

August 27, 2018

Monica Mello, Architectural Historian
AECOM
401 West A Street Suite 1200
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: Cultural Resources Evaluations for the County of Los Angeles
The Old Road Over Santa Clara River & SPT Co Bridge Project**

Dear Ms. Mello:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project. The project site is located in the Santa Clara River corridor at Castaic Junction, which is a highly sensitive area in terms of prehistoric and historic cultural resources. The project is proximate to the site of a Tataviam Indian Village, Chaguayabit, aka Tsawayung, which was occupied until at least A.D. 1802 and whose influence extended several miles in each direction along the river.

Cultural materials and human remains have been "discovered" in the area for 100-plus years by both amateurs and professionals. One notable recent discovery was (re)made during a Caltrans road widening project at the site previously recorded as CA-LAN-2233 (and -2234 and -2235), aka Chiquito Creek site (see map), which yielded 45 inhumations (2000-1630 B.P.) at the confluence of San Martinez Grande Canyon Road and Highway 126. Waugh 2003 ("Prehistory in the Transverse Ranges of California: An Archaeological Investigation in the Santa Clara River Valley" by Georgie Waugh, UC Sacramento, 2003) describes the sites and is a good resource for other known sites in the area.

The nearby Bowers Cave site, CA-LAN-36, was likely associated with

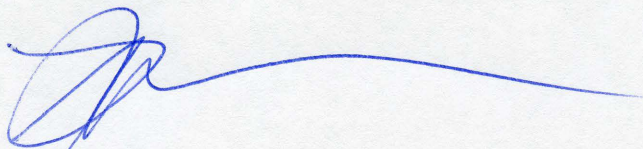
Chaguayabit village, whose inhabitants deposited important sacred objects there circa A.D. 1802-1811.

One site demonstrating the geographical extent of influence of Chaguayabit village is the "Hydraulic Research" site on Rye Canyon Road in Valencia, where human remains and cultural materials were found during construction in 1968. The Hydraulic Research site is roughly equidistant from Castaic Junction as the Chiquito Creek site, in the opposite direction. (See: Los Angeles Times et al., https://scvhistory.com/scvhistory/tlp_lat101268.htm.)

In the cultural-paleontological section of The Newhall Land and Farming Co.'s Newhall Ranch EIR (Whitley & Simon 1996), archaeologists David Whitley and Joe Simon describe human remains from one individual that were found along the riverbank near Castaic Junction. Whitley and Simon postulate the remains were likely those of a victim of the 1928 St. Francis Dam Disaster, which devastated the area.

Extra precautions should be taken during ground disturbance, and the Fernandeno-Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (818-837-0794) should be given the opportunity to provide a Native American monitor during any such activity.

Sincerely,



LEON WORDEN

Vice President, Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

cc: Rudy Ortega Jr., Chairman, Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Encl.

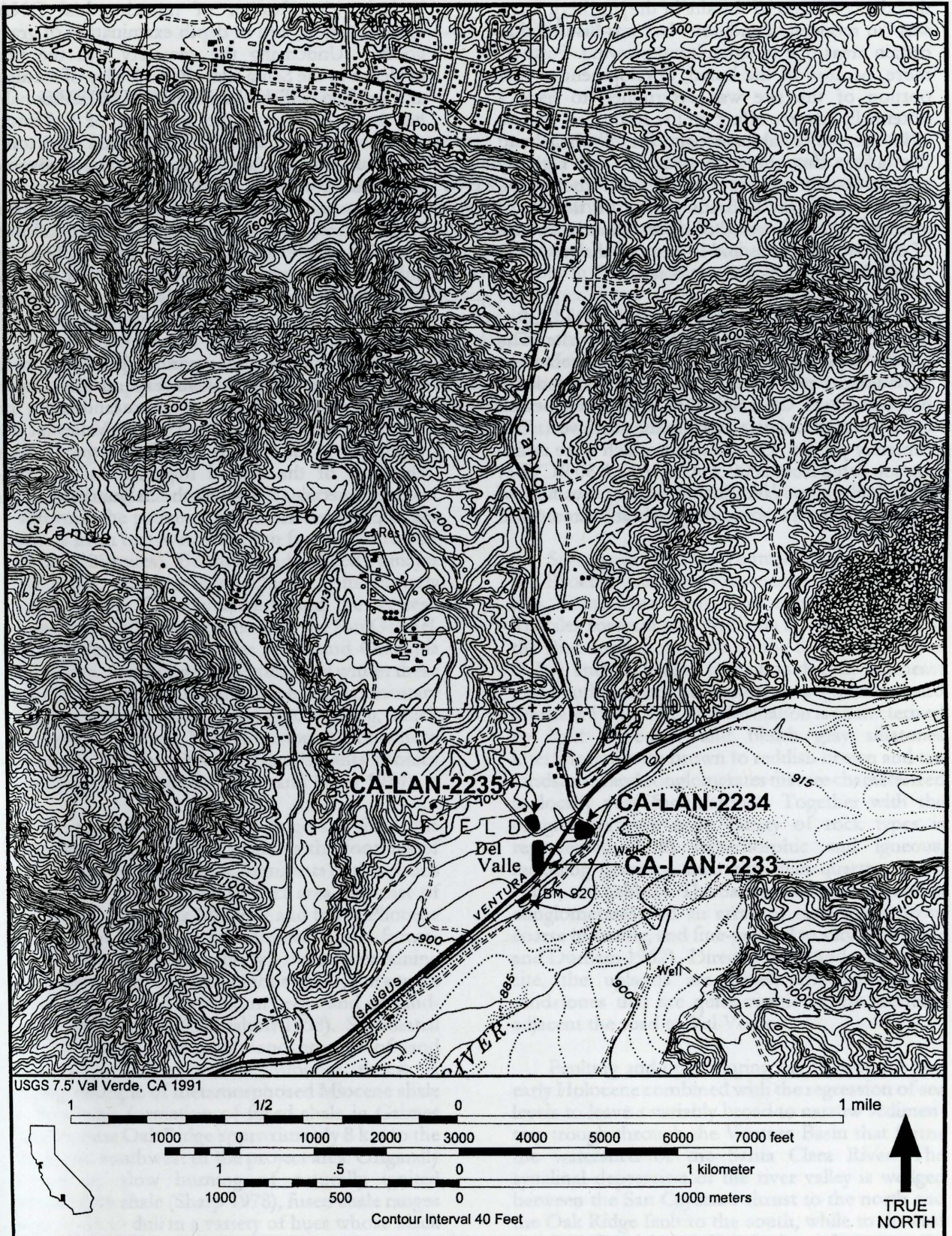


Figure 1.2. Project Location.

July 12, 2018

Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 221925
Newhall, CA 91322

Subject: Cultural Resources Evaluations for the County of Los Angeles The Old Road Over Santa Clara River & SPT Co Bridge Project

Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society:

AECOM staff are conducting research for a proposed project located in the in the unincorporated Castaic Junction area west of Santa Clarita and in the City of Santa Clarita in the County of Los Angeles, California. The project stretches 2.12-miles north to south along The Old Road from Magic Mountain Parkway to Henry Mayo Drive. The proposed improvements primarily consist of reconstruction and widening The Old Road, replacement of two bridges, and reconstruction and widening Skyview Lane, including reconfiguration of their intersections at The Old Road. There is also a proposed multi-use trail which will join the existing City of Santa Clarita trail, which currently ends under the Interstate 5 (I-5) bridge south of Rye Canyon Road. I am reaching out to your organization because you may have pertinent information on cultural or historical resources within or near the project area. If you have any information regarding cultural or historic resources within or near the project area please provide it to the contact information in the letter. Your valuable input is very much appreciated. Attached are maps depicting the project location.

We enjoy and appreciate working with you on this important project and look forward to continuing this relationship. Please call me at (619) 610-7631 or email me at monica.mello@aecom.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



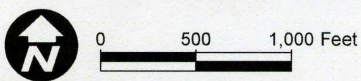
Monica Mello
Architectural Historian
Environment, Archaeology, Architectural History & Paleontology

Enclosures:

- 1) Project Area Map



Source: Esri Maps & Data, 2018; Prepared By: AECOM, 2018.



- Project Limits
- Proposed Staging Area
- Multi-Use Trail

Proposed Project Components