Soledad Canyon Sand and Gravel Mining Project EIR and EIS Peer Review and Comment Concerning Cultural Resources

prepared for
City of Santa Clarita
Planning and Building Services
23920 Valencia Blvd.
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

by Chester King, PhD

Topanga Anthropological Consultants
PO Box 826
Topanga, CA 90290

December 17, 2000

Executive Summary

The purpose of the research work completed for this review of the EIR and EIS for the Southdown-Transit Mix Concrete project was to determine if the studies completed for these documents accurately, fairly, and completely described the cultural properties within the TMC project boundary. For the purposes of this analysis, cultural properties were defined as archaeological and historic sites, locations of ethnohistoric and ethnographic significance, and plants and animals with cultural value to contemporary native Californians. The research revealed:

I. The project area is within an area that is recognized as significant for its archaeological record of Tataviam history and lifeways.

II. The project area contains many native plants that were important to native peoples as food, construction material and medicine.

III. The project area contains at least three Native American sites. The sites contain different artifacts and features and were apparently camps used for different purposes. Site records documenting these deposits are filed along with a copy of this report at the South Central Archaeological Information Center at CSU Fulerton.

IV. The archaeological evaluation used to prepare the EIR and EIS is substandard and does not conform with practices of current anthropological and archaeological methods of evaluation. As a consequence of deficiencies in method, at least three significant cultural properties were not identified.

V. Closure of the BLM public review and analysis process for cultural resources is premature and this process must be reopened to avoid a foreclosure situation under the Historic Preservation Act.

VI. A complete survey and testing program needs to be performed under the guidance of the BLM and SHPO to adequately determine the impacts of this project on the cultural resources within the project boundary and immediately adjacent areas which will be effected by riparian water drawn-down.

VII. The cultural resource evaluation did not include proper review of archaeological, ethnographic, ethnohistoric, or historic source materials.

VIII. The evaluation also failed to include any assessment of the impacts of the project or its effects on living native Californian groups or individuals with historic or cultural ties to the Southdown-TMC property.

The City of Santa Clarita should request to be a signatory and consulting party to a MOA to guide the implementation of Section 106. [800.6(a)(2)]. The MOA would specify the scope of additional surveys and other studies, the nature and scope of historic property evaluation efforts, and procedures for resolving adverse effects. Other interested parties may be invited to participate in the MOA and these may include Native American tribes. This agreement should be used to ensure that the cultural properties in the TMC project boundary and Area of Project Effect are not destroyed either inadvertently or deliberately by Southdown-TMC or cultural resource consultants retained by the applicant. Extraordinary measures should be applied to the study and protection of these sites.

Impacts to cultural resources effect both native Californian descendents and the scientific community which serves as the custodian of the ideas, research interests, and cultural history which is embedded in cultural properties. The EIR and EIS fail to address the historic, archaeological and ethnographic resources present in ths project area. The findings of this preliminary report on the cultural properties within the TMC property bounday require reopening the public review process for this project.

Contents

Background to Native Use of the Project Area 1

Native Settlements in the Vicinity of the Project Area 1

Plants Found in the Project Area Used by Native Peoples 6

Yucca Buds, Bulbs, Corms, and Roots 7

Seed Gathering and Processing 9

Acorns 10

Manzanita Berries 10

Juniper Berries 11

Settlement System Research 12

Survey for Archaeological Sites in Project Area 13

Survey of Project Area 13

Description of Archaeological Sites 14

Comments Concerning EIR and EIS Documents 15

Evaluation of Sites and Development of a Mitigation Plan for Archaeology 16

Dating of Ovens 17

Midden Constituent Analysis 17

Tool Analysis 17

Pollen Studies 18

Floral Analysis 19

Soil Studies 19

Effects on Native Culture 19

Bibliography 19

Soledad Canyon Sand and Gravel Mining Project EIR and EIS Peer Review and Comment Concerning Cultural Resources Element

prepared for City of Santa Clarita
by Chester King, PhD
December 17, 2000

Background to Native Use of the Project Area

The purpose of the following analysis of the status of contemporary scientific knowledge about cultural resources within the Soledad Canyon area is to provide a context for understanding the formal significance of the sites situated within and immediately adjacent to the Southdown-Transit Mix Concrete property. Further, this background information is essential for establishing what traditional native Californian ethnographic groups occupied the area historically. This tentative identification of cultural affiliation with the TMC property needs to be established based on available sources of ethnohistoric and ethnographic evidence to enable the BLM to meaningfully involve the living descendents of these ethnographically identified groups into the research, consultation, and significance evaluation phases of work necessary for this undertaking.

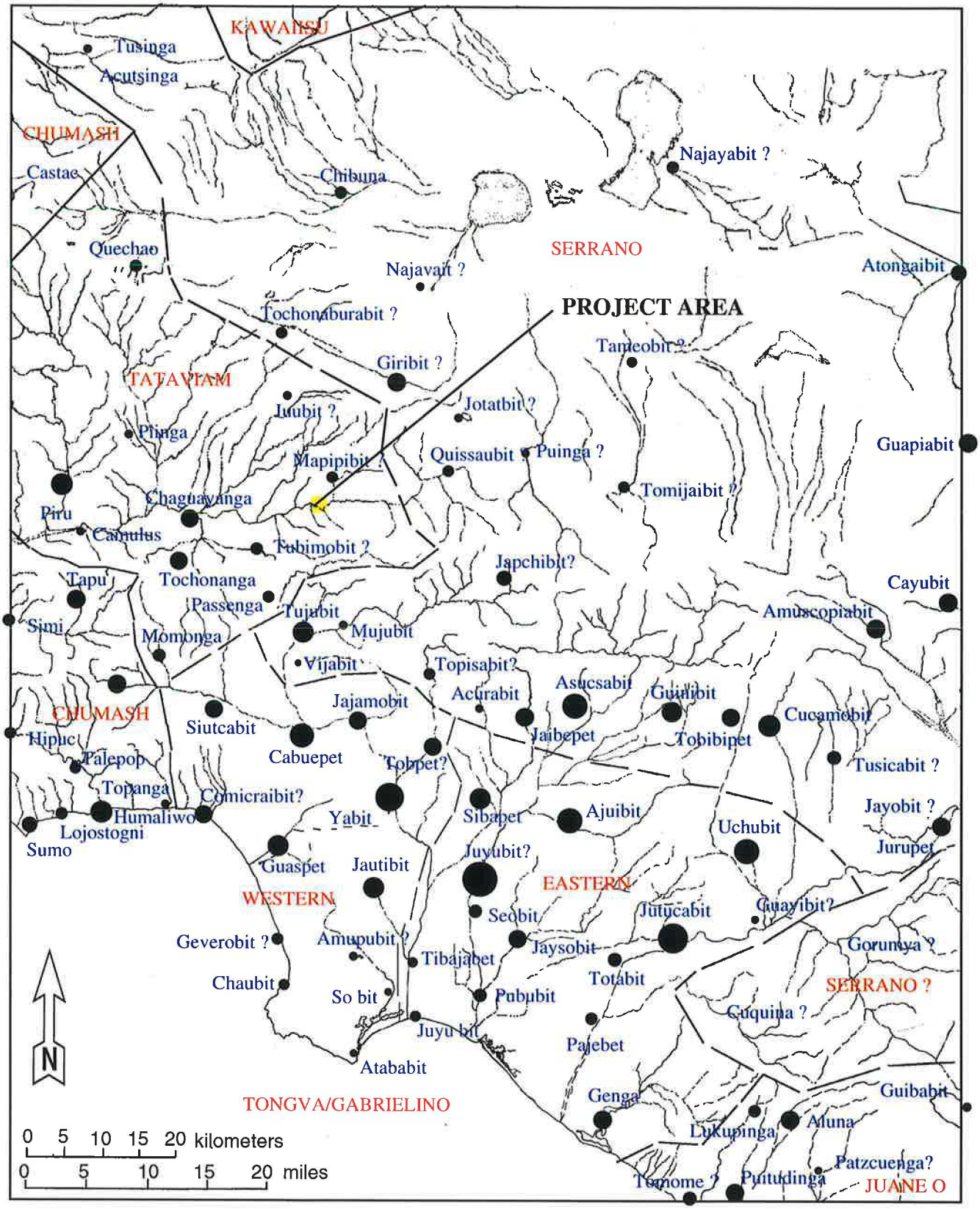
This background data should be of use to the BLM and other federal agencies who need to study the sites situated within the boundary of the TMC property. The report specifies research questions and types of inquiry that should be explored in the design of testing programs at the sites within the project boundary. It is important to emphasize that the known sites in the TMC boundary may not represent the inventory of all sites or properties of significance under federal standards and guidelines. This background should be of utility to the interpretation of the sites identified thus far on the TMC property.

Native Settlements in the Vicinity of the Project Area

At the time of Spanish colonization, the vicinity of the project area was the location of settlements of Tataviam people. Most Tataviam people were recruited into San Fernando Mission and many of their descendants continue to live in the San Fernando area. The Tataviam language was most closely related to Tongva/Gabrieleno, Serrano and other southern California Takic languages that are members of the Uto-Aztecan language family . Archaeological discoveries including the discovery of a cache of ceremonial artifacts at Bower s Cave, excavations of cemeteries, recording of rock paintings and an area survey to gather data to be used for interpretation of the settlement at Vasquez Rocks County Park have increased our knowledge of pre-mission Tativiam society. Existing information indicates ties to surrounding groups including the Serrano, Chumash and Tongva/Gabrielino. The map on page 2 indicates the distribution of native settlements in Los Angeles County. The map indicates the locations or relative locations of the settlements that are discussed

The San Fernando Mission registers name two settlements of native people in the immediate vicinity of San Fernando Mission One place was at the actual site of the mission. Historic documents indicate migration of Indians to a ranching and farming center in the San Fernando Valley before the mid 1790s. This center became the site of the San Fernando mission in 1797. On August 19, 1795, Father Vicente de Santa Maria described the settlement in his expedition diary:

> We went to explore the place where the alcalde of the pueblo (Los Angeles), Francisco Reyes, has his rancho. ... We found the place quite suitable for a mission, because it has much water, much humid land, and also limestone; for we came upon a party of gentiles who were finishing a kiln for burning lime which they had already heaped up. ... there is a lack of firewood; for the place has no more than is found in the arroyo, which is about one league long. There we found willows, poplars, alders, and a few live oaks, at a distance of a quarter or a half league from the mission, should it be founded there. In this place we came to a rancheria near the dwelling of said Reyes with enough Indians. They take care of the field of corn, beans, and melons, belonging to said Reyes, which with that of the Indians could be covered with two fanengas of wheat. These Indians are the cowherds, cattlemen, irrigators, bird-catchers, foremen, horsemen etc. To



Distribution of Settlements Recruited from by San Gabriel and San Fernando Missions

> this locality belong and they acknowledge it, the gentiles of other rancherias, such as the Taapa [Tapu], Tacuyama [takuyama m = tsawayung or Chaguayabit], Tucuenga [Caguenga or Tujunga ?], Juyunga, Mapipinga, and others, who have not affiliated with Mission San Gabriel [Engelhardt 1927: 5].

The cover page of the San Fernando Mission book of baptisms says the Mission was founded at the place called by natives Achois Comihabit. Baptism 255 says the mission was founded at the site of Achoisominga, The first ten baptisms at San Fernando were of children between 1.5 and 7 years old from Achoicominga. The ages of the children indicate the settlement was founded around 1792.

Baptisms 1, 4 and 7 were children whose father (baptism 206) was of **Tochonanga.** The mother of 7 and by name mother of 1 and 4 was Chemenjo of **Pacoimebit** (Two people were identified in the registers of San Fernando Mission as natives of Pacoinga. It appears the village was abandoned at the time of or prior to the founding of Achoicominga. Its name indicates that it was located along Pacoima Creek) (baptism 493) [death 1685]. Baptism 155 of **Momonga** wife of baptism 67 of Momonga is also said to be mother of 1 [sic mother native name same as given for baptism 493].

Baptism 2 child of mother (baptism 272) of **Tochonanga** father =Yamar possibly baptism 1155 Yamaut of Momonga

Baptisms 6 and 10 sisters. Baptism 1797 of a child says mother Fb 6 is of **Tochonanga** Baptisms 314 of **Mapipbit** and 264 of **Tubimobit** were parents of baptism 47 of **Passenga** brother of baptism 10.

Baptism 8 daughter of baptism 476 of **Momonga** Marriage 497 says 8 is native of las Piedras = Momonga

The parents of three of the ten children have not been identified the baptisms are:
Baptism 3 fa=Achiango mo = Yahuihicainan.
Baptism 5 fa= Cacaiche, mo= Papomihahue
Baptism 9 fa= Chaaba, mo= Tebihua

Marriage 7 Josef Ygnacio of the rancheria of Achoicominga. Josef Ygnacio baptism 26, son of non-Christians called Polomono and they say Pormom at the rancheria of the mission [the Chumash west of Momonga use l and have no r]) Josef Ygnacio s other male relatives were baptized as natives of **Momonga.**

Later baptisms of people from Achoycomaibit were of older people. Either these were people the missionaries associated with the settlement or it had been occupied before Spanish colonization. Baptism 255 was of a 90 year old woman. Baptism 465 was of a 40 year old man brother of baptism 64 of **Momonga.**

Baptism 459 was of a 35 year old man said to be chief of Achoycomaibit. He was husband of baptism 468 sister of baptism 383 of **Tochonanga** (marriage 94).

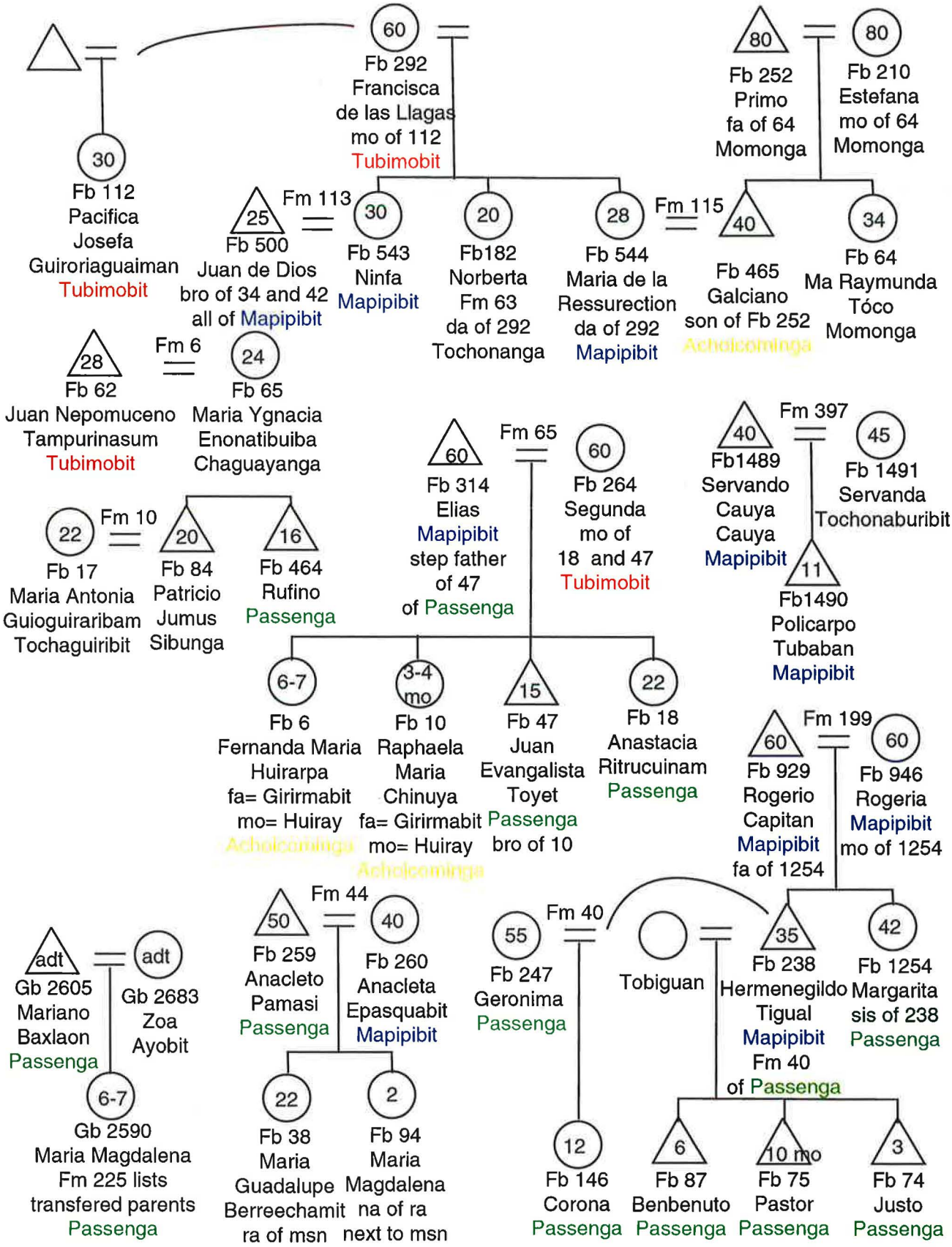
It appears that Tochonanga and Momonga were the most important source of migrants at Reyes rancho. They were followed in importance as a source of migrants by Passenga. At least one Chumash village is indicated by the name of the mother of Fb 5 whose name has a -we ending that is present on many Chumash women s names. The list of villages made by Father Vicente de Santa Maria included Tapu a Chumash village.

The other village near the site of the mission was apparently a pre-Spanish settlement.. Baptism 127 was of a person in danger of death at the site of Passenga a short distance from the mission . Hugo Reid identified Pasecg-na with San Fernando (Reid 1852 [1966]). Harrington notes: Setimo: The whole place of the [San Fernando] Mission was called pasiknga. The rancheria of S.F. Mission was east of the mission- where the packing house is now. A person from there would be called pasikjvit. This is the old rancheria - ring of Tunas there where a few old Indians lived. Patskunga is where Rogerio [Rocha] lived.

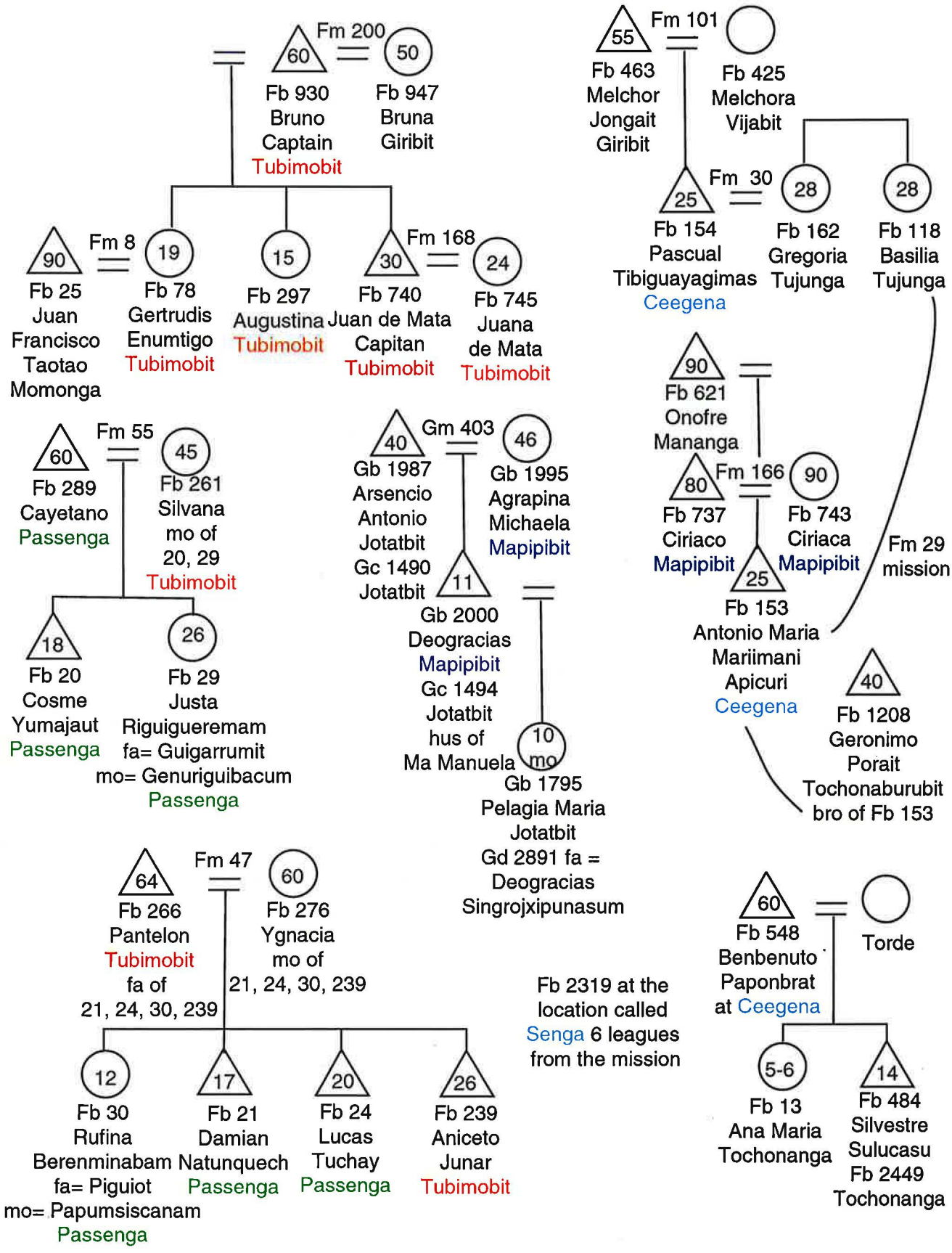
The village of Passenga was apparently the closest village occupied during the protohistoric period to the San Fernando Mission. The statement that the village was where the packing house is now (1920 s?) east of the mission needs to be checked out. It is probable that the village was at the Porter Ranch site complex (sites CA-LAn-407 to 412) described by Walker near the site of the origin of the old San Fernando Mission aqueduct (Walker 1951:19). The sites are apparently near the house of the Rogerio Rocha who was wrongfully evicted (Rust 1904).

Thirty-four baptisms can be identified as from Passenga. These baptisms are earlier than those from Mapipibit and Tubimobit. Baptisms from these settlements come in later than Tochonanga, Momonga, and important villages recruited from by San Fernando Mission immediately after baptism of the ten children from Achoicominga. The villages of Mapipibit and Tubimobit were tied to settlements located north of the mission.

Abbreviations used in the charts on pages 4 and 5 to refer to register entries are:
F= San Fernando Mission
G= San Gabriel Mission
b= baptism number
m= marriage number
d= burial number



Pre-recruitment Kinship ties between Passenga, Mapipibit and Tubimobit and other Settle-



Pre-recruitment Kinship ties between Passenga, Mapipibit and Tubimobit and other Settlements

The locations of the settlements of Tochonanga, Momonga and Chaguayanga significantly west of the project area are documented. The names of settlements in the vicinity of the Soledad Canyon mining project are not documented. The settlement of Passenga had strong ties to Tubimobit and Mapipibit. One of these settlements was probably the settlement at Agua Dulce. The other may have been located in Placerita Canyon or another location in the Santa Clarita area.

Mapipibit (23 baptisms) [San Gabriel baptism 2000 Mapitbit = San Fernando death 136 trahido enfermo de una de las rancherias de la Sierra] and Tubimobit (26 baptisms) are the only candidates for settlements in the Vasquez Rocks - Placerita Canyon area. Possibly Ceegena was the name of the place of Agua Dulce where the people of the Mapipibit clan lived. Many of the few listings of Ceenga in the mission registers are given for people with ties to Serrano settlements. The listings for Ceenga are shown on the right side of page 5. Baptism 153 from Ceenga is of a son of parents from Mapipibit. Baptism 2319 at San Fernando mentions a place called Senga 6 leagues from the mission. Senga is probably the same as Ceegena. Agua Dulce is approximately 6 leagues from the mission.

The Charts on pages 4 and 5 indicate ties recorded in mission registers between the settlements of Passenga, Tubimobit and Mapipibit and other settlements. These three settlements were closely tied together. Both Passenga and Momonga in the northern San Fernando Valley had most of their ties to the north and have few or no ties to Tongva/Gabrieleno settlements or Serrano settlements nearby. The map of settlement distribution shows boundaries that reflect ties between settlements. These boundaries differ from boundaries on published maps that follow Kroeber s guesses..

The settlements of Mapipibit and Tubimobit have fewer baptisms than are expected from a settlement as large as the Agua Dulce settlement. The kinship charts indicate that people migrated to Reyes' ranch and other establishments in the San Fernando Valley before the mission was established. Father Vicente de Santa Maria was quoted as observing that people of Mapipinga had moved to Reyes Ranch. He further observed in 1795 that:

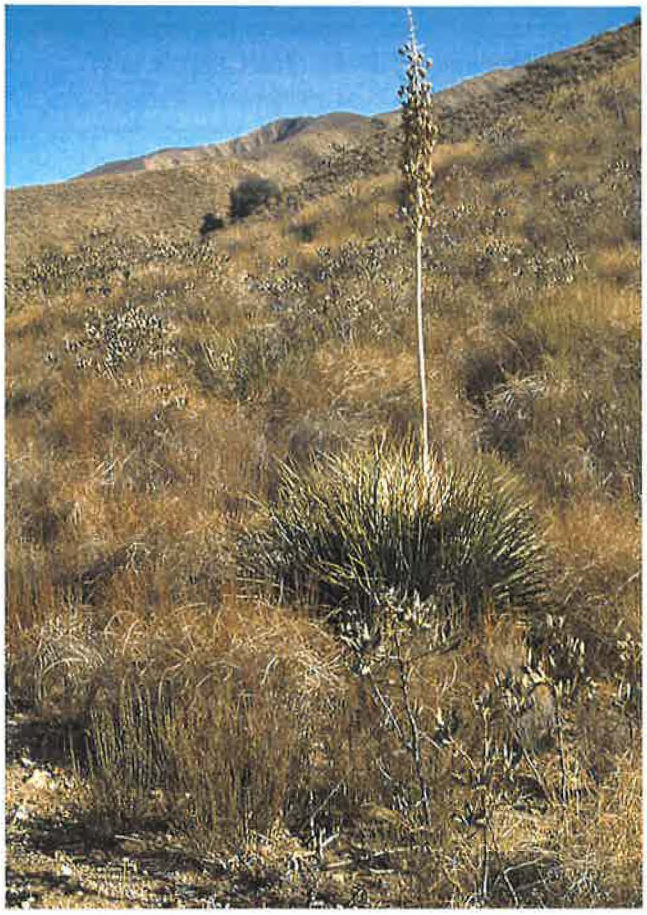
> ... the whole pagandom, between this Mission [San Buenaventura] and that of San Gabriel, along the beach, along the camino reál, and along the border of the north is fond of the Pueblo of Los Angeles, of the rancho of Mariano Verdugo, of the rancho of Reyes, and of the Zanja. Here we see nothing but pagans passing, clad in shoes, with sombreros, and blankets, and serving as muleteers to the settlers and rancheros, so that if it were not for the gentiles there would be neither pueblo or rancho; and if this be not accepted as true let them bring proof. Finally these pagan Indians care neither for the Mission or the missionaries [Englehardt 1927: 9].

In addition to migration to ranches, the settlements in the upper Santa Clara River area appear to have lost population to disease at much the same rate as settlements previously recruited into Spanish missions. There are few baptisms of young people and it appears that few children were born after 1790. The final depopulation of the native settlements of Mapipibit and Tubimobit was between 1802 and 1805 when remaining adults were recruited into San Fernando Mission. These dates of abandonment are consistent with archaeological data indicating the latest native occupation at Agua Dulce.

Plants Found in the Project Area Used by Native Peoples

Many of the plants in the project area were used by native Californians for food, construction material, medicine or pigments. The following discussion emphasizes important food plants found in the project area. A unique combination of plant species are found within and adjacent to the TMC sited due to the unique physical properties of the soils and micro-climate of project area. The plants within and adjacent to the TMC project boundary afforded very significant, perhaps even fundamental foods, for the traditional cultures of this region.

The cultural resource studies performed to date for the EIR/EIS do not address the impact of this project on culturally significant plants. Potential significant impacts on wetlands and riparian areas within and adjacent to the project area should be considered in the overall evaluation of significance of cultural properties and endangered species. The native cultural systems of California were concerned with maintaining the diversity and continuity of both plant and animal life. Toads, birds, bats and carnivores all carried the normative actions of native cultures into and out of the domain of daily life through the telling and retelling of myths. Some of these myths were transferred between generations at specific times of the year and in specific places (such as caves dominated by rock art, high peaks dominated by solitude, and nearly perpetual water source locations such as springs and perennial flowing rivers). Many cultural properties where such important events of learning and meditation were used to transfer knowledge, unlike a modern university, leave little physical evidence. Such lack of physical evidence increases the importance of ethnographic and ethnohistoric source materials in understanding cultural properties. For this reasons related to research design efforts in testing the sites found within the



***Yucca whipplei* on an exposed hillside in the project area.** .

TMC boundary, the following discussion of economically significant plants occurring in and around the TMC project site is provided.

Yucca Buds, Bulbs, Corms, and Roots

Yucca buds, corms and bulbs were harvested in the early spring and were the first significant foods gathered after the winter solstice. Bulbs and roots provide plants a means of storing energy for 1) flowering and producing seeds, 2) living in a dormant state during the dry season as a perennial and rapidly sprouting at the beginning of the rain season, 3) and vegetative reproduction. Most bulbs contain their maximum food value just prior to sending up their flower stalks. The growth of flower stalks and the maturation of seeds requires expenditure of energy, some of which is contributed by the bulbs. Likewise the withering of the leaves at the end of spring results in the cessation of new energy inputs and energy is spent in metabolism until winter when leaves again provide energy inputs. Bulbs and yucca provided the first significant crop which preceded the time of ripening of seeds in mid-spring. The bulbs (corms) of Brodiaea (*Dichelostemma pulchellum*) and Mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* sp.) were important foods. The roots of Lomatium sp. (Biscuit root) are also edible. Lomatium sp. (*Lomatium triternatum*) are unusually frequent in the project

Harvested yucca bud and leaf bases. Leaves were cut off before roasting and used to make cordage.

area and their roots were

Yucca

Yucca was perhaps the most important food resource for the Tataviam. Yucca (Yucca whipplei) is a widespread plant in the coast ranges, growing on stony slopes in chaparral and coastal sage scrub from Monterey County to Baja California. Most of this plant is edible (flowers and stalks, as well as the heart, or yucca cabbage) or usable (fiber from the leaves was an important source for cordage, and nets; fiber was an economic exchange item (King 1976).

Fages described use of yucca:

> There is a great deal of century plant of the species which the Mexicans call

***Yucca whipplei* on a north facing hill side with scrub oak in the project area.** .

***Yucca whipplei* in an arroyo bottom with sage brush in the project area.** .

Brodiaea corms.

Old Brodiaea flower stalk in the project area

Old Mariposa Lily flower stalk in the project area

Old Lomatium umbel in the project area

Dudleya sp. in the project area. Dudleya were eaten as greens

> mescali [Yucca whipplei]. The mode of using it is as follows: They make a hole in the ground, fill it compactly with large firewood which they set on fire, and then throw on top a number of stones until the entire fire is covered but smothered. When the stones are red hot, they place among them the bud of this plant; this they protect with grass or moistened hay, throwing on top a large quantity of earth, leaving it so for the space of twenty-four hours. The next day they take out their century plant roasted... It is juicy, sweet, and of a certain vinous flavor; indeed, very good wine can be made from it (Priestley 1972: 50).

Paez of the 1542 Cabrillo expedition mentioned the use of yucca by interior Indians. In reference to the Indians of the interior, he was told: "inland at three days' distance there are many villages and much maize. They call maize oep, and cows of which they say there are many, they call cae"(Wagner 1929:86).

Harrington observed:

> By "oep" is intended Chumashan wep, Yucca mohavensis. Sarg., Spanish Bayonet, regularly spoken of in all the Spanish vernaculars of the Southwest as mezcal. The word mezcal is used in the Paez account in a certain passage, in which it is stated that the villagers of Rincon [sic=Mugu] ate mezcal. The cabbage of the mezcal was earth-roasted and eaten. It was a sort of corn or staff of life to the people.
>
> By "cae" is intended Chumashan qaq, Antilocapra americana americana (Ord), California antelope [Harrington 1944:32-33].

On October 10, 1542, Paez of the Cabrillo expedition also mentioned the use of yucca in a statement saying that the villagers at the Pueblo de las Canoas [Muwu] eat raw fish as well as maguey (Wagner 1929:86).

Brodiaea and Mariposa Lilies

Brodiaea (*Dichelostemma pulchellum*) was an important food for many California Indians. Their nut like corms were eaten both raw and cooked by roasting in hearths by most groups. The corms of mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* sp.) were used like those of brodiaea. Fages observed the following concerning what were probably brodiaea and mariposa lilies or onions:

Old stems and fruits of California mustard (*Caulanthus lasiophyllus*). Native mustard grows in the same places as chia and its seeds may have been collected.

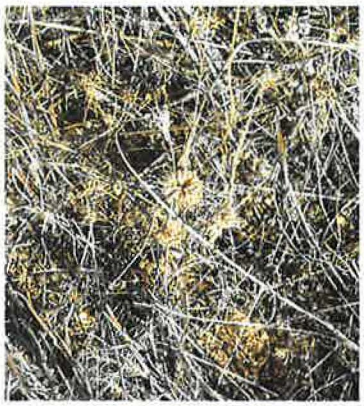
> There is another onion called cacomistli which has a very good flavor like that of the sweet potato (camote), and still another which is the root of a tuberous grass about like a head of garlic, which is good to eat without any preparation; it is called capulin (Priestley 1972: 78).

Seed Gathering and Processing

Ethnographic and ethnohistoric data indicate that chia was one of the most important southern California plant foods and ranked along with acorns and islay as a staple food. The term chia apparently usually referred to *Salvia columbariae.* Longinos Martinez mentioned the importance of sage seeds:

> Those which the gentiles of New California use most commonly in pinoles are the seeds of sages (Salviae), a species of Singenesia [[Compositae - Asteraceae]] which is very abundant, [and] another large seed they call silao [[Yslay- Prunus ilicifolia]] (Simpson 1939: 34).

Stand of scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*) on a north facing slope in the project area. Acorns may have been collected from these oaks



Chia (*Salvia columbaria*) grows on steep south facing sandy slopes and is common in the project area. Chia was possibly the most important small seed harvested in the area. These pictures show dried stems and fruits.

Chia is suited to sandy, low-nutrient soils. Chia is an annual herb which grows from Mendocino County to Baja and Sonora. Chia was harvested from late spring to early summer, and the fields often burned off at the time of leaving to encourage this annual's growth next season (Timbrook et al. 1993). Chia seeds are very nutritious and contain 20.2 % protein, 34.4 % oil (lipids) and 5.6 % ash (lignin?) (compared to 7.9, 6.9, and 3.8, respectively, for white sage seeds) (Ebeling 1989:389). They were consumed in large quantities by roasting, grinding and adding to water to form gels or cakes (Hudson 1990: 65).

Tar weed (*Hemizonia fasciculata)* was observed at Site 2 in the project area. Its seeds were an important small seed. Its seeds were perhaps the most important small seed for southern California Indians and the plant was probably the dominant annual ground cover on clay soils prior to the introduction of annual grasses.

José Longinos Martinez observed:

> Mustard is a very common field plant. Its seed is eaten in pinoles, after being well roasted (Simpson 1938: 34).

José Longinos Martinez described the gathering of seeds by the Chumash:

> They gather their harvests of seeds .... This operation consists in the women alone going about the fields, many leagues if necessary, with large baskets, carrying one on their back and another in one hand. In the other they carry a sort of fan with a long handle which has a small net at one end. With this they shake the seeds from the plant into the basket. In this manner, with little work and great ease they fill their vessels (Simpson 1938: 43).

Harrington stated the following concerning the use of pinole among the Luiseño:

> Pinole was seed meal mixed with water and was the most common way in which meal from small seeds were used in California. [Pooyic, Aj. poytc, pinole, toasted seeds ground up and eaten either dry or stirred up in water. Sp. pinole, now a recognized Eng. word in the southwest, is from Aztec pinolli. From poyyiq, to pound up, the general word meaning to pound up. e.g. to pound up acorns in a mortar] (Harrington 1978: 161).

Acorns

Acorns were collected in October and November and were an important food for the Tataviam. Acorns were stored in large quantities for use throughout the year and use in years of low crop yield.

Fages described the use of acorns by California Indians:

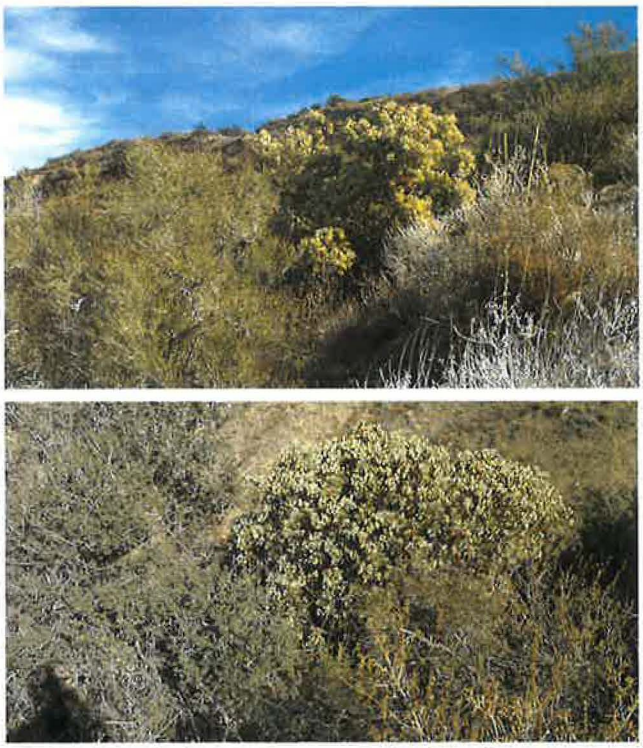
> The acorns of all three species of oak, the live oak [quercus ilex], oak [quercus robur], and the cork tree, are all used to make atole [gruel] and pinole [parched meal]; the acorns are treated in this manner; 'After they have been skinned and dried in the sun, they are beaten in stone mortars similar to almireces [brass mortars for kitchen use] until they are reduced to powder or flour. This is mixed with a suitable quantity of water in close-woven baskets, washed repeatedly, and the sediment or coarse flour allowed to settle. This done, it is now put on the sand and sprinkled with more water until the mass begins to harden and break up, and become filled with cracks. It is now ready to eat, uncooked, and is called pinole or bread. A part may be boiled in suitable quantity of water, when it is called atole or gruel (Priestley 1972: 78).

Manzanita Berries

The berries or small apples of manzanita bushes or trees were an important food resource. Fages described the use of manzanita berries:

> Native sugar is made from the olive-like fruit produced by a leafy, tufted shrub six feet high with a stem of reddish color and leaves like those of the mangrove. The preparation of the sugar is so simple that it consists in gathering the ripe fruit, separating the pulp from the seed, and pressing it in baskets to make cakes of

Grove of manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) on a north facing slope in the project area. Berries may have been collected from these bushes.



Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) bushes in the project area.

Juniper tree (*Juniperus californica*) in the project area.

sugar when dry and of a good consistency (Priestley 1972:79-80).

Manzanita berries were used throughout the state. All groups probably made cider and most groups made cakes for storage of the dried fruit pulp.

Juniper Berries

On August 7, 1806, Zalvidea went with the Sergeant and seven soldiers to the village of Casteque. Here he found

Juniper tree (*Juniperus californica*) in the project area.

Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*) is common in the project area. Tea and steam of steeped leaves were used to relieve cold symptoms.

no Indians "for they were all away at their fields of Guata [Juniper] " (Cook 1960:253).

Juniper berries were an important food in southern California. Juniper trees (*Juniperus californica*) are present in the project area and their berries may have been harvested.

In addition to the plants that have been described, many plants found in the project area were used as greens, medicine, pigments or manufacturing materials. Some of the most common plants including buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) Encelia (*Encelia farinosa*), sagebrush (*Artemesia californica* and *A. trIdentata*) Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra nevadensis*) and chamise (*Adenostoma fasiculatum*) have medical uses. Deer weed (*Lotus scoparus*), *Dudleya* sp., Bladder pod (*Isomeris arborea* v. *globolsa*), and Milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) were observed in the project area and were used for greens. White sage (*Salvia apiana*)

White sage (*Salvia apiana*) in the project area. It is used as incense in native ceremonies.

grows in the project area and is used as incense in native ceremonies and eaten as greens.

Settlement System Research

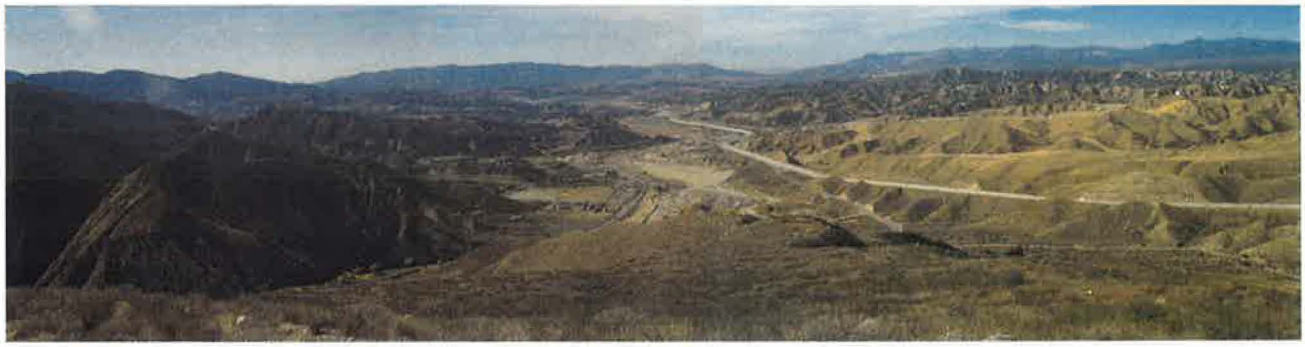
The presence of archeological sites at particular places can only be understood in the context of a framework that explains the distribution of sites in southern California. Safety, locomotion efficiency, heat loss and retention, and size of area available are factors considered in choosing places to conduct human activities. Changes in the types of places used to conduct activities can be interpreted as indicating changes in the types of available choices. Changes in the types or intensity of threat from attack by human or animal competitors, in the quantities or types of foods gathered and stored, in availability of water, in types of plants and animals available in the area, the distribution of settlements and boundaries between them, or in the size of populations living at settlements can be expected to lead to changes in the places chosen to conduct human activities. The accomplishment of the task of accurately explaining differences and similarities in the distribution of archeological sites will aid in the documentation of the causes and times of important social and/or environmental changes.

The distribution of settlements influenced the way people used the landscape. Changes in settlement distribution resulted in changes in the distances between settlements and fields. It is expected that the lengths of stay at camp sites would be less during periods when more villages were occupied since the average distance between these settlements and areas of resource availability was not as great as during the protohistoric period. The types of camp sites used during different periods and the types of activities conducted at them are expected to vary significantly.

The explanation of the formation of archeological sites identified in a region requires detailed information concerning differences between sites, their dates of occupation, and differences in the situation of sites. As long as the types of activities and the reasons they were conducted at particular sites are not known, further research at the sites has the potential to contribute significant information to studies of preconquest energy use and the related topics of settlement types and population size.

In 1973, Chester King performed a contract for Los Angeles County Parks Department to obtain information for the interpretation of archaeological sites at Vasquez Rocks County Park. The Vasquez Rocks 1973 survey centered on the explanation of why sites are located where they are, and why they contain similar or different types of artifacts. The survey included approximately the area within 3.5 miles of Vasquez Rocks. The survey was conducted by a crew of students from CSU Northridge. Most of the project area was included in the survey area. (I have no record of crew members responsible for survey in the project area.)

The Vasquez Rocks project survey resulted in the identification of several types of sites within three and a half miles of Agua Dulce. The sites included midden sites with a wide range of artifact types and materials that are the remains of residential settlements. Middens with only fire altered rock were found on saddles of ridgetops and on bars in the middle of streams. These are the remains of



View west from ridgetop near center of project area. Santa Clara River is in center of picture.

View east from ridgetop near center of project area. The Santa Clara River is in the right side of the picture and Agua Dulce is in the left side of the picture.

ovens used to roast yucca and other foods. Sites without noticeable soil alteration were classified according to the categories of artifacts and features found at them. These sites usually contained a limited range of artifacts compared with residential middens which contained artifacts associated with a wide range of activities.

Sites included flake scatters where only flakes, and retouched flakes of materials found at or near the sites were found. Flake scatters were often associated with oven or settlement sites. Flake scatters were often found on small benches on ridgetops or flats sheltered from wind. Flake scatters were interpreted as 1) sites at which animals were butchered to take back to settlements, 2) short term camps used while roasting yucca, hunting, bulb collecting, and 3) sites where raw materials were obtained and taken back to settlements. A jasper or chalcedony source was found during the survey that was the source for much fine grained stone used at Agua Dulce.

At some sites artifacts other than chipped stone tools were found. Artifacts at these sites were often made of materials not found in the immediate vicinity of the sites. These sites were often in places protected from the wind. They were probably camps used for more than a day s stay.

LAN-554 east of the project area is at a large rock formation. Here the survey crew found a piece of turtle carapice and a seashell. These artifacts were probably associated with ritual activity at the site. Bower s Cave west of Castaic Junction contained a large cache of Tataviam ceremonial artifacts.

Rock lined pits were frequently encountered on ridgetops. These pits were probably used for storage. At other sites petroglyphs were found. These were usually associated with settlement sites.

Some sites without identified middens contained metates and other artifacts characteristic of Early period settlements. The discovery of a cemetery at Rower Flats indicates that some sites where midden was not identified are early settlements whose middens have lost most visible characteristics. It appears more village sites were present in the Vasquez Rocks area during the Early and early Middle periods and settlements were less nucleated than later. Greater dispersal of settlements may have resulted in a reduction in the size and importance of camps because small hamlets were closer to gathering areas. Settlement types and activity distribution within sites and the relation of sites to resources being obtained and processed need to be defined for all time periods. Changes are expected to reflect changes in environmental or social conditions.

The discovery of explanations for the distribution of sites requires understanding of social organization in relationship to population dispersal or aggregation, population size, resource acquisition, and resource concentrations. The reconstruction of the activities of the members of past societies is one of the primary objectives of archeological research. All native sites in the vicinity of Vasquez Rocks can contribute to understanding the history of the area.

Unfortunately, study of archeological sites in the upper Santa Clara Valley has followed trends that have been established in California after 1973 when archeological assessments began to be required for privately funded projects. Archeologists have usually been selected who are conservative in recognizing significance of archeological sites. Archaeology to facilitate development is not required to recover any particular category of data. Sites are often completely destroyed after no or limited testing and further study of many sites is not possible. Many significant sites in the area have probably been destroyed without even being recorded. If the McLean report was followed in 1990, the archaeological sites in the project area would have been destroyed without record.

Survey for Archaeological Sites in Project Area

To judge if the project area actually lacked cultural resources as both the EIR and EIS conclude, the consultants performed a preliminary survey of the subject property. This survey was not systematic and was only intended to be performed as a spot-check of the results presented in the EIR/EIS. The surveys were performed with the approval and knowledge of the property owner (Curtis). The spot-check survey of probable site locations resulted in the identification of three archaeological deposits.

The type of survey was cursory to verify the results of a prior survey. Without a comprehensive effort to locate sites, three deposits were identified and subsequently recorded. The the deposits found confirm that the existing EIR/EIS surveys and conclusions are inadequate. This peer review report is not intended to substitute for a fully performed BLM and SHPO approved cultural resource survey and testing program. Such programs must be performed to determine the impacts of the project. The existing data in the EIR/EIS are not scientifically or legally adequate to make findings or draw conclusions about the impacts of the project.

Survey of Project Area

Survey of project area sites involved field work on November 27 and 28, and December 8, 2000. The survey involved walking ridges on the western side of project and some draws. Our survey was not as complete a survey as should be done for a project that threatens to obliterate all

archaeological sites within its boundaries. Many of the most likely site locations were visited during our survey. Chester King participated all three days. Mike Merrill worked as survey crew two days. Owl Clan Consultants participated in the survey and Kote Lotah spent one day, and Rick Perez two days. Charlie Cooke and Tom Haile were both present on one day. Much time was spent recording newly discovered sites. All newly discovered sites were visited twice.

Description of Archaeological Sites

During our survey, we located three previously unrecorded archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project. All of the sites were formed before European colonization. Each site contains evidence of a limited range and duration of activities and each contained evidence of different activities. The sites were recorded and record forms have been filed with the South Central Coastal Information Center at CSU Fulerton.

Site 1: This site was defined by dark ashy soil and fire altered rocks indicating the presence of at least three ovens that were probably used to roast yucca and several large andesite and quartzite flakes probably used to remove yucca leaves. There appears to be a area of midden soil approximately 30 meters by 10 meters. A dirt road has been bulldozed across this site.

Site 2 This site was defined by artifacts observed on the ground surface. Artifacts included a fused shale dart point, a rhyolite flake, a quartz core and over nine flakes and spalls of quartz. Cobbles of quartz such as were used were present at all of the sites. A possible rock feature was observed

Yucca oven midden in road bed at site 1.

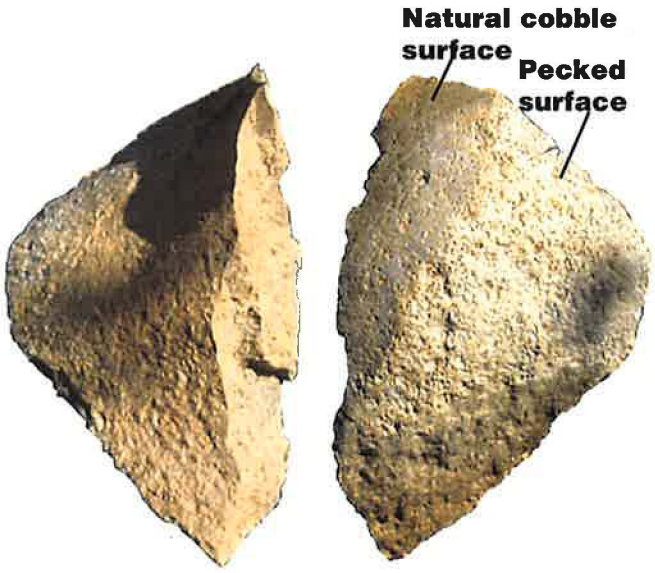
Fused shale stemmed dart point from the surface of site 2. The size, shape and degree of patination indicate probable early Middle period, ie. pre AD 700 manufacture.

Rhyolite flake from the surface of site 1. Large rhyolite flakes were probably used to cut the leaves off yucca for use as cordage.

Quartz core from the surface of site 2. Small quartz flakes found at site 2 were probably used to cut hides muscles and tendons while butchering game. This core was used to make flakes at the site. The material was found throughout the project area but was only found worked at site 2.

Quartz flake from the surface of site 2.

Arc of mostly buried rocks on the surface of site 3. These rocks indicate the presence of a hearth, small oven or storage pit. Controled archaeological excavations are necessary to document the feature.



Fragment of rhyolite mortar blank from the surface of site 3. Perhaps the fragment was brought to the site from the draw below where a mortar was being quaried.

at the east end of this site. The surface of the site is well preserved and has not been bulldozed

Site 3: This site was defined by rock features, a mortar blank fragment, and a schist hammer. The surface of the site is well preserved and has not been bulldozed The apparent features indicate probable subsurface deposit.

Rodent and coyote excavations were observed in the vicinity of the sites. At Site 3 it was apparent that several areas of soil on the surface was recently deposited as colluvium from piles of excavated soil thereby burying old surfaces. It is expected that the sites have deposits at least 30 cm deep.

Comments Concerning EIR and EIS Documents

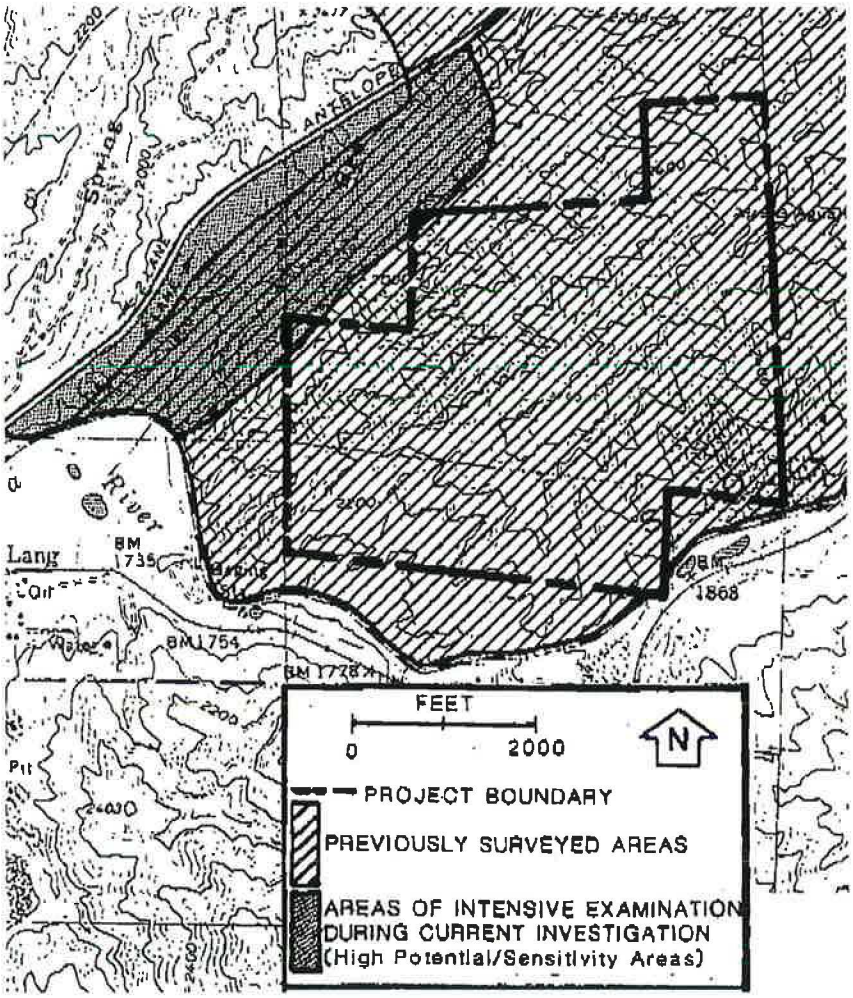
In July 1990, Roderic McLean wrote a report: *Cultural Resource assessment of a 460-Acre Parcel in Soledad Canyon, California.* The report was prepared by Chambers Group, Inc. (a concrete mix company) for Transit Mixed Concrete Company. This is the only report used for preparation of the sections on cultural resources in the EIR and EIS.

The report was based on a record search and a field survey. The report describes the survey:

> A pedestrian survey of the subject parcel was conducted by two staff archaeologists from Chambers Group, Inc. on April 10, 1990. A significant portion of the property is dominated by very steep slopes. These areas have a very low potential for cultural resources other than rock art. Prehistoric and historic activity was more likely to take place on relatively flat or gently sloping surfaces adjacent to water sources such as streams and rivers. Bee Canyon is regarded as being a high potential area for cultural resources (Figure 3)[portion of figure shown on next page].
>
> All high potential areas were walked in sinuous transects approximately 20 meters apart. The faces of boulders and outcrops were examined for the potential of rock art and grinding slicks. The soil exposed from road cuts was inspected for midden (cultural) soils as were all areas exposed as trails. Low sensitivity areas (steep slopes were given cursory examination if boulders were in association [1990:6].

The map of surveyed area indicates that the survey only included a few acres of the project area on its northwest edge. The report describes the results of the record search.

> The records search revealed that all of the subject parcel had previously been surveyed. In fact, most of Bee Canyon had been surveyed on two previous occasions, once in 1974 by Chester King, PhD. and



Portion of Figure 3 from 1990 Chambers report.

> again in 1989 by Louis Tartaglia, PhD. No archaeological sites were recorded in the subject parcel [1990:8].

This paragraph is misleading and should be interpreted as follows: Louis Tartaglia surveyed most of the area covered by the Chambers survey which was in Bee Canyon outside the project area. The over 95% of the project area not surveyed by the Chambers team was surveyed only by members of a team under Chester King's direction in 1973. The King survey of 1973 was not systematic and was intended to assist in the interpretation of Vasquez Rocks. The intensity and completeness of this 1973 survey involved differential levels of detail for different areas within the survey boundary.

The Vasquez Rocks survey was conducted to locate and identify the range of sites found in the vicinity of the park to provide information useful to interpret the sites at Vasquez Rocks. The survey produced what is probably the best information available in southern California concerning the distribution of different types of sites in the vicinity of a large settlement The survey was not to assess the project area for a development that would destroy all sites within its boundaries. Although the 1973 Vasquez Rocks survey coverage was used. McLean apparently did not read the report. His background discussion indicates complete ignorance of archaeological research in the Tataviam area.

The Chambers survey located stone walled terraces probably associated with recent occupation in the project area. The gate to the historic site is along the road to the ridgetop. Neither the road or the probable occupation site are indicated on the 1960 USGS Quad sheet. If the site is less than 50 years old it is probably not significant and it is not necessary to fence off the site. Research with maps, photographs, land title documents and interviews with property owners should be conducted to determine if the site is significant.

Reliance on the existing EIS and EIR documentation will result in the destruction without record of three archaeological sites that contain information important for understanding Tataviam history and lifeways.

Evaluation of Sites and Development of a Mitigation Plan for Archaeology

The EIS and EIR do not identify or address the American Indian historical sites in the project area. At least three sites in the project area sites are over 200 years old. These sites contain information that can contribute to

Modern historic site.

knowledge and understanding of the history of the area. It is necessary to prepare EIR and EIS sections that address the cultural sites.

The EIR and EIS rely on a record search conducted over 10 yeas ago. To prepare the EIR and EIS a new record search should first be conducted and records of all sites in the project area should be obtained. The entire project area should be surveyed

.

The sites that have been discovered should be further evaluated using controlled archaeological excavations. Features observable on the surfaces of sites should be exposed, oven fills should be partly excavated and test excavations should be placed in areas where artifacts are present on the surface. Controlled surface collections should be conducted and all artifacts mapped within a half meter. The contents of ovens and other features should be analyzed using procedures similar to those described in the following discussion.

All archaeological studies should be conducted by experts on local archaeology who meet the Department of Interior Standards for archaeology. The studies should assess the sites according to National Register of Historic Places and State Register criteria. The assessment requires detailed knowledge of Tataviam archaeological studies.

The distribution and productivity of yucca was probably greater when it was being used for food due to management techniques such as burning to optimize productivity. Difference in climatic conditions may have also affected the amounts of yucca and other plants available in the project area. Time periods when yucca were being roasted in the project area may have been periods of high local productivity. The ovens in the project area contain information that can be used to measure changes in amounts of yucca harvested in the Vasquez Rocks area.

The best evidence of the actual foods that were being eaten and processed at sites is the carbonized remains of plant parts (bulbs, seeds, berries, hulls, acorn attachment scars reflecting acorn use, and carbonized oak bark reflecting seed parching) and the bones, scales, shells, and other preserved parts of animals. Flotation of all carbonized material and the sorting of residues from fine mesh screens is necessary to obtain representative samples of plants and animals that were being obtained either for their use or obtained as associations with other plants and animals. The relative frequencies of plant and animal remains reflect the relative importance of the plants and animals. The ratios of preserved refuse resulting from use of different plants and animals are expected to vary according to the amount of initial refuse resulting from particular foods.

The contents of all features should be carefully excavated and processed using controlled archaeological procedures including flotation and 16 mesh water screening to recover artifacts. Carbon samples and samples for paleomagnetic and thermoluminescence dating should be collected from features. These should be analyzed to date the use of the site with accuracy. Carbon samples for dating should also be collected by floating midden soils. Before being used for C14 dating, carbon should be identified according to plant part and species as closely as possible.

During the excavations and after they are completed, samples should be collected from ovens and other burned features for paleomagnetic dating, thermoluminescent dating, pollen analysis, and soil analysis. Rocks should be collected from ovens and other features because they probably contain residues of plant or animal materials left during roasting, frying, and other activities. The following are studies that will increase our knowledge of Tataviam prehistory.

Dating of Ovens

Oven features can be accurately dated using three techniques which date the time the ovens were last fired. One technique is carbon 14 dating. It is anticipated ovens also contain large amounts of wood carbon.

Paleomagnetic dating can often lead to very precise dating of the formation of baked clay surfaces such as those discovered at many ovens . It is recommended that ten ovens, or other baked surfaces, be selected for paleomagnetic dating after carbon 14 dates have been run. The ovens or hearths which are chosen, should have well baked floors and carbon 14 dates from periods where precise temporal resolution is important.

Thermoluminescent dating will provide information which will independently date the last time ovens were heated over 500 degrees centigrade. In addition to dating the use of the oven, studies of thermoluminescence will provide information concerning temperatures which were reached during the firing of the ovens. Data concerning the temperatures reached during firing of the ovens will provide information which can be used in experiments to determine the amounts of wood used to fire ovens.

Midden Constituent Analysis

Comparison of the relative and absolute frequencies of midden constituents within different parts of the sites, will aid in the identification of differences in activities conducted within areas which are exposed.

Tool Analysis

It appears that the gathering and preparation of yucca was one of the most important activities conducted at the project

View toward site LAN-554 a probable ritual site and Sierra Pelona Ridge. The project will adversely change the landscape viewed from these locations.

site. It is probable that many of the stone tools found at the project site were used for the harvest and preparation of yucca. Anti-sera has been developed for yucca and the analysis for yucca sera on project area artifacts is now possible.

Differences in the proportions of tools in areas where different activities were conducted should be determined. The material, shape, and observable alterations of artifacts should be described in detail.

Pollen Studies

To the extent possible, the biotic communities associated with past environments can be defined by the study of floral and faunal fossils present in the fills of features, such as earth ovens, that can be accurately dated. Pollen should be extracted from soil samples collected from undisturbed soil in oven fills and other filled pits. The pollen should be identified to the lowest taxon possible. The type of

The Santa Clara River Upstream of the Project. The project s use of water could change vegetation and water conditions upsteram from the project. The changes could cause the extinction of endangered fish.

Magic Mountain viewed from Agua Dulce USGS marker near NE corner of project area

pollen, along with the types of burned plant remains, will be used to determine the plants that grew in the area when the ovens were used.

Floral Analysis

The larger pieces of wood carbon from the ovens and other features should be identified according to genus and plant part. Other categories of carbonized remains, including yucca, bulbs, and seeds, should be identified from every oven and other feature type. The analysis of carbonized plant remains with the analysis of the pollen can enable an accurate reconstruction of the plant communities which were present at different times. The type of plant remains within features and in residential areas of sites also reflect the types of plants which were gathered and processed. Information concerning the distribution of burned plant parts is important for documenting the range of activities conducted in site areas.

The frequencies of plant parts shoukd be quantified as appropriate. The quantified data will be used to reconstruct the paleoenvironment and to determine which plant resources were exploited. Changes through time should be documented. The analysis of the carbonized plant remains should be conducted by a qualified paleoethnobotanist.

Soil Studies

The analysis of soils from prehistoric archaeological sites provides a large body of information concerning the types of activities which were conducted in different site areas. Soil variations (not visible to the naked eye or hand) can be used to study the organization of midden areas. Soil studies can assist in the identification of house floors, outside cooking areas or refuse concentrations, and otherwise identify areas where stone artifacts are found in low frequencies.

The analysis of the soil information should be conducted by a specialist with knowledge of the geomorphology of cultural soils.

Effects on Native Culture

The project will destroy native plants and animals that are important to the Tataviam and other native Californians. The destruction of fields that were used by the ancestors of the Tataviam will decrease the ability of the Tataviam to maintain and revive their culture. Destruction of archaeological sites that were occupied by their ancestors while using the landscape inhibits the ability of native people to revive their culture and demonstrates a lack of respect for native culture by the dominant culture. This perception adversely affects the self respect of native people.

Native beliefs value species of plants and animals even if not used for food, construction or medicine. The extention of species of plants or animals results in degradation of the environment in which native cultures developed.

The removal of the ridge at the project site will adversely affect the view from places significant to American Indians in the vicinity of the project.. The project area is within the views from site LAN-554 to the east, and the two highest places in sight of the project Magic Mountain to the south, and Sierra Pelona to the north. Archaeological remains found on Sierra Pelona indicate it was a significant place. The name of Magic Mountain, the highest place which has a view of all the surrounding Tataviam settlements may come from its significance to the Tataviam. Ethnographic research should be conducted to determine the project's impacts on native societies.

Bibliography

Ebeling, Walter
1989 *Handbook of Indian Foods and Fibers of Arid America.* Berkeley, University of California.

Englehardt, Fr. Zephyrin
1927 San Fernando Rey, The Mission of the Valley. Chicago: Herald Press.

Forbes, Jack D.
1966 The Tongva of Tujunga to 1801. *Archaeological Survey Annual Report* 1966: 137-150. University of California, Los Angeles.

Harrington, John Peabody
1942 Culture Element Distributions: XIX Central California Coast. Anthropological Records 7(1). Berkeley.
n.d. Fieldnotes and Transcripts at the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution. Collections of unpublished papers are also on file at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

King, Chester
1973 *Archaeological Report Related to the Interpretation of Archaeological Resources Present at Vasquez Rocks County Park.* On file with the Los Angeles County Parks Department.
1978 Protohistoric and Historic Archaeology. In *Handbook of North American Indians Volume 8: California* , pp. 58-68. Washington, D.C.
1990 *Evolution of Chumash Society : A Comparative Study of Artifacts Used for Social System Maintenance in the Santa Barbara Channel Region before A.D 1804.* Revised Ph.D. dissertation, with a new preface and updated bibliography. In The Evolution of North American Indians, a 31-Volume series of outstanding dissertations edited by David Hurst Thomas and published by Garland Publishing, New York.

King, Chester and Thomas Blackburn
1978 "The Tataviam" *In Handbook of North American Indians Volume 8: California,* pp. 535-537. Washington, D.C.

Kroeber, A. L.
1925 Handbook of the Indians of California. *Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin* 78. Washington.

Priestley, Herbert Ingram (translator and editor)
1972 *A Historical, Political, and Natural Description of California by Pedro Fages.* Ballena, Ramona.

Reid, Hugo
1968 The Indians of Los Angeles County: Hugo Reid s Letters of 1852, Edited and annotated by Robert F. Heizer. Los Angeles: Southwest Museum Papers 21.

Rust, H.N.
1904 Rogerio's Theological School. Out West 21 (3):243-248

San Fernando Mission Registers
1771-1834 Books of baptisms, marriages and deaths. Notes by Thomas Workman Temple III on file with Santa Barbara Mission Archives and Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Photocopy of the Book of Baptisms on file at Santa Barbara Mission Archives.

San Gabriel Mission Registers
1771-1815 Books of baptisms, confirmations, marriages and deaths. Copy of file with Santa Barbara Mission Archives.

Simpson, Lesley B. (translator and editor)
1939 *California in 1792: The Expedition of Longinos Martinez.* Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Temple, Thomas Workman
n.d. Extracts from Mission San Fernando baptismal, marriage and burial registers. The Thomas Workman Temple Collection. Chancery Archives of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Mission San Fernando.

Timbrook, Jan, John R. Johnson, and David D. Earle
1993 Vegetation Burning by the Chumash. In *Before the Wilderness: Environmental Management by Native Californians.* pages 117-149. Edited by Thomas Blackburn and Kat Anderson. Ballena Press, Menlo Park. Originally published in 1982 in *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 4(2):163-168. Banning, Malki Museum, Morongo Indian Reservation.

Walker, Edwin F.
1951 *Five Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Los Angeles County, California.* Publications of the Frederick Webb Hodge Anniversary Publication Fund, Volume VI. Southwest Museum, Los Angeles.

CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT OF A 460-ACRE PARCEL IN SOLEDAD CANYON, CALIFORNIA

By:

Roderic McLean

Prepared for:

TRANSIT MIXED CONCRETE COMPANY

Prepared by:

Chambers Group, Inc.

JULY 1990

CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT OF A 460-ACRE PARCEL IN SOLEDAD CANYON, CALIFORNIA

By:

Roderic McLean

Prepared for:

TRANSIT MIXED CONCRETE COMPANY
P.O. Box 575
1201 W. Gladstone
Azusa, CA 91702

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
1761 East Garry Avenue, Suite A
Santa Ana, California 92705
714/261-5414

JULY 1990

CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT
OF A 460-ACRE PARCEL IN
SOLEDAD CANYON, CALIFORNIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION 1

SECTION 2 - BACKGROUND 4

2.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY 4

2.2 ETHNOGRAPHY 4

2.3 HISTORY 4

SECTION 3 - METHODOLGY 6

3.1 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH 6

3.2 RECONNAISSANCE 6

SECTION 4 - RESULTS 8

4.1 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH 8

4.2 RECONNAISSANCE 8

SECTION 5 - RECOMMENDATIONS 9

5.1 RMDM-1 9

5.2 RMDM-2 9

SECTION 6 - REFERENCES 10

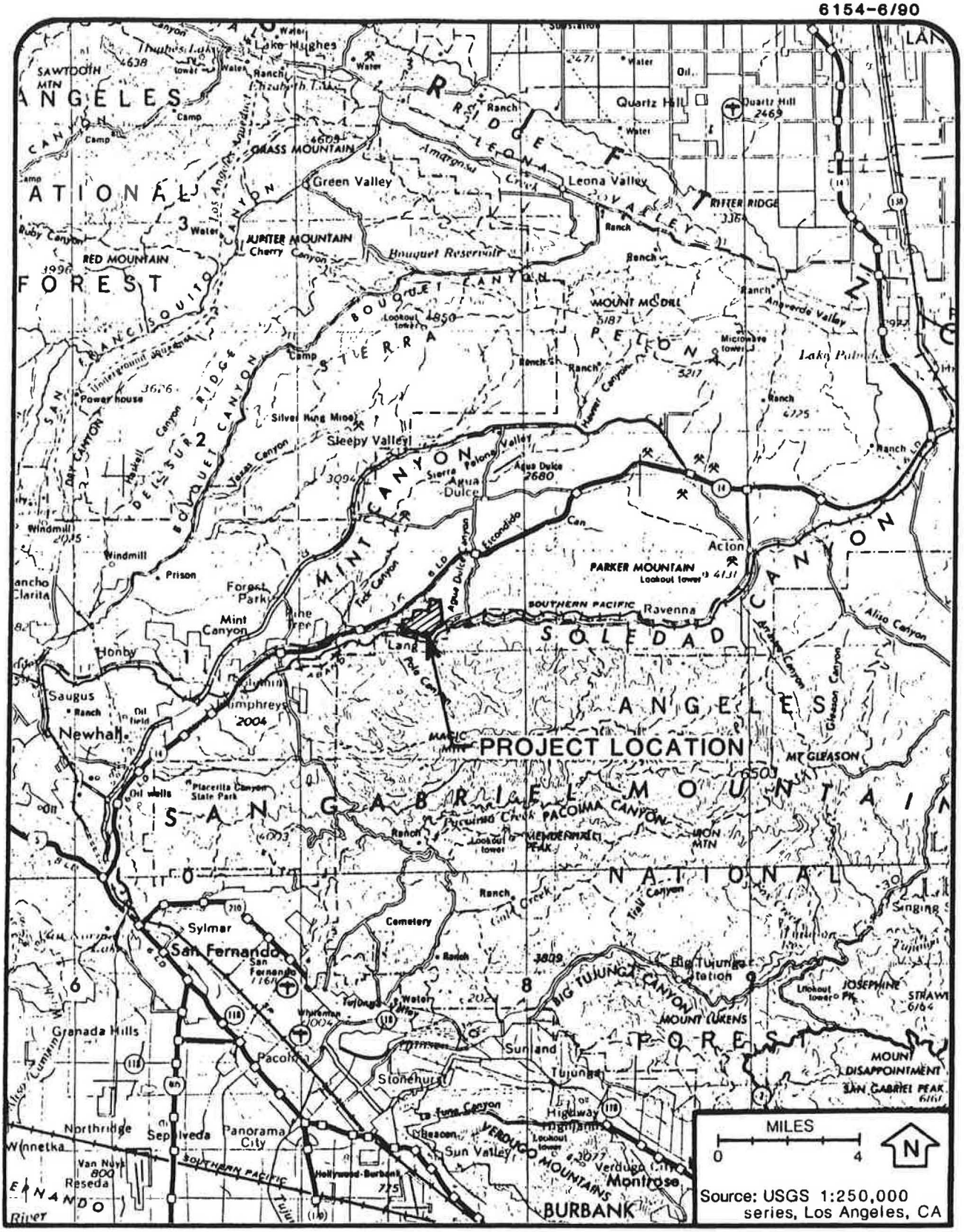
CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT
OF A 460-ACRE PARCEL IN
SOLEDAD CANYON, CALIFORNIA

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Project Vicinity	2
2	Project Boundary	3
3	Archaeological Investigation within the Project Boundary	7

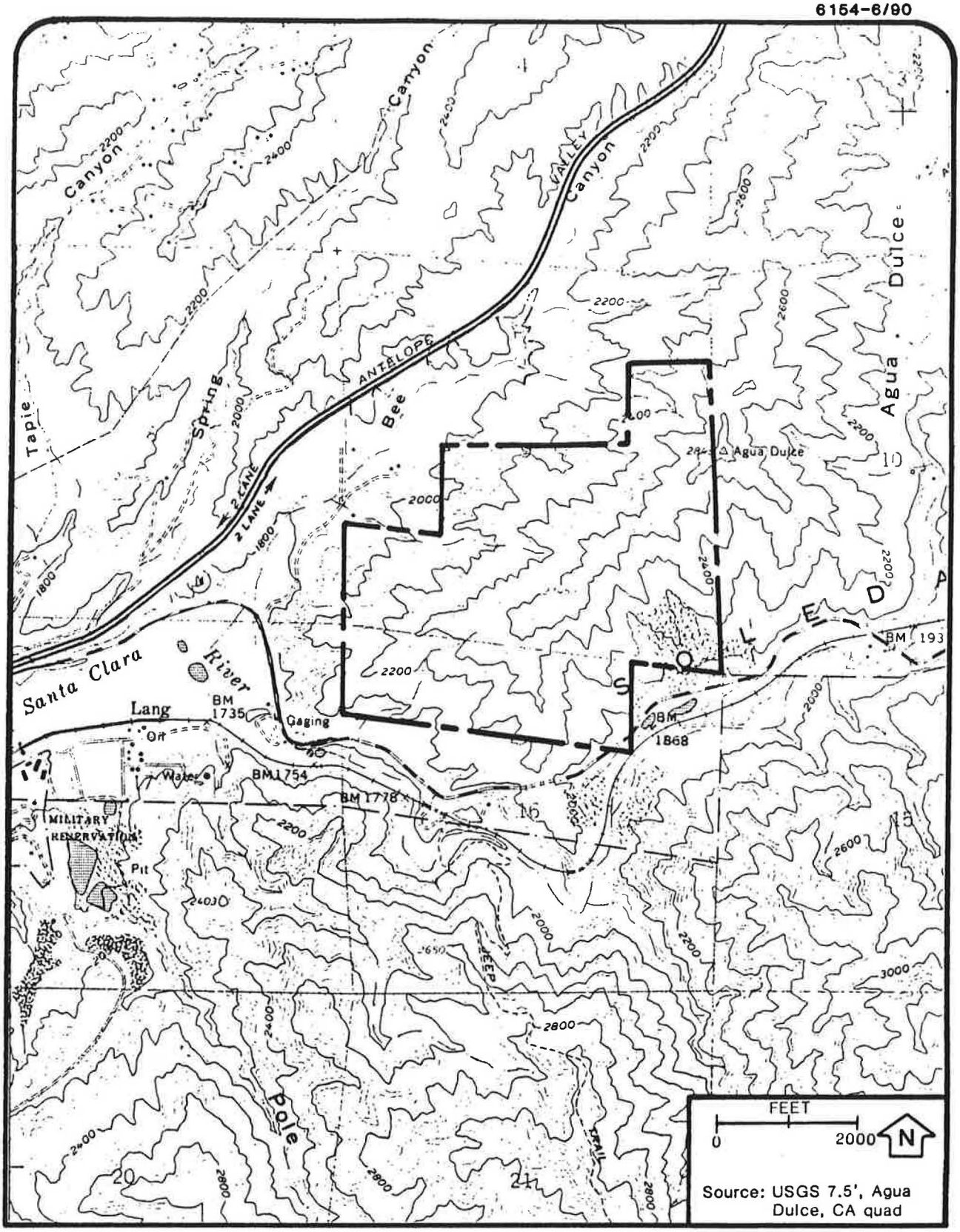
SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Appendix K of the Implementing Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a cultural resources record check and walk-over survey was conducted at the 460-Acre Parcel in Soledad Canyon, California (Figure 1). The mineral estate is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, who has entered into a Sales Contract with Transit Mixed Concrete Company for the mining, processing and sale of sand and gravel from the site. The subject parcel consists of approximately 460-acres and is located in portions of Bee Canyon and the southwesterly ridge of Agua Dulce Peak (Figure 2). This parcel is more specifically situated in portions of Sections 9 and 16 of Township 4 North, Range 14 West.



PROJECT VICINITY

FIGURE 1



PROJECT BOUNDARY

FIGURE 2

SECTION 2 - BACKGROUND

2.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY

Physiographically the subject property is situated on an undulating landform marked by large mountains and steep sided canyons. In fact, steep slopes dominate the subject property. The only area that could be regarded as flat or gently sloping is the base of Bee Canyon. Bee Canyon has been the focus of a variety of activities since the 19th Century, including homesteading and large scale garbage dumping.

2.2 ETHNOGRAPHY

The study area falls within the ancestral territory of the Tataviam (King and Blackburn 1978:535). The Tataviam village of Tochonanga was located near the town of Newhall. This ancient tribal territory centered on the Santa Clara River and involved primarily the Santa Clarita Valley. To the north were the Kitanemuk who inhabited the Antelope valley. The Gabrielino Indians (after San Gabriel Mission) lived to the south in what is now the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles Basin. The western neighbors of the Tataviam were the Chumash whose territory extended north of Santa Barbara.

The Tataviam were hunters and gatherers and did not use any form of agriculture. The yucca plant was a major staple of the Tataviam diet. Deer, rabbit and a variety of other animals were frequently hunted. The larger villages contained as many as 200 people while the smaller camps involved 10-15 people. At the time of historic contact the total Indian population was less than 1,000 people (King and Blackburn 1978:536). Soon after the arrival of the Spanish, many Tataviam were relocated to San Fernando Mission. This forced relocation by the Spanish and the introduction of foreign diseases added to the rapid demise of Tataviam culture. The last surviving speaker of the Tataviam language died in 1916.

2.3 HISTORY

The first non-Indians to visit the area were the Spanish in the 1770s. After San Fernando and San Gabriel Missions were established in the late 18th century, small farms were created along the major drainages. Large scale settlement did not occur until one hundred years later however, when a railroad link between Los Angeles and the Antelope Valley was completed in 1876. The railroad was constructed through Soledad Canyon, which was the only viable route across the San Gabriel Mountains. The towns of Palmdale and Newhall were founded along the new line. The Southern Pacific Railroad Company uses this route today.

Early settlement of the Palmdale area was difficult because of the scarcity of water. By the turn of the century, some successes in irrigation implementation helped start an agriculture based economy. In 1921 the Sierra Highway was completed providing a needed link with Los Angeles. The Sierra Highway was originally a dirt road winding through Mint Canyon. Palmdale's economic base centered on agriculture until the 1950s when it then shifted to the blossoming post-World War II aerospace industry.

SECTION 3 - METHODOLGY

3.1 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

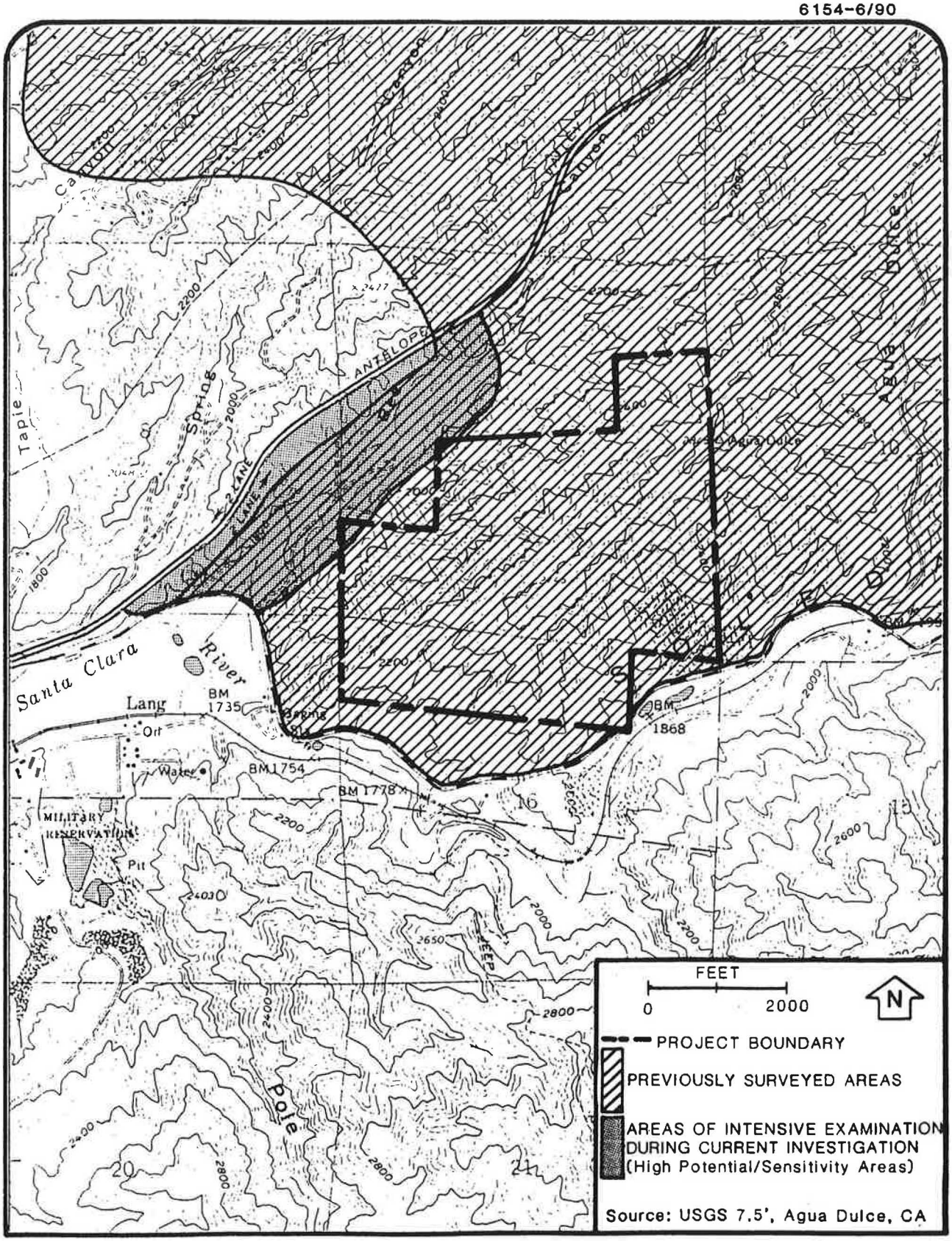
An archaeological records search was conducted by the staff at the University of California at Los Angeles Archaeological Information Center. This center acts as a clearinghouse for all archaeological work in Los Angeles, Ventura and Orange Counties. The records search was requested in order to determine if any archaeological surveys had been conducted on or near the subject parcel. In addition, locations and descriptions of previously recorded cultural resources were supplied.

3.2 RECONNAISSANCE

A pedestrian survey of the subject parcel was conducted by two staff archaeologists from Chambers Group, Inc. on April 10, 1990. A significant portion of the property is dominated by very steep slopes. These areas have very low potential for cultural resources other than rock art. Prehistoric and historic activity was more likely to take place on relatively flat or gently sloping surfaces adjacent to water sources such as streams and rivers. Bee Canyon is regarded as being a high potential area for cultural resources (Figure 3).

All high potential areas were walked in sinuous transects approximately 20 meters apart. The faces of boulders and outcrops were examined for the potential presence of rock art and grinding slicks. The soil exposed from road cuts was inspected for midden (cultural) soils, as were all areas exposed as trails. Low sensitivity areas (steep slopes) were given cursory examination if boulders were in association.

6154-6/90



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN THE PROJECT BOUNDARY

FIGURE 3

SECTION 4 - RESULTS

4.1 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

The records search revealed that all of the subject parcel had previously been surveyed. In fact, most of Bee Canyon had been surveyed on two previous occasions, once in 1974 by Chester King, PhD. and again in 1989 by Louis Tartaglia, PhD. No archaeological sites were recorded in the subject parcel.

4.2 RECONNAISSANCE

Two historic sites were discovered and recorded during the reconnaissance. The two sites are located in Bee Canyon and involve an early 20th century landfill (outside the proposed project area) and a small homestead (inside the proposed project area).

The first site, RMDM-1, is an historic landfill. Ceramics, glass and metal from the 1930s were observed on the surface covering approximately a 300 meter x 200 meter area. In addition, there is a dense scatter of animal bones that have been cut with bone saws. The historic trash appears mounded in the valley bottom and the east side of the valley wall has been cut in order to provide coverage soil on the garbage dump.

The second historic site, RMDM-2, involves two cobble based platforms or pads, each approximately 25 square meters in size. These pads may have been the location of one or more wooden shacks that have since been removed or destroyed. No formal house foundations were observed. Wooden shacks often did not have any foundations. In addition, a small flat area cut into the ridge behind the pads may have been the location of a privy. There are two sets of steps, one to the privy area, and another from the lower pad to the upper pad. A majority of the historic artifacts were observed approximately ten meters to the southwest from the platform features. The artifacts were scattered in an area measuring approximately 5-10 meters in diameter. Ceramics, rusted metal and glass were observed. The only diagnostic material was a few pieces of amethsyt glass which date to before 1915.

SECTION 5 - RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 RMDM-1

Since the historic landfill is located in an area of Bee Canyon that is not scheduled for direct or indirect impact, the site is in effect avoided. No recommendations are necessary. If in the future, however, construction plans change, an archaeological test program will be necessary to determine if the site is significant.

An archaeological test program involves a limited subsurface exploration of the archaeological site in order to establish boundaries to the site both horizontally and vertically. In addition, a small sample of the cultural material is recovered and analyzed. An archaeological site is considered significant if it adds to the knowledge of the region.

If after the test phase a site is considered significant and avoidance of the site cannot be achieved, a data recovery program is recommended. A data recovery program usually involves the excavation of a percentage sample of the site.

5.2 RMDM-2

The historic foundation and associated artifact scatter is located at the base of a steep slope approximately 100-200 feet inside the proposed area of direct impact. It is recommmended that this site be avoided. Avoidance can be achieved by the construction of a fence around accessible portions to the proposed mining area. All access would be through locked gates. In addition, a tall fence (6-8 feet) should be placed around the site proper. If the site cannot be avoided, an archaeological test program and an archival study are recommended. If after the test program the site is regarded as significant, a data recovery program will be recommended.

SECTION 6 - REFERENCES

King, Chester and Thomas Blackburn
1978 Tataviam. Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 8; California (R.F. Heizer, ed.) pp 535-537. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Signor, John R.
1983 Southern Pacific-Santa Fe, Tehachapi. Golden West Books, San Marino, California.

LINDA BRODY

From: Russell_Kaldenberg@ca.blm.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2001 9:30 AM
To: ERICA_NIEBAUER@ios.doi.gov; Mitchell_Leverette@ca.blm.gov
Cc: lbrody@chambersgroupinc.com


tranmix.wpd

Here is the response which I prepared for the Santa Clarita. email me if you have comments or need changes. I am away from my office on assignment for three weeks. I will be checking email irregularly. Russ

(See attached file: tranmix.wpd)

[BLM response to peer review]

RESPONSE TO CULTURAL RESOURCES ISSUES ON TRANSIT MIX PROJECT

Russell L. Kaldenberg
Deputy Preservation Officer
Bureau of Land Management, California

These answers follow sequentially the issues raised in a letter from the City of Santa Clarita.

Item 5, page 36

California meets its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 by operating under a National Programmatic Agreement among the National Council of State Historic Preservation Offices and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, signed in 1997 and a counterpart **"State Protocol Agreement Between The California State Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Manner in Which the Bureau of Land Management Will Meet its Responsibilities Under the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Programmatic Agreement Among the BLM, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers,"** signed in May 1998. The Bureau is bound to the 1985 edition of 36 CFR 800 for its legal compliance.

As such consultation with the SHPO is limited to few undertakings pursuant to the Protocol Part VI. A. page 12. These include undertakings which may "have an adverse effect as defined by 36 CFR 800.9(b) 1985 edition. We meet the rest of our legal obligations by complying with part II. Procedures, Subpart B. (2) which requires us to provide a summary report to the SHPO each year (page 4).

The delegation of authority for the finding of "on effect" on this projects rests with the locally certified field manager. An archaeological inventory concluded that there were no archaeological sites within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The identified historic site is outside of the APE and will not be effected by the undertaking.

Spot checks by Dr. Chester King indicated that the survey may have missed archaeological sites which occur on ridges in the property. The "sites" were examined by archaeological consultants from the Chambers Group and found to be "possible" sites. Additional examination by Russell Kaldenberg on March 5 raised additional querries regarding the "possible" sites. Chambers was authorized to conduct a small verification test. The results of these tests at temporary sites SCM-3 revealed that the rock features are not an archaeological manifestation but a series of geological features being exposed by soil weathering or deterioration. The shape of the "crescent" rock feature and one which Kaldenberg identified as a possible feature were fortuitous. At best there are two modified pieces of rock at the site. Even these are debatable as being archaeological as one is a broken cobble with some smoothing on one side that could have been the result of human action, the other being a stone slab of rock with some edged nibbling evident. Both of these could be natural also.

Since the above is not an archaeological site but is an isolated find, if the two rocks are artifacts,

it is categorically not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The project will have no effect on the artifacts since their informational content will be exhausted by identifying them and mapping their location. These artifacts are not pursuant (36 CFR 60.4) eligible because they are not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history; they are not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, they have not embodied the distinctive characteristic of a type, period or method of construction, and they do not yield or contain, have not yielded or may not be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Page 37. Site SCM-2 was examined by Chambers and by BLM archaeologist Kaldenberg and found to contain no artifacts. It is not an archaeological site. It is a fan conglomerate with cobbles and weather fractured rocks. Several hours were expended at the location with out locating a single item even of dubious nature.

Page 38. This discussion is out of context. 36 CFR 800 4 (b)(1) is written for maximum flexibility an states that "The agency official shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey. If this is done then those item shall be taken into account.

The Bureau made good faith efforts through the initial survey and follow up investigations by Cambers and found no sites which will be effected by the project. The Criteria of Effect applied to three "possible sites" has found that none of them are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. SCM 1, being an ash smear of unknown origin. If it was a roasting pit it still would not be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because it does not contain information important to prehistory and a simple testing program with shovel tests would extract any possible data contained in the sites.

Executive Order 13007 states that heads of federal agencies shall consult with Federally recognized tribes regarding sacred sites. There are no federally recognized sites within 100 miles of the property. The site has been private property for almost 100 years. Even it had once been significant for Native American use, the break in continuity of use for at least 100 if not 200 years would preclude it from being a Traditional Cultural Property (National Register Bulletin 38).

There are no adverse effects to sites because two of the properties identified by King are not archaeological sites, the historic sites is not within the APE and the third (SCM1) property is perhaps a single function feature which has been destroyed as a result of heavy equipment maintenance on a dirt road.

The Bureau of Land Management is in full compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and no additional work is required.