaeger and Smith 1971:36-37). Sediments within the area include a geologic unit composed of sedimentary and volcanic rocks and alluvium formed during the late Pleistocene and Holocene epochs of the Quaternary Period (Dibblee 1967).

Native vegetation in the project area includes creosote, various types of cacti, yucca, rabbit bush, interior golden bush, cheese bush, and various grasses. Common native animals include coyotes, cottontail and jackrabbits, rats, mice, desert tortoises, roadrunners, raptors, turkey vultures, and other bird species.

## **Prehistoric Cultural Setting**

The following brief overview of the prehistory of the region is adapted from Moratto (1984), Warren (1984), and Warren and Crabtree (1986).

### **Lake Mojave Period (Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic; ca. 12,000 - 7000 B.P.)**

The Lake Mojave complex represents the earliest human occupation in the Mojave Desert region, beginning at about 12,000 B.P. (Grayson 1993; Wallace 1962). Considered a Paleo-Indian assemblage, it is thought to be ancestral to the Early Archaic cultures of the subsequent Pinto period (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184). Claims for archaeological assemblages dating to periods earlier than Lake Mojave period, such as those made for Tule Springs (Harrington and Simpson 1961), China Lake (Davis 1978), and Manix Lake (Simpson 1958, 1960, 1961), are controversial and, even if eventually proven to be authentic, these manifestations appear to have no relationship to later cultural developments in the region (Warren and Crabtree 1986). This era, at the close of the Pleistocene, was a time of extreme environmental change as the relatively cool and moist conditions of the terminal Wisconsin glacial age were gradually replaced by the warmer and drier conditions of the Holocene (Spaulding 1990). Desertification continued throughout the period with mesquite appearing by ca. 8000 B.P. (DuBarton et al. 1991).

Cultural materials characteristic of the Lake Mojave Complex include Lake Mojave, Parman, Silver Lake, and rare fluted projectile points (Clovis). Other artifacts typically found in these assemblages include lunate and eccentric crescents, small flake engravers, technical scrapers, leaf-shaped knives, drills, and heavy choppers or hammer stones. Milling stones are generally absent in the Lake Mojave Complex (Campbell et al. 1937; Warren and Crabtree 1986).

In the Mojave Desert and southern Great Basin, this assemblage is typically (but not exclusively) found in association with Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene lake stands and outwash drainages, although the role of the lakes in the overall adaptation remains in dispute (e.g., Bedwell 1970, 1973; Davis 1978; Warren 1967; Willig 1988). Some researchers have argued that lacustrine resources were the subsistence focus, while others suggest that grasslands suitable for the grazing of Late Pleistocene megafauna would have surrounded the lakes, and that these were the primary subsistence focus of the Lake Mojave cultures. Warren (1967) postulated that the assemblages are the remains of a widespread, generalized hunting adaptation found throughout the western Great Basin. Bedwell (1970, 1973), Hester (1973), and others interpret the same assemblages as indicating a specialized exploitation of the lacustrine resources of the pluvial lakes and call the complex the “Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition.” Jonathan O. Davis (1978) proposes a combination of these models positing a generalized hunting and collecting economy, in which lakeside sites represent the seasonal exploitation of marsh resources.

This complex represents Early Man in the Mojave Desert and exhibits similarities to sites in the western Great Basin and to the San Dieguito complex of the southern California culture area (Warren and Crabtree 1986). Alternate designations for the manifestation of the complex in the interior desert area include: Lake Mojave Culture (Campbell et al. 1937; Wallace 1962), San Dieguito Complex (Warren 1967) and Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition (Bedwell 1970; Moratto 1984). Establishing strong temporal definition of the period is also hampered by the shortage in datable sites throughout the Great Basin and Mojave Desert. Few sites dating to the early portion of the Lake Mojave period have been excavated and little direct evidence of subsistence practices has been reported. When sites do contain datable materials, artifacts are generally found on the surface with no stratigraphic separation. Unlike sites in the Southwest, no early Great Basin projectile point types have been found in undisputed association with the large mega-fauna known to have existed during that time (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184). Characterization of this period of prehistory in California is extremely complex due to the large number of competing models. For detailed discussions of the Lake Mojave period, see Moratto (1984), Warren and Crabtree (1986), and Warren’s contributions in Blair et al. (2004).

#### **Pinto Period (Middle Archaic; ca. 7000 - 4000 B.P.)**

The transition from pluvial to arid conditions at the end of the early Holocene appears to have been the most extreme environmental change in the southern Great Basin during post-Pleistocene times. Increasingly arid conditions prevailed throughout the region between about 7500 and 5000 B.P. (Hall 1985; Spaulding 1991). Woodland environments reached their approximate modern elevations and the modern desert scrub communities appeared with the migration of plant species such as creosote bush into the area.

Warren (1984) sees the cultural manifestations of this period as indicative of adaptation to increasing aridity. As the Pleistocene lakes and rivers dried up and plant and animal life changed, human populations adapted or withdrew to more desirable areas. Pinto populations appear to have withdrawn to desert margins and scattered oases, undergoing the changes as the Pinto Basin Complex assemblages gradually replace those of the preceding Lake Mojave period (Warren 1984:414). As in the Lake Mojave period, Pinto period sites are usually found in open settings in relatively well-watered locales representing isolated oases of high productivity. Artifacts dating to the Pinto period include Pinto series projectile points, leaf-shaped points and knives, domed and elongated keeled scrapers, and occasional Lake Mojave and Silver Lake points. Simple flat

milling stones, occasional shallow-basined milling stones, and hand stones also occur in Pinto period sites (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184-187). Warren (1990) attributes the latter development to the exploitation of hard seeds, which is seen as part of a process of subsistence diversification brought on by increased aridity and reduced ecosystem carrying capacity. Big-game hunting probably continued as an important focus during this time, but the economic return of this activity likely decreased as artiodactyl populations declined in response to increased aridity (Warren and Crabtree 1986).

The appearance of Pinto projectile points in the archaeological record denote this period in the Mojave Desert, although their dating remains controversial (Lyneis 1982:176; Schroth 1994; Warren 1984). Warren and Crabtree (1986) and Warren (1984:414) postulate that the Pinto Complex represents a continuation and evolution from the hunting complexes of the Lake Mojave period. During this period, small, mobile populations continued to be dependent upon hunting and gathering. The use of grinding implements is expanded; however, these were poorly developed as might be expected in a newly acquired technology. This development suggests that the processing of hard seeds was becoming more important in the subsistence system, although it is believed that Pinto period people maintained a mobile subsistence strategy focused primarily on the hunting of highly ranked large game (Elston 1982).

The question of how people adjusted to environmental change is central to varying interpretations of the Pinto period (Warren 1984:410-411). Some (Donnan 1964; Kowta 1969; Wallace 1962) argue the desert was essentially abandoned between 7000 and 5000 B.P., while others (Susia 1964; Tuohy 1974; Warren 1980) argue that no evidence of an occupational hiatus of such magnitude exists in the archaeological record. The ongoing debate revolves around the definition and dating of Pinto projectile points (Schroth 1994; Warren and Crabtree 1986:184).

#### **Gypsum Period (Late Archaic; ca. 4000 - 1500 B.P.)**

Gradual improvement of the climate began by around 5000 B.P. culminating in the Neoglacial at about 3600 B.P. A period of greater effective moisture emerged in the latter part (by 3000-4000 B.P.) of the middle Holocene (for an overview of Neoglacial and Little Ice Age environments in the Mojave Desert, see Enzel et al. 1989, 1992; Spaulding 1995). At this time, the barren pans in the Mojave Sink intermittently held perennial water (Enzel et al. 1992), although it is not known if this was the case for other closed basins in the region.

The Gypsum period is characterized by population increases and broadening economic activities as technological adaptation to the changing environment evolved. Hunting continued to be an important subsistence activity, but the increase in the occurrence and diversity of ground stone artifacts indicate that plant foods were becoming a more important subsistence item. The reduction in the size of projectile points about 1350 B.P. marks the introduction of the bow and arrow (Bettinger and Eerkins 1999), increasing the efficiency of hunting and possibly indicating a shift from larger to smaller game. Perhaps as a result of these new adaptive mechanisms, the increase in aridity during the late Gypsum period (after ca. 2500 B.P.) seems to have had relatively little consequence on the distribution and increase in human populations (Warren 1984:418-420; Warren and Crabtree 1986:189).

The use of rock shelters appears to have increased at this time although the occupation of open sites continues. Base camps with extensive midden development are a prominent site type in

well-watered valleys and near concentrated subsistence resources (Warren and Crabtree 1986). Additionally, several types of special purpose sites in upland settings begin to appear during this period. Considerable evidence is present indicating increased contact with the California coast and the Southwest, and the presence of split-twig figurines and zoomorphic petroglyphs, thought to date to this period, suggest a rich ritual life was present (Fowler and Madsen 1986). Evidence of this increased ritual life is clearly seen in the archaeological record at Newberry Cave (Davis and Smith 1981), where split-twig figurines, ritual bows, arrows, pictographs, and what was interpreted as a wand were recovered supporting what was interpreted as ritual hunting magic.

Gypsum period artifact assemblages are characterized by medium- to large-stemmed and notched projectile points (i.e., Elko series, Humboldt Concave Base, and Gypsum types). The assemblages also include rectangular-based knives, flake scrapers, infrequently large scraper planes, choppers, and hammer stones. Milling equipment becomes more common and the mortar and pestle appear for the first time.

Sites dated to the Gypsum period are well represented in the mountains and in adjoining areas toward the coast. The Siphon site in Summit Valley, characterized by Sutton et al. (1993) as a middle to late Millingstone horizon base camp, has been dated to about 1550 B.C. Other sites in the area from this period include those at Yucaipa (Grenda 1998) and at Prado Basin (Grenda 1995). In general, the Gypsum period was a time of intensified settlement and exploitation of the desert valley floor and surrounding mountains.

#### **Saratoga Springs Period (ca. 1500 - 750 B.P.)**

During the Saratoga Springs period, marked regional diversification in artifact and site types is evidenced throughout the region (Warren and Crabtree 1986). The primary projectile point types of the southern Mojave Desert—and by extension, the San Bernardino Mountains—are Cottonwood and Desert Side-notched points. The Rose Spring types common to the north are rarer in the San Bernardino Mountains but have found around Baldwin Lake, while Eastgate and Rose Spring points began to dominate assemblages in other parts of the Mojave Desert and southern Great Basin (Lyneis 1982). These regional variations might have been the result of intensified contact with neighboring groups along the coast, in the mountains, and in the southwest. Evidence from the Oro Grande site on the Mojave River below the northern slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains indicates trade with coastal groups during this period and a more structured settlement hierarchy centered on large village sites (Rector et al. 1983). Cultural developments south of the Mojave River and Providence Mountains diverge from those in the northern area during this period, reflecting influence from Hakataya developments along the lower Colorado.

Ceramics were likely introduced into the region during this period, though evidence is scarce. Lower Colorado Buff Ware and Tizon Brown Ware ceramics are often associated with Cottonwood and Desert Side-notched points and likely date from the very end of the Saratoga Springs period and into protohistoric times. Unlike some communities farther to the north who were using Anasazi-inspired pottery as early as A.D. 500 (Warren 1984:421–422), the southern desert and mountain groups seem to have concentrated on contacts with coastal communities. For example, marine shell beads are much more common at Saratoga Springs period sites, suggesting trade with the southern California coast, probably along the Mojave River valley route later known as the Mojave Trail (Warren 1984).



Evidence for Ancestral Puebloan influence or occupation is limited to the occurrence of pottery, which has been found as far west as the Halloran Spring (Blair 1985; Blair and Winslow 2004; Leonard and Drover 1980; Rogers 1929; Warren 1980) and the Cronise Basin in California (Larson 1981; Rogers 1929). It is unclear whether the pottery was left by small foraging or hunting parties (Berry 1974:83-84; Fowler and Madsen 1986:180; James 1986:114-115; Rafferty 1984:30-35; Shutler 1961:7; Warren and Crabtree 1986:191), the result of Ancestral Puebloan people working the turquoise mines near Halloran Springs (Blair 1985:2-4; Blair and Winslow 2004; Leonard and Drover 1980:251; Rogers 1929:12-13; Warren 1980:81-84), or if it was being traded along the Mohave trading route along with shells, obsidian and salt (Harrington 1927:238-239; Heizer and Treganza 1944; Hughes and Bennyhoff 1986; Morrissey 1968; Pogue 1915:46-51; Ruby 1970; Shutler 1961:58-66). Overall, the nature of the Ancestral Puebloan presence in the Mojave Desert is poorly understood at this time and warrants future research. In contrast, a strong Ancestral Puebloan influence is seen in the northeastern Mojave, where this horticultural people (termed the Lowland Virgin Branch Anasazi) resided in residential communities along the Muddy and lower Virgin rivers in southeastern Nevada and adjacent portions of Utah and Arizona (Fowler and Madsen 1986:175-181; Lyneis 1982, 1995; Lyneis et al. 1978:178-179; Warren and Crabtree 1986:191; Winslow 2003a, 2003b).

In the remainder of the Mojave Desert region, sites of this period seem to exhibit general continuity with the Gypsum pattern. One of the most conspicuous changes from the earlier period is the reduction in size of projectile points. Rose Spring and Cottonwood series points dominate assemblages of this period and are morphologically similar to Gypsum period points with the exception of their smaller size, and milling equipment (i.e., metates, manos, mortars and pestles) continues to be in use (Warren and Crabtree 1986).

Late in prehistory (approximately 1000 B.P.), it is theorized, groups of people speaking Numic languages expanded from somewhere in the Death Valley area across the Great Basin. The Numic Expansion hypothesis gained widespread support in the years following its introduction by Sydney Lamb in 1958 (Lamb 1958). Bettinger and Baumhoff (1982:485) believe that the Numa were able to displace the previous inhabitants because of low-cost adaptive strategies oriented around the exploitation of diverse plant resources. This hypothesis is supported by similarities in artifact types and glottochronological theory advanced by Lamb (1958:99). Young and Bettinger (1992:85), supporting Bettinger and Baumhoff (1982), propose that a competitive interaction existed between the Numic and pre-Numic groups in the Great Basin. In recent years, however, the hypothesis has been challenged and remains controversial.

#### **Protohistoric Period (750 B.P. - Contact)**

The Protohistoric era, a transitional period between the prehistoric and the historic/ethnohistoric, dates from ca. 750 B.P. and continues until first contact with Euro-Americans (Warren 1980; Warren and Crabtree 1986). Cultural developments established earlier during the Saratoga Springs period continue with some modifications. Numerous sites dating to this most recent period of prehistory are located along the Mojave River (Altschul et al. 1989; Schneider 1988; Smith 1963), in the San Bernardino Mountains (Simpson et al. 1972; White and Reeder 1970), and in the inland valleys to the south of the mountains (Grenda 1998). Diagnostic artifacts for this period are Desert Side-notched points and various poorly defined types of brown ware pottery. Most archaeologists agree that trade along the Mojave Trail was steady throughout this

period, accounting for much of the coastal and Colorado River influences in the San Bernardino Mountains (Warren 1984).

Regional diversity continued during this period (Warren and Crabtree 1986:191). South of the Mojave River, the influence of the Yuman-speaking Hakataya continued. It is clear that by around A.D. 600, Hakatayan groups occupied a wide area in western Arizona, southeastern California, and southern Nevada (Schroeder 1979). The Hakataya were centered primarily on the lower Colorado River, however, and their assemblages, characterized by brown, buff, and red-on-buff pottery, and Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood Triangular points, are found along the length of the Mojave River to the Mojave Sinks (Drover 1979; Rogers 1929; Smith 1963). These ceramics, along with the continued use of coastal artifacts such as shell beads, suggest fairly long-distance trade contacts and possibly more extensive seasonal rounds.

North of the Mojave River, the Saratoga Springs artifact assemblage continued, with the addition of Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood Triangular points and Great Basin Brown Ware pottery. Also present in these assemblages are steatite beads, large triangular knives, unshaped manos and milling stones, mortars and pestles, incised stones, slate pendants, and shell beads (Warren and Crabtree 1986). Bettinger (1975, 1976, 1977) attributes the beginning of regular pinyon exploitation to this period, as shown by the appearance of camps in the pinyon-juniper woodland (Warren 1984:424-427; Warren and Crabtree 1986:191-192). Warren and Crabtree (1986:191-192) note that the initial occurrence of this assemblage is linked with the ancestors of the historic Southern Paiute and is roughly contemporaneous with the terminal date for the Ancestral Puebloan occupation of the region. Virgin Anasazi development and influence had been curtailed in the eastern Mojave Desert by the Protohistoric period (Warren 1984:427). Occupation by the hunter-gatherer groups present earlier, however, appears to have continued relatively unchanged.

### **Ethnohistoric Background**

The major ethnographic group associated with the Project area was the Serrano (Bean and Smith 1978; Benedict 1924; Kroeber 1925:611-619; Strong 1929:5-35). The following summary is closely drawn from a recent ethnography by Lerch and Ciolek-Torrello (2007). Details concerning other aspects of Serrano culture, such as social organization and religion, may be found in a number of sources, including Benedict (1924), Gifford (1918), Kroeber (1907, 1925), Strong (1929), Bean and Smith (1978) and Bean et al. (1981). The Serrano were so called by the Spanish because they lived in and around the San Bernardino Mountains (serrano, from sierra, means “mountain dweller” in Spanish). The Serrano’s own general name for themselves was Takhtam, or “people,” although most individuals were identified by the name of their particular clan or village, and these names are frequently referred to as “tribes.”

The Serrano language is part of the Takic subfamily of the larger Uto-Aztecan language family (Ergle 1999; Moratto 1984:534), which includes a wide variety of language groups extending as far south as the Basin of Mexico. Closer to home, the culture groups neighboring the Serrano to the south of the San Bernardino Mountains—the Gabrielino, Luiseño, and Cahuilla—were also Takic-language speakers. The Serrano appear to have been most closely linguistically aligned with the Cahuilla people, the easternmost of the three. In the Mojave Desert, to the west, north, and east, were the Kawaiisu, Panamint, and Chemehuevi, who spoke Numic languages, another subfamily of the Uto-Aztecan language family. Although these language group names are often understood as some sort of tribal identity reflecting politically unified groups, this was clearly

not the case. Designations such as Serrano and Chemehuevi are purely linguistic labels that, when applied to a geographic region, simply refer to the total territory inhabited by a number of independent bands who spoke a common language. Very often, significant cultural interactions crosscut language groups as a result of topography or other factors. The Serrano, in particular, seem to have maintained close ties with peoples on both sides of the mountains, regardless of linguistic affiliation.

The Serrano, and many neighboring language groups, were organized into independent but interconnected village communities. Each of these villages consisted of one or more patrilineal clans that belonged to one of two exogamous moieties, named coyote or wildcat. The clan-based villages and the larger moiety groups maintained complex ceremonial relationships with one another (Gifford 1918; Strong 1929). Frequently, a number of communities would combine to celebrate important festivals, harvest cycles, and other ceremonial events, occasionally inviting distant, linguistically unrelated groups.

Prior to European contact, the Serrano were hunters and gatherers who exploited a wide variety of resources from the mountains, the desert, and the Mojave River, including both large and small game, as well as numerous plant resources. Large game—such as deer, mountain sheep, and pronghorn—was hunted with bow and arrow, and smaller animals such as rabbits, rodents, and reptiles were taken with throwing sticks, nets, and snares. Acorns, pinyon nuts, and mesquite beans were among the staple foods, which were seasonally supplemented by chia and ricegrass seeds, roots, tubers, and various fresh greens (Bean and Smith 1978; Lerch 2002).

The presence of a perennial water source was the determining factor in the nature, duration, and distribution of Serrano villages (Benedict 1924:368). Most Serrano village-hamlets “were in the foothill Upper Sonoran life-zone while a few were out on the desert floor (near permanent water sources) or in the forest Transition zone” (Bean and Smith 1978:570). Small villages were more common, although there were larger villages in the Summit Valley and the Cajon Pass. Small special purpose sites, such as temporary camps, food processing stations, and lithic procurement areas, were located as needed. The Serrano who inhabited the San Bernardino Mountains would inhabit the milder areas of Apple Valley and Lucerne Valley during the winter and the area in and around Baldwin Lake during the summer.

In the early literature, there are only occasional references to the Project study area and the Native Americans who once lived there (Beattie and Beattie 1951:421; Brown and Boyd 1922:21-25; Pierson 1970:110-111), although contact with Europeans may have occurred as early as 1771. By 1806, the Serrano were recruited into the mission systems and most of them were removed from their homelands to the missions (Beattie and Beattie 1939:366). Missionization led to the loss of their native lifeways; although, northeast of the San Geronimo Pass, Serrano culture survived.

By 1975, most Serrano lived on two southern California reservations (Morongo and San Manuel), where with other native Californians, they participated in ceremonial and political affairs on a pan-reservation. According to Bean and Smith (1978:543), at the time of the writing, only slightly over 100 people claimed Serrano descent, reduced from a pre-contact figure between 1,500 (Kroeber 1925:617) and 2,500 (Bean 1962-1972), and even fewer speak their

native language; however, all recall with pride their history. Ethnic identity is strong and they remain a readily identifiable cultural entity.

## **BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MORONGO BASIN AND LANDERS**

This overview of Morongo Basin history is largely drawn from the Morongo Basin Historical Society (MBHS n.d.). The Morongo Basin, part of the High Desert region of the Mojave Desert and situated in eastern San Bernardino County, includes part of the Inland Empire region and is considered to be the very easternmost portion of the Greater Los Angeles Area. It is a massive drainage basin that stretches from the Little San Bernardino Mountains north of Interstate 10 in the south up to the Interstate 40 area in the north. The Morongo Basin is east of the city of San Bernardino and San Bernardino Mountains, and north of the Coachella Valley and Colorado Desert.

Following California's acceptance into the Union in 1850, it saw the start of the California Indian Wars which lasted from 1850-1880. These conflicts arose for many different reasons but none more so than the large western migration through Native American territories, inspired by the California Gold Rush. The American Civil War ended in 1865, but civil conflicts were still abundant throughout the country. The Mojave Desert Indian Campaign, a retaliation from a San Bernardino County Posse against Chemehuevi raids on miners and ranchers in San Bernardino, lasted from 1866-1870.

On May 15, 1876, President Ulysses S. Grant, by executive order, created nine reservations in the area, including Potrero Ajenio, also known as the San Gorgonio Agency. Originally established in 1865, the site lay at the foot of the San Gorgonio and the San Jacinto mountains, in present day Banning. Its name is derived from Potrero, meaning 'Horse Pasture,' and Genio, the name of a Cahuilla chief. The first official "Captain" of Potrero Ajenio who acted on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, known to Americans by his English name, John Morongo, was the hereditary leader of a Serrano clan called the Maarrenga'. The area currently known as Morongo Valley was first shown on maps in the late 1850s as the "Marengo Pass."

The valley was originally a Maarrenga' village and home of the Serrano Shoshonean clan until 1876, when the U.S. government began relocating local tribes to reservations. As settlers to the valley began to replace Native Americans, they preserved the historical name but modified it to sound more English. Meanwhile, Native Americans of the valley were moved to the reservation in Banning and, as time went on, the Bureau of Indian Affairs began to refer to the tribe as the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. That name grew to encompass many different tribes from areas spanning from the mountains just north of Palm Springs all the way up to U.S. Route 66. It was John Morongo who, in turn, is responsible for the Morongo Basin's name.

The Landers area was originally settled in the early twentieth century by prospectors who came to mine gold in Goat Mountain, starting with Charles Reche in 1914. Reche worked on mining the mountain from 1914 to 1932, then sold it. Eventually it ended up belonging to a man named Helfer, who had arrived in Landers looking for a different mine. He mined at Goat Mountain for some years then eventually relinquished it to the Bureau Land of Management, which still manages it today.

From the late 1940s through the 1970s, Landers was a popular gathering point for conventions of UFO enthusiasts, with the primary destinations of interest being the Integratron (approximately 1.9 mi. north of the current Project) and nearby Giant Rock. While Joshua Tree National Park supports most of the tourism to the Morongo Basin, Landers offers Giant Rock, the Integratron, Gubler's Orchids, and an increasing number of eateries, boutiques, and other attractions of its own.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS**

The Project parcel is characterized by undeveloped open desert landscape with creosote scrub vegetation (Figures 4-6). The parcel has sustained minimal disturbance over time, with no evidence that any development or long-term land use has occurred at any time. Minimal refuse is found on the parcel; any refuse appears to be likely the result of having been windblown rather than deposited either by road toss or recreational use of the parcel. However, the parcel is cut by several moderately well-used informal dirt two-track trails, with other tire tracks evident in various locations throughout the parcel, indicating recreational use of the area (Figure 7). No previously undocumented resources were encountered during the intensive pedestrian archaeological survey conducted for the current study.

## **REGULATORY CONTEXT**

### **California Register of Historical Resources Significance Criteria**

The CRHR program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural significance; identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes; determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding; and affords certain protections under CEQA. The criteria established for eligibility for the CRHR are directly comparable to the national criteria established for the NRHP.

In order to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, a building must satisfy at least one of the following four criteria:

- 1) It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
- 2) It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.
- 3) It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values.
- 4) It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

Historical resources eligible for listing in the CRHR must also retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance. For the purposes of eligibility for the CRHR, integrity is defined as "the authenticity of an historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance" (California Office of

Historic Preservation 2001). This general definition is generally strengthened by the more specific definition offered by the NRHP—the criteria and guidelines on which the CRHR criteria and guidelines are based upon.

### **Integrity**

In order to be eligible for listing in the NRHP and CRHR, a property must retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance. The NRHP publication *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, National Register Bulletin 15, establishes how to evaluate the integrity of a property: “Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance” (National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places 1991). The evaluation of integrity must be grounded in an understanding of a property’s physical features and how they relate to the concept of integrity. Determining which of these aspects are most important to a property requires knowing why, where, and when a property is significant. To retain historic integrity, a property must possess several, and usually most, aspects of integrity:

1. **Location** is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.
2. **Design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
3. **Setting** is the physical environment of a historic property and refers to the character of the site and the relationship to surrounding features and open space. Setting often refers to the basic physical conditions under which a property was built and the functions it was intended to serve. These features can be either natural or manmade, including vegetation, paths, fences, and relationships between other features or open space.
4. **Materials** are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period or time, and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
5. **Workmanship** is the physical evidence of crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period of history or prehistory and can be applied to the property as a whole, or to individual components.
6. **Feeling** is a property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. It results from the presence of physical features that, when taken together, convey the property’s historic character.
7. **Association** is the direct link between the important historic event or person and a historic property.

### **California Environmental Quality Act Significance Criteria**

CEQA Section 15064.5 *Determining the Significance of Impacts to Archeological and Historical Resources* requires that all private and public activities not specifically exempted be evaluated against the potential for environmental damage, including effects to historical resources. Historical resources are recognized as part of the environment under CEQA. It defines historical resources as “any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering,

scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.”

Lead agencies have a responsibility to evaluate historical resources against the CRHR criteria prior to making a finding as to a proposed project’s impacts to historical resources. Mitigation of adverse impacts is required if the proposed project will cause substantial adverse change to a historical resource. Substantial adverse change includes demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of an historical resource would be impaired. While demolition and destruction are fairly obvious significant impacts, it is more difficult to assess when change, alteration, or relocation crosses the threshold of substantial adverse change. The CEQA Guidelines provide that a Project that demolishes or alters those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance (i.e., its character-defining features) can be considered to materially impair the resource’s significance. The CRHR is used in the consideration of historical resources relative to significance for purposes of CEQA. The CRHR includes resources listed in, or formally determined eligible for listing in, the NRHP, as well as some California State Landmarks and Points of Historical Interest. Properties of local significance that have been designated under a local preservation ordinance (local landmarks or landmark districts), or that have been identified in a local historical resources inventory, may be eligible for listing in the CRHR and are presumed to be significant resources for purposes of CEQA unless a preponderance of evidence indicates otherwise.

Generally, a resource is considered by the lead agency to be a “historical resource” if it:

- 1) Is listed in, or determined to be eligible by, the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC Section 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et seq.).
- 2) Is included in a local register of historical resources or is identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC.

Is a building or structure determined to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.

## **Local Preservation Goals – San Bernardino Countywide Plan**

The San Bernardino Countywide Plan (County of San Bernardino 2022) states the following “Goals & Policies” related to Tribal Cultural Resources (Goal CR-1) and Historic and Paleontological Resources (Goal CR-2).

### **Goal CR-1 Tribal Cultural Resources**

Tribal cultural resources that are preserved and celebrated out of respect for Native American beliefs and traditions.

Policy CR-1.1 *Tribal notification and coordination.* We notify and coordinate with tribal representatives in accordance with state and federal laws to strengthen our working relationship with area tribes, avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American archaeological sites and burials, assist with the treatment and

disposition of inadvertent discoveries, and explore options of avoidance of cultural resources early in the planning process.

Policy CR-1.2 *Tribal planning*. We will collaborate with local tribes on countywide planning efforts and, as permitted or required, planning efforts initiated by local tribes.

Policy CR-1.3 *Mitigation and avoidance*. We consult with local tribes to establish appropriate project-specific mitigation measures and resource-specific treatment of potential cultural resources. We require project applicants to design projects to avoid known tribal cultural resources, whenever possible. If avoidance is not possible, we require appropriate mitigation to minimize project impacts on tribal cultural resources.

Policy CR-1.4 *Resource monitoring*. We encourage coordination with and active participation by local tribes as monitors in surveys, testing, excavation, and grading phases of development projects with potential impacts on tribal resources.

## **Goal CR-2 Historic and Paleontological Resources**

Historic resources (buildings, structures, or archaeological resources) and paleontological resources that are protected and preserved for their cultural importance to local communities as well as their research and educational potential.

Policy CR-2.1 *National and state historic resources*. We encourage the preservation of archaeological sites and structures of state or national significance in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's standards.

Policy CR-2.2 *Local historic resources*. We encourage property owners to maintain the historic integrity of resources on their property by (listed in order of preference): preservation, adaptive reuse, or memorialization.

Policy CR-2.3 *Paleontological and archaeological resources*. We strive to protect paleontological and archaeological resources from loss or destruction by requiring that new development include appropriate mitigation to preserve the quality and integrity of these resources. We require new development to avoid paleontological and archeological resources whenever possible. If avoidance is not possible, we require the salvage and preservation of paleontological and archeological resources.

Policy CR-2.4 *Partnerships*. We encourage partnerships to champion and financially support the preservation and restoration of historic sites, structures, and districts.

Policy CR-2.5 *Public awareness and education*. We increase public awareness and conduct education efforts about the unique historic, natural, tribal, and cultural resources in San Bernardino County through the County Museum and in collaboration with other entities.



## CONCLUSION

No prehistoric or historical sites were identified during the current survey. As such, no historical resources as defined under CEQA that would require further consideration were identified within the Project area. Further, the results of the background research conducted for the study indicate a low archaeological sensitivity for the Project area.

However, in the event that any archaeological materials are encountered during future development activities, all activities must be suspended in the vicinity of the find until the deposits are recorded and evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If evaluated as eligible for the CRHR and if impacts to the resource cannot be avoided, mitigation would be necessary. In addition, if significant subsurface prehistoric resources are encountered that will be subject to impacts from the project, Tribes with historic and cultural ties to the area shall be contacted.

If human remains of any kind are found during construction, the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) and AB 2641 shall be followed. According to these requirements, all construction activities must cease immediately, and the San Bernardino County Coroner and a qualified archaeologist must be notified. The Coroner will examine the remains and determine the next appropriate action based on his or her findings. If the coroner determines the remains to be of Native American origin, he or she will notify the NAHC. The NAHC will then identify the most likely descendants (MLD) to be consulted regarding treatment and/or reburial of the remains. If an MLD cannot be identified, or the MLD fails to make a recommendation regarding the treatment of the remains within 48 hours after gaining access to the remains, the property owner shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

Sincerely,



Sherri Andrews  
Senior Archaeologist

Attachment A: Figures and Photographs  
Attachment B: SCCIC Records Search Summary  
Attachment C: Native American Correspondence

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- 2003a *Mitigation Black Dog Mesa Archaeological Complex (26CK5686/BLM 53-7216) Volume I – History and Project Overview*. Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, Division of Cultural Resources, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Prepared for Bureau of Land Management and Nevada Power Company. BLM Report No. 5-2430(1), HRC Report No. 5-4-26(1).
- 2003b *Mitigation Black Dog Mesa Archaeological Complex (26CK5686/BLM 53-7216) Volume II – Black Dog Cave*. Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, Division of Cultural Resources, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Prepared for Bureau of Land Management and Nevada Power Company. BLM Report No. 5-2430(2), HRC Report No. 5-4-26(2).

Young, D. A., and R. A. Bettinger

- 1992 The Numic Spread: A Computer Simulation. *American Antiquity* 57(1):85-98.

## **ATTACHMENT A: FIGURES AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

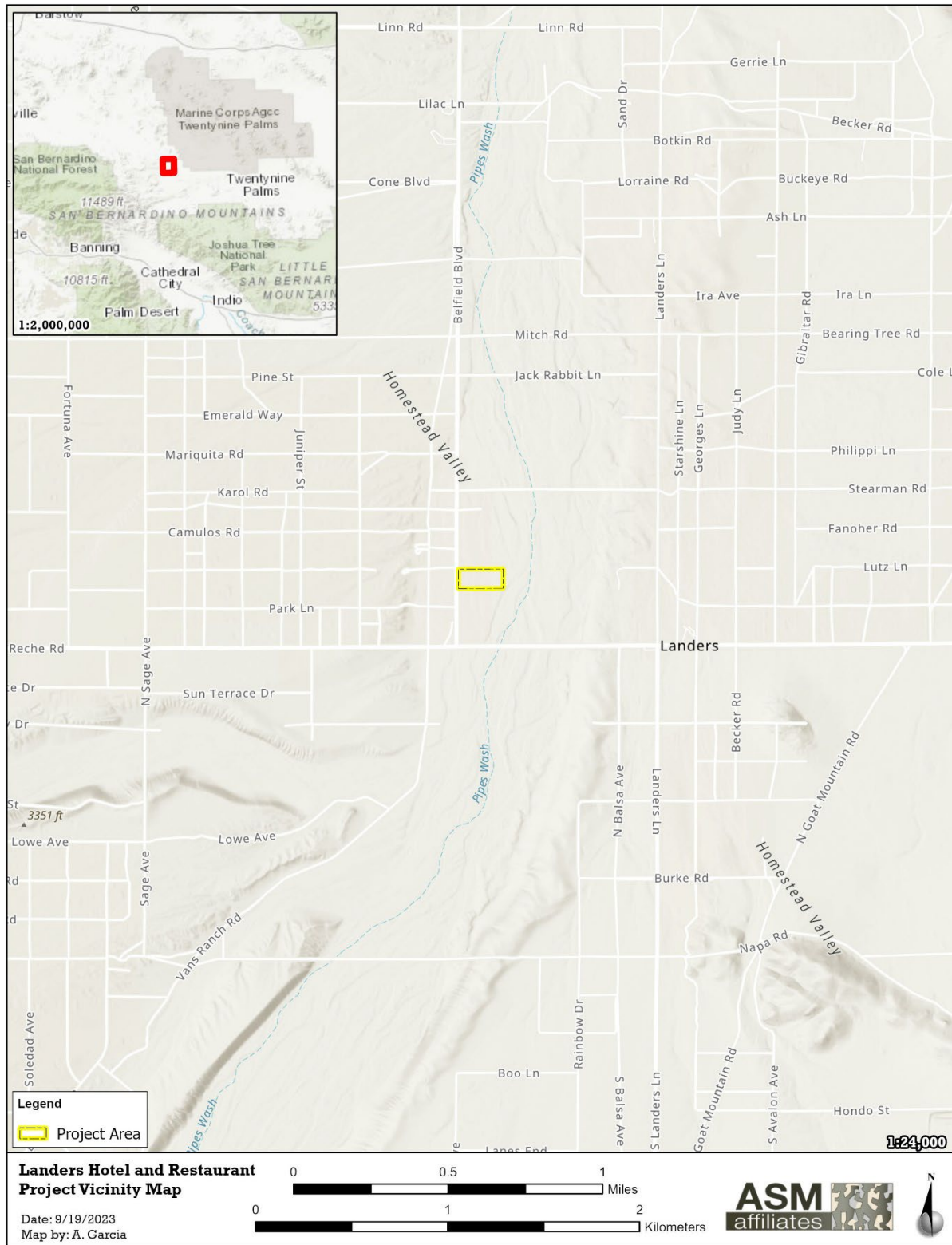


Figure 1. Project vicinity map.





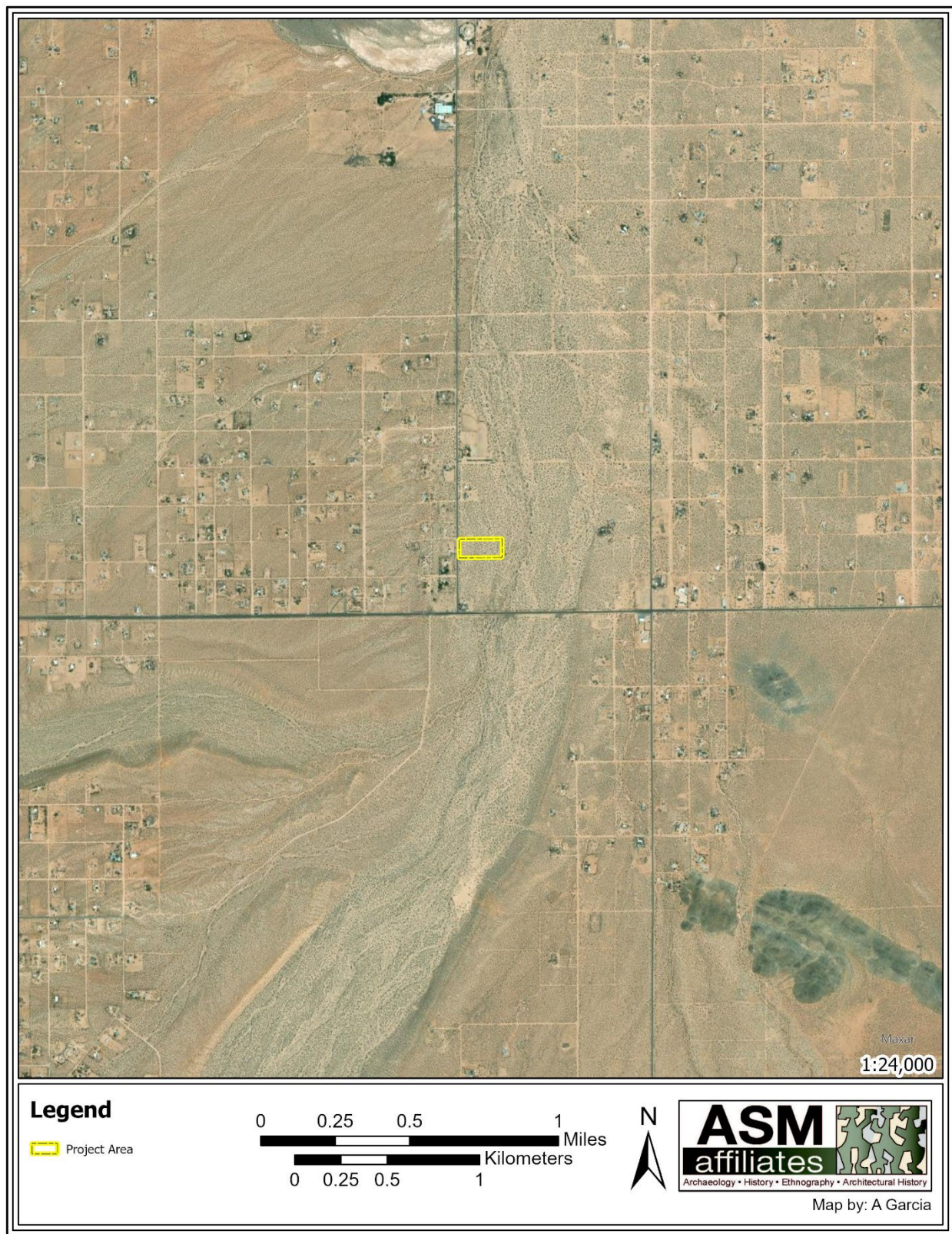


Figure 3. Aerial overview of Project area.





Figure 4. Project parcel overview, view to east.



Figure 5. Project parcel overview from southeast corner, view to west.





Figure 6. Overview of west edge of parcel along Belfield Boulevard, view toward south.



Figure 7. Overview within central portion of parcel showing vehicle tracks, view toward north.



**ATTACHMENT B: SCCIC RECORDS SEARCH SUMMARY**

ReportNum	DocAddlCitLetter	Status	OtherIDs	Xrefs	Authors	CitYear	CitMonth	CitTitle
SB-00743			NADB-R - 1060743; Voided - 79-1.4		SUTTON, MARK Q.	1979		ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLEARANCE OF BIGHORN MOUNTAIN WATER AGENCY PROJECT, LANDERS
SB-01442			NADB-R - 1061442; Voided - 84-6.2		RECTOR, CAROL	1984		BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND SALE, BARSTOW RESOURCE AREA, LANDERS

ReportNum	DocAddlCitLetter	Status	OtherIDs	Xrefs	Authors	CitYear	CitMonth	CitTitle
SB-02158			NADB-R - 1062158; Voided - 74-6.1		MORTLAND, CAROL A.	1974		ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT EVALUATION: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON PROPOSED GENERATING STATION IN UPPER JOHNSON VALLEY AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION, GAS AND FUEL ROUTES

ReportNum	DocAddlCitLetter	Status	OtherIDs	Xrefs	Authors	CitYear	CitMonth	CitTitle
SB-02515			NADB-R - 1062515; Voided - 92-2.16		LERCH, MICHAEL K.	1992		CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY OF THE MORONGO BASIN PIPELINE PROJECT, HESPERIA TO LANDERS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
SB-03094			NADB-R - 1063094		LERCH, MICHAEL K.	1993		ADDENDUM TO: CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY OF THE MORONGO BASIN PIPELINE PROJECT, HESPERIA TO LANDERS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CA
SB-06388			NADB-R - 1066388		McKenna, Jeanette A.	2008	Oct	A Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Two Pipeline Alignments for the San Bernardino County Special Districts Department, CSA 70, Zone W-4, Pioneertown and Landers, San Bernardino Co.. California.

CitPublisher	CitPages	CitMaps	ReportType	InventorySize	InventoryDisclosure	InventoryCollections	InventoryNotes
							[NADB Keywords: PREHISTORIC; ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE REPORT; MOJAVE DESERT; NO RESOURCES]
							[NADB Keywords: PREHISTORIC; ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE REPORT; FLAKED LITHICS; BASALT; CHALCEDONY; MOJAVE DESERT; RESOURCE NUMBER UNKNOWN]

CitPublisher	CitPages	CitMaps	ReportType	InventorySize	InventoryDisclosure	InventoryCollections	InventoryNotes
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH UNIT, UCR							[NADB Keywords: PREHISTORIC; ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE REPORT; LITHIC SCATTERS; LITHIC REDUCTION SITES; ROCKSHELTERS; ROASTING PITS; FOOD PROCESSING SITES; VILLAGE; POTTERY SCATTERS; PINTO; FLAKED LITHICS; JASPER; CHALCEDONY; RHYOLITE; PROJECTILE POINTS; HAMMERSTONES; QUARTZITE; CHERT; OBSIDIAN; BASALT; AGATE; QUARTZ; POTTERY; GROUND STONE; GRANITE; MOJAVE DESERT; RABBIT LAKE; TRANSVERSE RANGES; SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS; P1322-4; P1334-15; P1334-16; PSBR-15]

CitPublisher	CitPages	CitMaps	ReportType	InventorySize	InventoryDisclosure	InventoryCollections	InventoryNotes
MICHAEL K. LERCH & ASSOCIATES							[NADB Keywords: PREHISTORIC; HISTORIC; ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE REPORT; FIRE HEARTHS; HOMESTEADING SITE; STRUCTURAL SITE; CAMPSITES; FOOD PROCESSING SITE; PROJECTILE POINT; FLAKED LITHICS; QUARTZITE; GROUND STONE; MOJAVE DESERT; MOJAVE RIVER]
M.K. LERCH & ASSOCIATES				<2 ACRES			[NADB Keywords: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE REPORT; MOJAVE DESERT; NO RESOURCES]
McKenna et al		2	Archaeological, Field study	approx 9 miles	Not for publication	No	

Resources	ResourceCount	HasInformals	Counties	Maps	Address	PLSS
	0	No	San Bernardino	Landers		
36-060244, 36-060247	2	No	San Bernardino	Landers		



Resources	ResourceCount	HasInformals	Counties	Maps	Address	PLSS
36-000181, 36-001922, 36-002208, 36-002592, 36-003433, 36-003434, 36-003435, 36-003697, 36-003698, 36-003780, 36-003781, 36-003782, 36-003783, 36-003784, 36-003785, 36-003843, 36-003844, 36-003845, 36-003849, 36-003850, 36-003851, 36-006190	22	No	San Bernardino	Apple Valley South, Cajon, Cougar Buttes, Fifteenmile Valley, Hesperia, Landers, Lucerne Valley, Minneola, Old Woman Springs (15'), Ord Mountains (15'), Rodman Mountains (15'), Silverwood Lake, Yucca Valley North		

Resources	ResourceCount	HasInformals	Counties	Maps	Address	PLSS
36-003849, 36-007070, 36-007071, 36-007072, 36-060840, 36-060886, 36-060887, 36-060888, 36-060889	9	No	San Bernardino	Apple Valley South, Bighorn Canyon, Cougar Buttes, Fifteenmile Valley, Hesperia, Landers, Lucerne Valley, Old Woman Springs, Rattlesnake Canyon, Silverwood Lake, Yucca Valley North		
	0	No	San Bernardino	Bighorn Canyon, Landers		
36-006137, 36-020759	2	No	San Bernardino	Landers, Yucca Valley North		

PrimaryString	TrinomialString	ResourceName	Status	OtherIDs	Xrefs	ResType	Age	InfoBase	Attribs	ResourceDisclosure	ResourceCollections	AccessionNo	CollectionsFacility
P-36-060245		core		Other - Landers BLM Land Sale; Resource Name - core; Other - IA1293-3		Other	Prehistoric	Survey	AP16	Not for publication	No		
P-36-060247		Chalcedony Flake		Other - Landers BLM Land Sale; Resource Name - Chalcedony Flake; Other - IA1293-5		Other	Prehistoric	Survey	AP02	Not for publication	No		

ResourceNotes	RecordingEvents	Reports	CountyName	Maps	Address	PLSS	UTM
PDF OK			San Bernardino	Landers			
	1984 (Carol Rector)	SB-01442	San Bernardino	Landers			

**ATTACHMENT C: NATIVE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE**



July 26, 2023

California Native American Heritage Commission  
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, California 95691  
Via email: [naahc@naahc.ca.gov](mailto:naahc@naahc.ca.gov)

Re: Sacred Lands File Search Request for the Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, San Bernardino County, California

To whom it may concern,

ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM) is conducting a cultural resources study for the Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, located on the east side of Belfield Road, north of Reche Road, in the community of Landers, San Bernardino County, California. The proposed Project is depicted on the USGS Landers, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (see attached). This study is being undertaken in compliance with CEQA.

A records search has been requested from the South Central Coastal Information Center. I am writing to request a search of your Sacred Lands File and to inquire if you have registered any cultural resources, traditional cultural properties, or areas of heritage sensitivity within this proposed project area. Please send the results of this search to me at our Pasadena office, listed below, and feel free to call, write, fax (626) 793-2008, or e-mail ([sandrews@asmaffiliates.com](mailto:sandrews@asmaffiliates.com)) if you have any questions. We appreciate any information you can provide on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherri Andrews', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sherri Andrews, M.A., J.D., RPA  
ASM Affiliates, Inc.  
Senior Archaeologist

Attachment:

Figure 1. Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project area shown on the USGS Landers, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

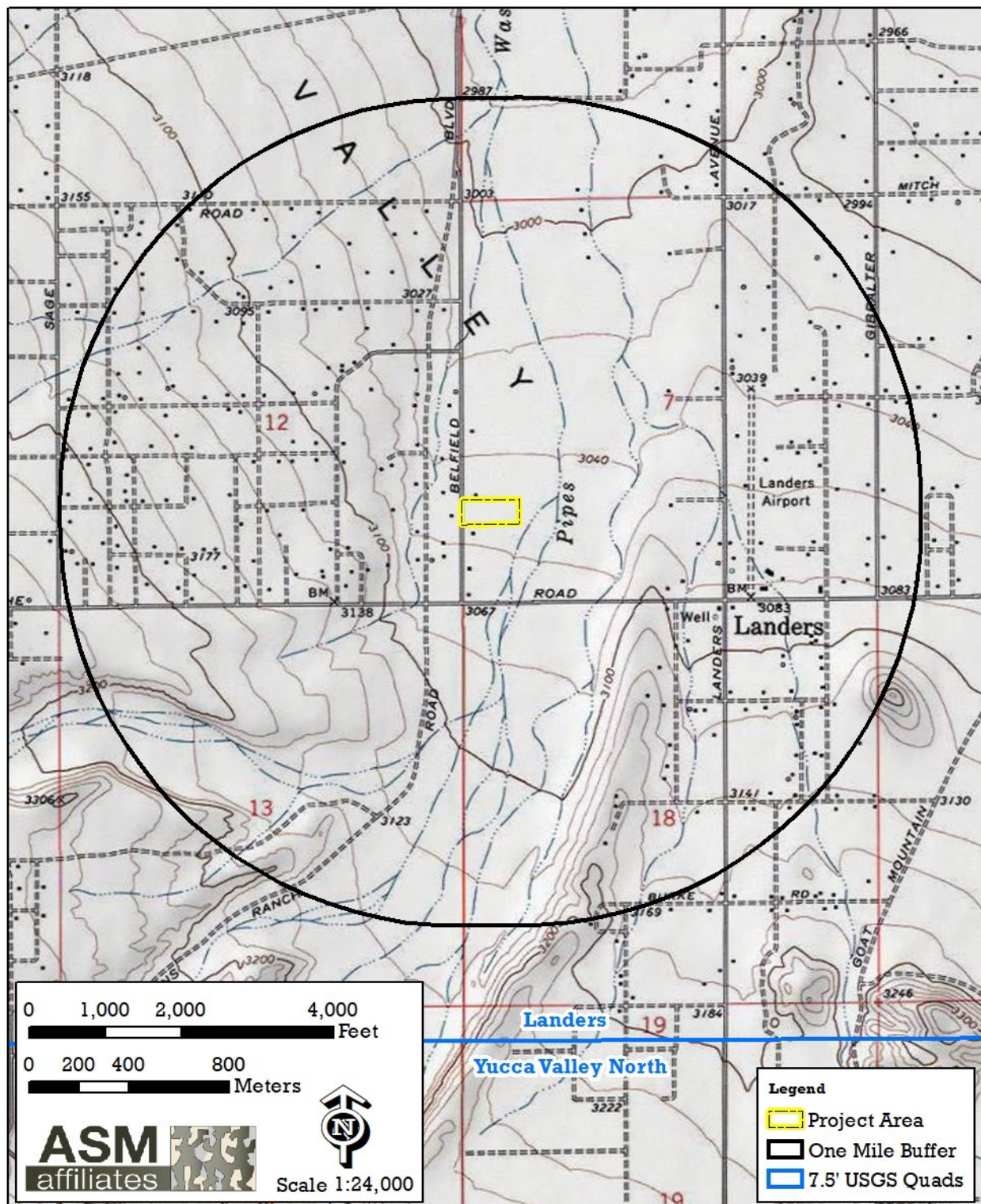


Figure 1. Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project shown on the USGS Landers, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

August 22, 2023

Sherri Andrews  
ASM Affiliates, Inc.Via Email to: [sandrews@asmaffiliates.com](mailto:sandrews@asmaffiliates.com)ACTING CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
ChumashSECRETARY  
**Sara Dutschke**  
MiwokCOMMISSIONER  
**Isaac Bojorquez**  
Ohlone-CostanoanCOMMISSIONER  
**Buffy McQuillen**  
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,  
NomlakiCOMMISSIONER  
**Wayne Nelson**  
LuiseñoCOMMISSIONER  
**Stanley Rodriguez**  
KumeyaayCOMMISSIONER  
**Vacant**COMMISSIONER  
**Vacant**COMMISSIONER  
**Vacant**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**Raymond C. Hitchcock**  
Miwok, Nisenan**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
West Sacramento,  
California 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
[NAHC.ca.gov](http://NAHC.ca.gov)**Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, San Bernardino County**

Dear Ms. Andrews:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

*Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.*

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:



- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: [Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Cameron Vela*

Cameron Vela  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

County	Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person
San Bernardino	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Patricia Garcia, Director of Historic Preservation
	Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Ann Brierty, THPO
	Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Robert Martin, Chairperson
	Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman - Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
	Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
	Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jordan Joaquin, President, Quechan Tribal Council
	San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	F	Alexandra McCleary, Cultural Lands Manager
	Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair
	Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
	Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Joseph Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	F	Darrell Mike, Chairperson

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of sta

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tri

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
San Bernardino County  
8/22/2023**

Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address
5401 Dinah Shore Drive Palm Springs, CA, 92264	(760) 699-6907	(760) 699-6919	pagarcia@aguacaliente.net
12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5259	(951) 572-6004	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov
12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5110	(951) 755-5177	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov
P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 210-8739		culturalcommittee@quechantribe.com
P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 261-0254		historicpreservation@quechantribe.com
P.O.Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(760) 919-3600		executivesecretary@quechantribe.com
26569 Community Center Drive Highland, CA, 92346	(909) 633-0054		alexandra.mccleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov
P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 659-2700	(951) 659-2228	Isaul@santarosa-nsn.gov
P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(909) 528-9032		serranonation1@gmail.com
P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(253) 370-0167		serranonation1@gmail.com

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
San Bernardino County  
8/22/2023**

P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663-5279	(951) 654-4198	jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov
P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663-6261	(951) 654-4198	jvaldez@soboba-nsn.gov
46-200 Harrison Place Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 863-2444	(760) 863-2449	29chairman@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov

tutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources C  
oes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, San Bernard

Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	7/20/2023
Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	
Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	
Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	5/16/2023
Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	5/16/2023
Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	5/16/2023
Serrano	Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	3/27/2023
Cahuilla	Imperial,Los Angeles,Orange,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	
Serrano	Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	
Serrano	Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	4/29/2019

Cahuilla Luiseno	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	7/14/2023
Cahuilla Luiseno	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	7/14/2023
Chemehuevi	Imperial, Inyo, Riverside, San Bernardino	

Code and section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

lino County.

Record: PROJ-2023-004213

Report Type: AB52 GIS

Counties: San Bernardino

NAHC Group: All



September 1, 2023

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Patricia Garcia, Director of Historic Preservation  
5401 Dinah Shore Drive  
Palm Springs, CA, 92264  
Via email: pagarcia@aguacaliente.net

Re: Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Director Garcia,

ASM Affiliates (ASM) is conducting a cultural resources study for the Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, located on the east side of Belfield Road, north of Reche Road, in the community of Landers, San Bernardino County, California. The proposed Project is depicted on the USGS Landers, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (see attached). This study is being undertaken in compliance with CEQA.

A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File has been undertaken with negative results. The NAHC response also included a list of additional contacts, upon which you appear. As a result, we would appreciate any information you may wish to share regarding Native American cultural resources located in or near the proposed Project location or concerns you may have regarding the proposed Project. This query is for informational purposes only. Any information concerning the location, identity, character, and traditional use of cultural places identified will be considered strictly confidential.

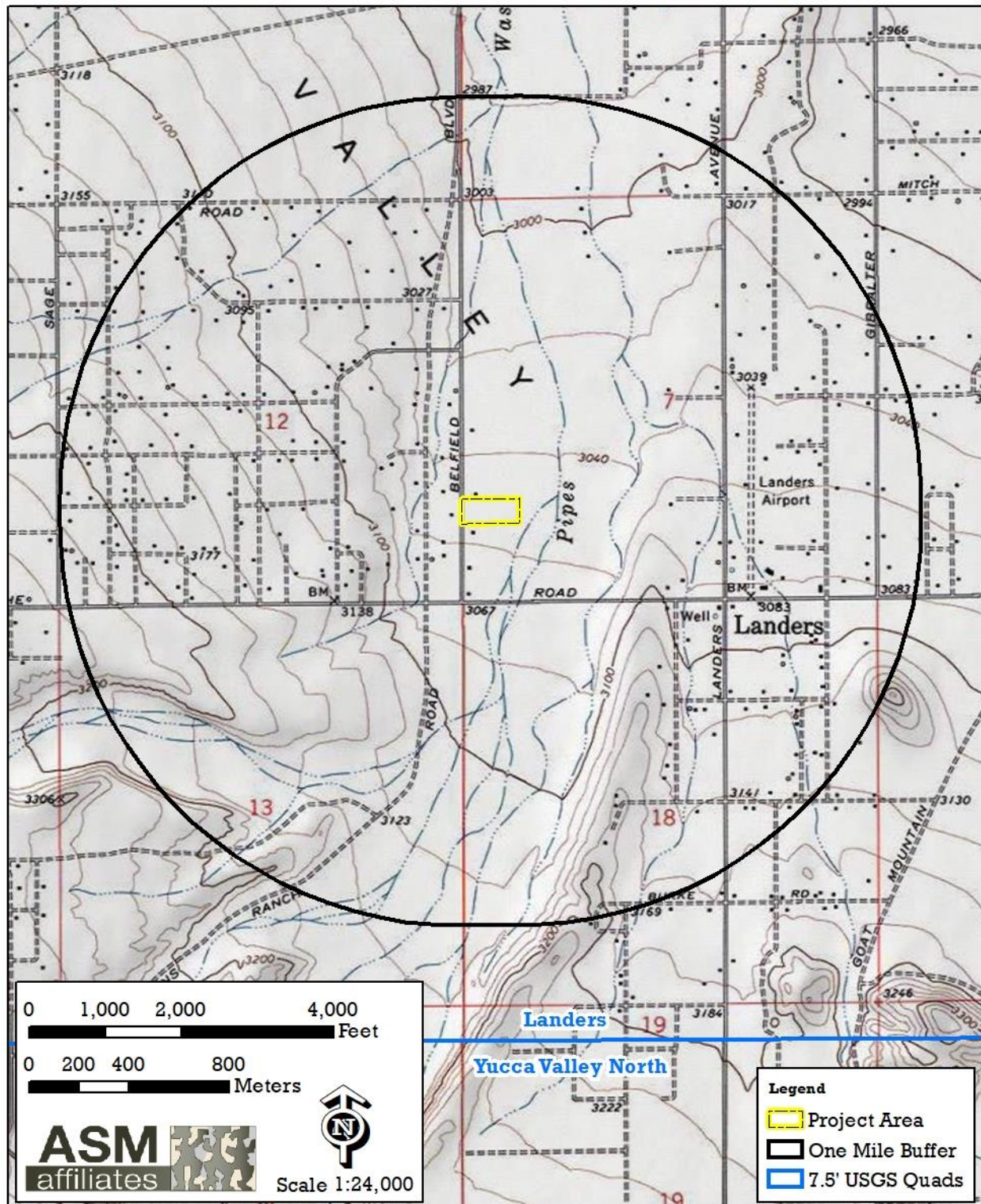
You may contact me at sandrews@asmaffiliates.com, (626) 793-7395, or the Pasadena office address provided below. Thank you in advance for taking the time to review this request.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherri Andrews', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sherri Andrews, M.A., RPA  
Senior Archaeologist





Map of the Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project Area shown on the USGS Landers, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

[EXTERNAL] RE: Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project Query

THPO Consulting <ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net>

Fri 9/8/2023 3:49 PM

To: Amanda Jokela <ajokela@asmaffiliates.com>

Cc: Sherri Andrews <sandrews@asmaffiliates.com>

**Caution:** This email is from an EXTERNAL sender. Be safe and verify links and/or attachments prior to opening.

Greetings,

A records check of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office's cultural registry revealed that this project is not located within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. Therefore, we defer to the other tribes in the area. This letter shall conclude our consultation efforts.

Thank you,



Xitlaly Madrigal

*Cultural Resources Analyst*

[xmadrigal@aguacaliente.net](mailto:xmadrigal@aguacaliente.net)

C: (760) 423-3485 | D: (760) 883-6829

5401 Dinah Shore Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264

**From:** Amanda Jokela <ajokela@asmaffiliates.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 3:27 PM

**To:** Garcia, Patricia (TRBL) <pagarcia@aguacaliente.net>

**Cc:** Sherri Andrews <sandrews@asmaffiliates.com>

**Subject:** Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project Query

**\*\* This Email came from an External Source \*\***

Dear Director Garcia,

Attached please find our letter requesting your comments, if any, on the Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, Landers, San Bernardino County, California. Thank you for taking time to review this letter and letting us know if there are any issues or concerns.

Best regards,

Sherri

**Amanda Jokela** | Assistant Archaeologist

7710 Balboa Ave., Suite 303 San Diego, CA | O: (619) 738-4030 | M:

[ajokela@asmaffiliates.com](mailto:ajokela@asmaffiliates.com) | <https://asmaffiliates.com>

*This email has been scanned by Inbound Shield.*

[EXTERNAL] RE: Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project Query

Alexandra Mc Cleary <Alexandra.McCleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov>

Fri 9/8/2023 4:22 PM

To: Amanda Jokela <ajokela@asmaffiliates.com>

Cc: Sherri Andrews <sandrews@asmaffiliates.com>

**Caution:** This email is from an EXTERNAL sender. Be safe and verify links and/or attachments prior to opening.

Dear Amanda,

Thank you for reaching out to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians concerning the proposed project area. Based on our current knowledge, the proposed project site may be sensitive for cultural resources. However, more information is needed to confirm. Please provide the following, if required for this project:

- Cultural report
- Paleontological report
- Geotechnical report
- Hydrology report
- Project plans showing the layout and depth of the proposed disturbance

This provision will assist the tribe during consultation. As the area is of concern, the San Manuel will wish to engage in government-to-government consultation pursuant to AB 52 with the Lead Agency for the project.

Thank you again for your correspondence, if you have any additional questions or comments please reach out to me at your earliest convenience.

Regards,  
Alexandra

---

**From:** Amanda Jokela <ajokela@asmaffiliates.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 3:40 PM

**To:** Alexandra Mc Cleary <Alexandra.McCleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov>

**Cc:** Sherri Andrews <sandrews@asmaffiliates.com>

**Subject:** Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project Query

Dear Ms. McCleary,

Attached please find our letter requesting your comments, if any, on the Landers Hotel and Restaurant Project, Landers, San Bernardino County, California. Thank you for taking time to review this letter and letting us know if there are any issues or concerns.

Best regards,  
Sherri



**Amanda Jokela** | Assistant Archaeologist

7710 Balboa Ave., Suite 303 San Diego, CA | O: (619) 738-4030 | M:

[ajokela@asmaffiliates.com](mailto:ajokela@asmaffiliates.com) | <https://asmaffiliates.com>

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If you are on a mobile device, forward the suspicious email to [spam@sanmanuel.com](mailto:spam@sanmanuel.com).