A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE RANCHO PASEO DE VALENCIA PROJECT

City of Corona, Riverside County, California

APNs 114-040-019, 114-040-020, 275-100-003
Tentative Tract Map 34760

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National Archaeological Data Base Information

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Submitted to:	City of Corona 400 South Vicentia Avenue Corona, California 92882
USGS Quadrangle:	*Corona South* (7.5 minute), California
Study Area:	64.3 acres
Key Words:	Phase I Reconnassiance of 64.3 acres; negative survey; Riverside County; USGS *Corona South* quadrangle (7.5 minute); Township 4 South, Range 7 West; no resources found; monitoring recommended.

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List of Abbreviations

AMSL	Above Mean Sea Level
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
BFSA	Brian F. Smith and Associates
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
EIC	Eastern Information Center
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
SLF	Sacred Lands File
UCR	University of California at Riverside
USGS	United States Geologic Survey
YBP	Years Before Present

1.0 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

The following report describes the results of a Phase I archaeological assessment conducted by Brian F. Smith and Associates (BFSA) for the Rancho Paseo de Valencia Project. The project consists of 64.3 acres located at the southwestern extent of the City of Corona in northwest Riverside County, west of Highway 71, and part of the northeastern foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains. The purpose of this investigation was to locate and record any cultural resources present within the project area as part of the City of Corona's environmental review process, conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and City of Corona guidelines.

The archaeological investigation of the subject property also included a review of an archaeological records search performed by the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California at Riverside (UCR) in order to assess previous archaeological studies and identify any previously recorded sites within the project boundaries or in the immediate vicinity. According to the data obtained from the EIC, a small number (three prehistoric and four historic resources) of cultural resources are located within a one-mile radius of the project area. No previously recorded sites were identified within the project area as a result of the records search.

The archaeological survey of the project area was conducted on April 27, 2007. Survey conditions varied from good to poor depending upon ground visibility, which ranged from approximately ten percent in steeply sloped areas with heavy vegetation to approximately 90 percent in more open areas with sparse ground cover. Disturbances caused by previous grading and cutting activities and the dumping of modern trash were encountered across the project area. Other than poor surface visibility and steep slopes, no other constraints hindered survey progress. Based upon the results of the field survey and records search, no prehistoric or historic sites are present within the boundary of the current project. Due to the constraints of poor visibility recognized during the survey of portions of the project area, it is our recommendation that the mitigation measures for this project include monitoring by a qualified archaeologist for all ground disturbing activities.

A copy of this report will be permanently filed with EIC at UCR. All notes, photographs, and other materials related to this project will be curated at the archaeological laboratory of BFSA in Poway, California.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

In response to a request by Manuel Valencia of Rancho Paseo de Valencia, a Phase I archaeological assessment was conducted by BFSA for the Rancho Paseo de Valencia Project. The archaeological survey and evaluation program for this project was conducted in order to comply with City of Corona and CEQA standards. The project area consists of 64.3 acres of developed agricultural land alongside native inland sage scrub and chaparral vegetation located at the southwestern edge of the City of Corona in northwestern Riverside County, California (Figure 2.0–1). Specifically, the project is located within Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 7 West of the San Bernardino Base Meridian, as shown on the 7.5' USGS *Corona South,* California topographic quadrangle in Figure 2.0–2. The project area lies west of Highway 71 and northeast of the Santa Ana Mountains and the Cleveland National Forest. The area surveyed consisted of foothills with gentle to steep slopes, seasonal drainages, and terraced orchards.

The project, as proposed by the applicant, will consist of the construction of 34 dwelling units with associated roads and easements (Figure 2.0–3). The project properties are identified by Assessors Parcel Numbers (APNs) 114-040-019, 141-040-020, and 275-100-003. The entire area of these three combined properties will be impacted by the proposed development. APN 275-100-004 lies within the current project area but is not part of the development plans discussed in this report; this parcel already contains a modern residence that will remain undisturbed.

An archaeological records search for the project was conducted at the EIC at UCR. According to the results of this search, no previously recorded sites lie within the project boundaries; however, the records search did indicate that seven cultural resources have been recorded within a one-mile radius of the project. The records search also indicated that there have been a total of 26 cultural resource studies conducted within a one-mile radius of the proposed project area. The results of the record search are discussed in Section 5.1 of this report, and the complete records search results are provided in Appendix I.

A review of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was also requested. This included a review for any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance within an area of one mile surrounding the project. No cultural resources were indicated within the SLF. Results of the review are discussed in Section 5. 1 of this report and provided in Appendix II.

The archaeological assessment for the Rancho Paseo de Valencia Project was directed by Brian F. Smith, Principal Investigator. The field survey was conducted by Brian F. Smith, Charles Callahan (Field Archaeologist), and Sara Moreno (Project Archaeologist). The technical report was prepared Sara Moreno. The report production staff consisted of Dylan Amerine and Tiffany Burd. Graphics were provided by Danielle Kaheaku.

Figure 2.0–1

General Location Map

The Rancho Paseo De Valencia
Archaeological Assessment Project

1:750,000
1 inch equals 11.84 miles
0 2 4 8 12 16 Kilometers
0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Miles

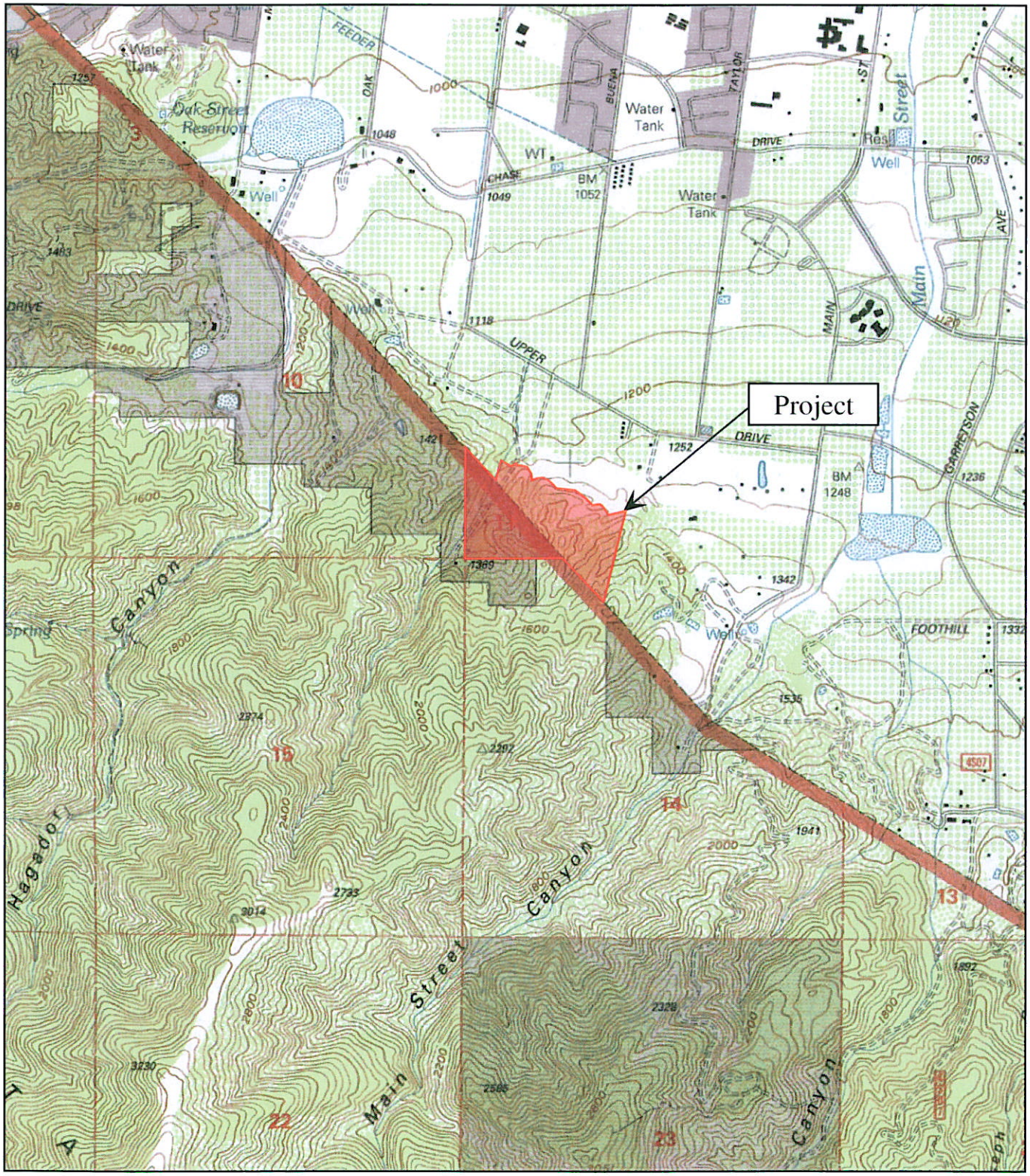

Figure 2.0–2

Project Location Map

The Rancho Paseo de Valencia
Archaeological Assessment Project

USGS *Corona South* Quadrangle (7.5 minute series)

1:24,000

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

0 160 320 480 640 Meters

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

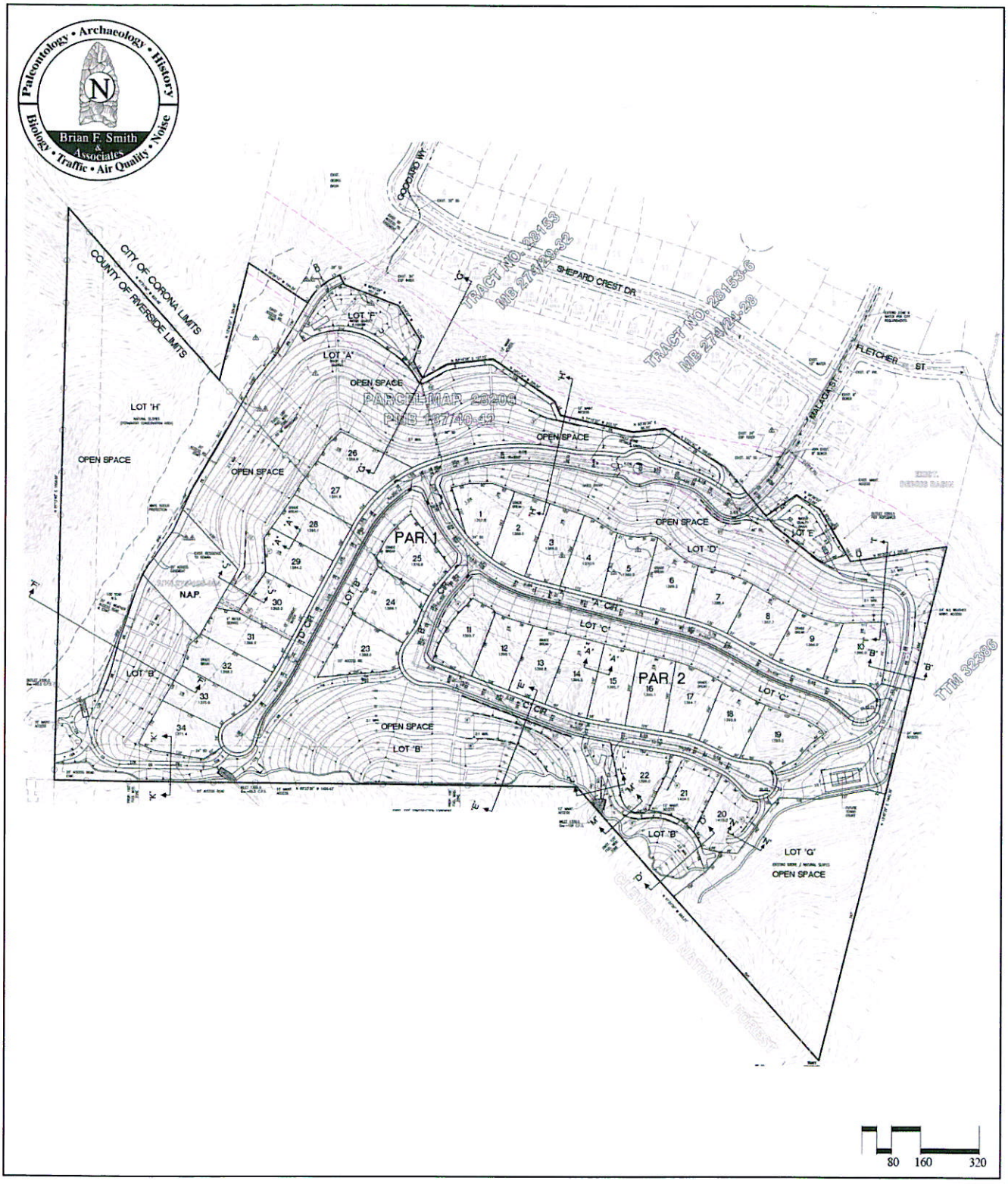

Figure 2.0-3

Project Development Map

The Rancho Paseo de Valencia Project

3.0 PROJECT SETTING

The project setting includes the natural physical, geological, and biological context of the proposed project, as well as the cultural setting of prehistoric and historic human activities in the general area. The following sections discuss both the environmental and cultural settings at the subject property, the relationship between the two, and the relevance of that relationship to the project.

3.1 Environmental Setting

Riverside County lies in the Peninsular Range Geologic Province of southern California. The range, which lies in a northwest to southeast trend through the county, extends some 1,000 miles from the Raymond-Malibu Fault Zone in western Los Angeles County to the southern tip of Baja California. The Rancho Paseo de Valencia Project is located in the northeastern foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains, west of the Temescale Wash and south of the Santa Ana River. The project area consists of gentle to steep foothill slopes, seasonal drainages, and terraced agricultural fruit groves. Elevations within the project area range from approximately 1,242 to 1,510 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).

The project contains young alluvial fan deposits (dating to the Holocene and late Pleistocene) and very old alluvial fan deposits (dating to the early Pleistocene) that rest on the Paleocene Silverado Formation (Gray et al. 2002). The project lies within the Monserate-Arlington-Exeter Soil Association, described as "...well drained, nearly level to moderately steep soils that have a surface layer of sandy loam to loam and are shallow to deep to a hardpan" (Knecht 1971). The specific soil within the project is mostly Rough Broken Land (RuF), although portions of the project area contain Perkins Gravelly Loam (PgD2) with eight to 15 percent slopes that are eroded and Garretson Gravelly Very Fine Sandy Loam (GdC) with two to eight percent slopes (Knecht 1971).

A major proportion of the project area has been disturbed. Currently, project area vegetation is characterized within the developed zones by agricultural fruit orchards (lemon and avocado) with introduced grasses and weeds and within the less developed foothills by inland sage scrub and chaparral. Prehistoric vegetation most likely consisted of entirely inland sage scrub and chaparral. Mammals within the region include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, rabbit, hare, ground squirrel, kangaroo rat, and a variety of other small rodents; birds include raptors, quail, mourning dove, geese and ducks, herons, crows, finches, and sparrows.

3.2 Cultural Setting

3.2.1 Prehistoric Period

PaleoIndian, Archaic Period Milling Stone Horizon, and the Late Prehistoric Shoshonean groups are the three general cultural periods represented in Riverside County. The following discussion of the cultural history of Riverside County references the San Dieguito Complex, Encinitas Tradition, Millingstone Horizon, La Jolla Complex, Pauma Complex, and San Luis Rey Complex since these culture sequences have been used to describe archaeological manifestations in the region. The Late Prehistoric component in the area of Riverside County was represented by the Cahuilla, Gabrielino, and Luiseño Indians.

Absolute chronological information, where possible, will be incorporated into this discussion to examine the effectiveness of continuing to interchangeably use these terms. Reference will be made to the geological framework that divides the culture chronology of the area into four segments: late Pleistocene (20,000 to 10,000 years before present [YBP]), the early Holocene (10,000 – 6,650 YBP), the middle Holocene (6,650 to 3,350 YBP), and the late Holocene (3,350 to 200 YBP).

PaleoIndian Period *(Late Pleistocene: 11,500 to circa 9,000 YBP)*

The PaleoIndian Period is associated with the terminus of the late Pleistocene (12,000 to 10,000 YBP). The environment during the late Pleistocene was cool and moist, which allowed for glaciation in the mountains and the formation of deep, pluvial lakes in the deserts and basin lands (Moratto 1984). However, by the terminus of the late Pleistocene, the climate became warmer, which caused the glaciers to melt, sea levels to rise, greater coastal erosion, large lakes to recede and evaporate, extinction of Pleistocene megafauna, and major vegetation changes (Moratto 1984; Martin 1967, 1973; Fagan 1991). The coastal shoreline at 10,000 YBP, depending on the particular area of the coast, was near the 30-meter isobath or two to six kilometers further west than its present location (Masters 1983).

PaleoIndians were likely attracted to multiple habitat types, including mountains, marshlands, estuaries, and lakeshores. These people likely subsisted using a more generalized hunting, gathering, and collecting adaptation and utilizing a variety of resources including, birds, mollusks, and both large and small mammals (Erlandson and Colten 1991; Moratto 1984; Moss and Erlandson 1995).

Archaic Period *(Early to late Holocene: circa 9,000 to 1,300 YBP)*

The Archaic Period of prehistory begins with the onset of the Holocene around 9,000 YBP. The transition from the Pleistocene to the Holocene was a period of major environmental change throughout North America (Antevs 1953; Van Devender and Spaulding 1979). The general warming trend caused sea levels to rise, lakes to evaporate, and drainage patterns to change. In southern California, the general climate at the beginning of the early Holocene is

marked by cool/moist periods and an increase in warm/dry periods and sea levels. The coastal shoreline at 8,000 YBP, depending on the particular area of the coast, was near the 20-meter isobath, or one to four kilometers further west than its present location (Masters 1983).

The rising sea level during the early Holocene created rocky shorelines and bays along the coast by flooding valley floors and eroding the coastline (Curray 1965; Inman 1983). Shorelines were primarily rocky with small littoral cells, as sediments were deposited at bay edges but rarely discharged into the ocean (Reddy 2000). These bays eventually evolved into lagoons and estuaries, which provided a rich habitat for mollusks and fish. The warming trend and rising sea levels generally continued until the late Holocene (4,000 to 3,500 YBP).

At the beginning of the late Holocene, sea levels stabilized, rocky shores declined, lagoons filled with sediment, and sandy beaches became established (Gallegos 1985; Inman 1983; Masters 1994; Miller 1966; Warren and Pavesic 1963). Many former lagoons became saltwater marshes surrounded by coastal sage scrub by the late Holocene (Gallegos 2002). The sedimentation of the lagoons is significant in that it had profound effects on the types of resources available to prehistoric peoples. Habitat was lost for certain large mollusks, namely *Chione* and *Argopecten*, but habitat was gained for other small mollusks, particularly *Donax* (Gallegos 1985; Reddy 2000). The changing lagoon habitats resulted in the decline of larger shellfish, loss of drinking water, and loss of Torrey Pine nuts, causing a major depopulation of the coast as people shifted inland to reliable freshwater sources and intensified their exploitation of terrestrial small game and plants, including acorns (originally proposed by Rogers 1929, Gallegos 2002).

The Archaic Period in southern California is associated with a number of different cultures, complexes, traditions, or horizons including San Dieguito, La Jolla, Encinitas, Millingstone, Pauma, and Intermediate Period.

Late Prehistoric Period *(Late Holocene: 1,300 to 1,790 AD)*

Approximately 1,350 YBP, a Shoshonean-speaking group from the Great Basin region moved into Riverside County, marking the transition to the Late Prehistoric Period. This period is characterized by higher population densities and elaborations in social, political, and technological systems. Economic systems diversified and intensified during this period, with the continued elaboration of trade networks, the use of shell-bead currency, and the appearance of more labor-intensive, but effective, technological innovations. Technological developments during this period included the introduction of the bow and arrow between 400 and 600 A.D., and the introduction of ceramics. Atlatl darts were replaced by smaller arrow darts, including the Cottonwood series points. Other hallmarks of the Late Prehistoric Period included extensive trade networks as far-reaching as the Colorado River Basin and cremation of the dead.

Protohistoric Period *(Late Holocene: 1790 to present)*

Ethnohistorical and ethnographic evidence indicates that three Shoshonean-speaking groups occupied portions of Riverside County during the Protohistoric period, including the Cahuilla, the Gabrielino, and the Luiseño. The geographic boundaries between these groups in pre- and proto-historic times are difficult to place; however, the Rancho Paseo de Valencia Project area is within known Gabrielino ancestral land near their boundary with the Luiseño. At the time of Spanish contact in the sixteenth century, the Cahuilla occupied territory that included the San Bernardino Mountains, Orocopia Mountain, and the Chocolate Mountains, the Salton Sea and Borrego Springs to the south, Palomar Mountain and Lake Mathews to the west, and the Santa Ana River to the north. The Cahuilla were a Takic-speaking people closely related to their Gabrielino and Luiseño neighbors, although relations with the Gabrielino were more intense than with the Luiseño. They differed from the Luiseño and Gabrielino in that their religion was more similar to the Mohave tribes of the eastern deserts than the *Chingichngish* cult of the Luiseño and Gabrielino.

The territory of the Gabrielino, at the time of Spanish contact in the sixteenth century, was located in much of current-day Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The southern extent of this group was bounded by Aliso Creek, the eastern extent was located east of current day San Bernardino along the Santa Ana River, the northern extent included the San Fernando Valley, and the western extent of their range included portions of the Santa Monica Mountains. The Gabrielino also occupied several Channel Islands, including Santa Barbara Island, Santa Catalina Island, San Nicholas Island, and San Clemente Island. Because of their access to certain resources, including a steatite source from Santa Catalina Island, this group was among the wealthiest and populous aboriginal groups in all of southern California. Trade of materials and resources controlled by the Gabrielino extended as far north as the San Joaquin Valley, as far east as the Colorado River, and as far south as Baja California (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1925).

The Luiseño were a seasonal hunting and gathering people with cultural elements that were very distinct from the Archaic Period peoples, including cremation, the use of the bow and arrow, and use of the acorn as a main food staple (Moratto 1984). Along the coast, the Luiseño made use of the marine resources available by fishing and collecting mollusks for food. Seasonally available terrestrial resources including acorns and game were also sources of nourishment for Luiseño groups. The elaborate kinship and clan systems between the Luiseño and other groups facilitated a wide-reaching trade network that included trade of Obsidian Butte obsidian and other resources from the eastern deserts and steatite from the Channel Islands.

3.2.2 Historic Period

The historic background of the project area began with the Spanish colonialization of Alta California. The first Spanish colonizing expedition reached southern California in 1769 with the intention of converting and civilizing the indigenous populations, as well as expanding the knowledge of and access to new resources in the region (Brigandi 1998). In the late 18th Century, the San Gabriel (Los Angeles County), San Juan Capistrano (Orange County), and San Luis Rey (San Diego) missions began colonizing southern California and gradually expanded their use of the interior valley (in what is now Western Riverside County) for raising grain and cattle to support the missions (Riverside County N.d.). The San Gabriel Mission claimed lands in what is now Jurupa, Riverside, San Jacinto, and the San Gorgonio Pass, while the San Luis Rey Mission claimed land in what is now Lake Elsinore, Temecula, and Murrieta (American Local History Network: Riverside Co. CA 1998). The indigenous groups who occupied these lands were recruited by missionaries, converted, and put to work in the missions (Pourade 1964). Throughout this period, the Native American populations were decimated by introduced diseases, a drastic shift in diet resulting in poor nutrition, and social conflicts due to the introduction of an entirely new social order (Cook 1976).

In the mid to late 1770s, Juan Bautista de Anza passed through much of Riverside County while searching for an overland route from Sonora, Mexico to San Gabriel and Los Angeles and described fertile valleys, lakes and sub-desert areas (American Local History Network: Riverside Co. CA 1998; Riverside County N.d.). In 1797, Father Presidente Lausen, Father Norberto de Santiago, and Corporal Pedro Lisalde led an expedition from Mission San Juan Capistrano through southwestern Riverside County in search of a new mission site, before constructing Mission San Luis Rey in northern San Diego County (Brigandi 1998).

While no missions were ever built in what would become Riverside County (American Local History Network: Riverside Co. CA 1998), many mission outposts, or *asistencias,* were established in the early years of the 19th Century to extend the missions' influence to the backcountry (Brigandi 1998). Two outposts that were located in Riverside County include San Jacinto and Temecula.

Mexico gained independence in 1822, and desecularized the missions in 1832, signifying the end of the Mission Period (Brigandi 1998; Riverside County N.d.). By this time, the missions owned some of the best and fertile land in southern California. In order for California to develop, the land would have to be made productive enough to turn a profit (Brigandi 1998). The new government began distributing the vast mission holdings to wealthy and politically connected Mexican citizens. These grants were called "ranchos," of which Jurupa, El Rincon, La Sierra, El Sobrante de San Jacinto, La Laguna (Lake Elsinore), Santa Rosa, Temecula, Pauba, San Jacinto Nuevo y Potrero, and San Jacinto Viejo were located in present day Riverside County; many of these ranchos have lent their names to modern-day locales (American Local History Network: Riverside Co. CA 1998). The first grant in what is now Riverside County,

Rancho Jurupa, was given to Juan Bandini in 1838. These ranchos were all located in the valley environments typical of western Riverside County.

The treatment of Native Americans grew worse during the Rancho Period. Most of the Native Americans were forced off of the now privately owned ranchos or put to work on the rancho, most often as slave labor. In light of the brutal ranchos, the degree to which Native Americans had become dependent on the mission system is evident when, in 1838, a group of Native Americans from the San Luis Rey Mission petitioned government officials in San Diego to relieve suffering at the hands of the rancheros:

> "...We have suffered incalculable losses, for some of which we are in part to be blamed for because many of us have abandoned the Mission...We plead and beseech you...to grant us a Rev. Father for this place. We have been accustomed to the Rev. Fathers and to their manner of managing the duties. We labored under their intelligent directions, and we were obedient to the Fathers according to the regulations, because we considered it as good for us." [Brigandi 1998:21]

Native American culture had been disrupted to the point where they could no longer rely on prehistoric subsistence and social patterns. Not only does this illustrate how dependent the Native Americans had become on the missionaries, but also indicates a marked contrast in the way the Spanish treated the Native Americans compared to the Mexican and United States ranchers. Spanish colonialism (missions) is based on utilizing human resources while integrating them into their society. The ranchers, both Mexican and American, did not accept Native Americans into their social order and used them specifically for the extraction of labor, resources, and profit. Rather than being incorporated, they were either subjugated or exterminated (Cook 1976).

In 1846, war erupted between Mexico and the United States. In 1848, with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the region was annexed as a territory of the United States, and in 1850 California became a state. These events generated a steady flow of settlers into the area including gold miners, entrepreneurs, health-seekers, speculators, politicians, adventurers, seekers of religious freedom, and individuals desiring to create utopian colonies.

In early 1852, the Native Americans of southern Riverside County, including the Luiseño and the Cahuilla, had thought they had signed a treaty resulting in their ownership of all lands from Temecula to Aguanga east to the desert, including the San Jacinto Valley and the San Gorgonio Pass. The Temecula Treaty also included food and clothing provisions for the Indians. However, Congress never ratified the treaties and the promise of one large reservation was rescinded (Brigandi 1998).

With the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, land speculators, developers, and colonists began to invest in Southern California. The first colony in what was to

become Riverside County was Riverside itself. Judge John Wesley North, an abolitionist from Tennessee, brought a group of associates and co-investors out to Southern California and founded Riverside on part of the Jurupa Rancho. A few years after, the navel orange was planted and found to be such a success that it quickly became the agricultural staple of the region (American Local History Network: Riverside Co. CA 1998).

By the late 1880s and early 1890s, there was growing discontent between Riverside and San Bernardino, its neighbor ten miles to the north, due to differences in opinion concerning religion, morality, the Civil War, politics, and fierce competition to attract settlers. After a series of instances in which charges were claimed about unfair use of tax monies to the benefit of the City of San Bernardino only, several people from Riverside decided to investigate the possibility of a new county. In May 1893, voters living within portions of San Bernardino County (to the north) and San Diego County (to the south) approved the formation of Riverside County. Early business opportunities were linked to the agriculture industry but commerce, construction, manufacturing, transportation, and tourism also provided a healthy local economy. By the time of Riverside County's formation, Riverside had grown to become the wealthiest city per capita in the country due to the successful cultivation of the navel orange (American Local History Network: Riverside Co. CA 1998; Riverside County N.d.).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The Phase I archaeological assessment conducted for the Rancho Paseo de Valencia Project consisted of an archaeological survey and an institutional records search. This archaeological study conformed to the City of Corona environmental guidelines. Statutory requirements of CEQA were followed in evaluating potential impacts.

4.1 Field Methodology

The archaeological survey took place on April 27, 2007. The survey was directed by Brian F. Smith with assistance from field archaeologist Charles Callahan and Project Archaeologist Sara Moreno. The project terrain consisted primarily of gentle to steep foothill slopes with narrow ridges and drainages. The only level portions of the project area were graded roads and drainage bottoms. Ground visibility varied from very good (graded roads), to moderate (fruit groves and gentle slopes with moderate plant growth), to poor (steep slopes and drainages with intense plant growth).

After reviewing the records search results and visually assessing the property, the lack of previously reported cultural resources, intense ground disturbance, and varied surface conditions observed prompted the reconnaissance team to employ an intuitive survey approach. Intuitive surveys maximize the opportunities to discover cultural resources by focusing survey attention upon those areas and resources most likely to have been exploited by past prehistoric and historic populations. Bedrock outcroppings, clusters of valued plant resources, exposed rock faces and overhangs, drainages, ridge tops, and naturally level ground surfaces were targeted when present for detailed inspection. Photographs were taken to document project conditions during the survey (see Section 5.0).

4.2 Archaeological Records Search

An institutional records search conducted by the EIC at UCR was reviewed for an area of one mile surrounding the project in order to determine the presence of any previously recorded sites. Results of the records search are provided in Appendix I and discussed in Section 5.1.

4.3 Native American Consultation

The archaeological survey and institutional records search did not locate evidence of Native American religious, ritual, or other special activities at this location. BFSA requested a review of the SLF by the NAHC. This request included a review for any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance within an area of one mile surrounding the project. Results of the review are provided in Appendix II and discussed in Section 5.1.

5.0 REPORT OF FINDINGS

5.1 Results of the Records Searches

In accordance with the scope of work for this report, the EIC at UCR was contracted to provide a records search in order to identify previous studies and previously registered cultural resources relevant to the current project area, the complete results of which are provided in Appendix I. The records search results revealed that no previously recorded sites lie within the project boundaries; however, the results indicated that one prehistoric isolate, two prehistoric sites and four historic cultural resources were recorded previously within a one-mile radius of the project (Table 5.0–1).

TABLE 5.1–1

Cultural Resources Located Within A One-Mile Radius of the Rancho Paseo de Valencia Archaeological Survey Phase I Project

Site No.	Description
SRS-765-1(I)	Millingstone fragment
CA-RIV-1837	Lithic Scatter with Tools
CA-RIV-3686	2 Manos and 1 Metate
CA-RIV-6133H	Historic irrigation system and wall
P-33-13275	National Folk styled residence, 1900
P-33-13276	California Ranch styled residence, 1957
P-33-13277	Reservoir/irrigation system, c. 1930-1955

The records search also noted that there have been a total of 26 cultural resource studies conducted within a one-mile radius of the proposed project area, one of which, "Report on Prehistoric and Historic Investigation at Main Ranch Riverside County, California" (Hatheway et al. 1986), encompassed a portion of the current project area. The EIC resources included the following historic sources:

- The National Register of Historic Places Index
- The Office of Historic Preservation, Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility
- The Office of Historic Preservation, Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File
- The 15' USGS *Corona* topographic map (1947).

The request for a SLF search was presented to the NAHC. Their search of the SLF failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources within the project area and its one-mile radius (Appendix II). The absence of a positive SLF result does not necessarily preclude the existence of cultural resources within the project area; therefore, field reconnaissance is a necessary step.

5.2 Results of the Field Reconnaissance

Surface conditions within the project area varied greatly. Photographs were taken to document project conditions at the time of the survey, as shown in Plates 5.2–1 and 5.2–2. The predominant portion of the project area (approximately 60%) consisted of graded roads and terraces with associated lemon and avocado groves (APNs 114-04-019, 114-04-020). Surrounding this agricultural portion to the west, southwest, south, and southeast lay the remainder of the project area: foothills comprised of narrow ridges, steep slopes, and drainages that held a diversity of plants, most of which conformed to the inland sage scrub and chaparral vegetative communities (APN 275-10-003, and to a lesser extent APNs 114-04-019 and 114-04-020). A small area of land with a modern residence (APN 275-100-004) that was surrounded by the current project area, but which is not a part of the current project, was noted but not surveyed. An aerial view of the project area that shows the vegetation patterns is provided in Figure 5.2–1.

After reviewing the records search results and visually assessing the property, the lack of previously reported cultural resources, intense ground disturbance, and varied surface conditions observed prompted the reconnaissance team to employ an intuitive survey approach. As discussed in Section 4.0, survey attention was focused upon those areas and resources most likely to have been exploited by prehistoric and historic populations, such as bedrock outcroppings, drainages, ridge tops, and naturally level ground surfaces.

Within the area dominated by agricultural groves (APNs 114-04-019 and 114-04-020), it was apparent that intense, repeated land disturbance had resulted from previous grading and agricultural activities. Recently graded dirt roads that dominated the ridges of some of the project area did not correspond with graded roads visible on an older aerial photo used for reference. The surface of the roads, cleared of vegetation, provided excellent ground visibility. Inspection of the roads revealed the presence of metavolcanic and quartzite pebbles, stones, and cobbles with angular breaks. While prehistoric populations of the area typically used this rock material for tool construction, the rock fragments observed lacked evidence of the further edge modification, wear, and polish that resulted from cultural use. Instead, the damage observed to the rock fragments was characteristic of what might result from grading and agricultural machines. Due to the highly disturbed nature of the grove area, the discovery of bedrock outcroppings became the primary focus of the pedestrian survey, as prehistoric populations often exploited these areas for grinding surfaces and lithic material extraction. Ground surface

visibility in the areas of tree cultivation varied according to slope, tree maturity, and density of fallen foliage and fruits (Plate 5.2–1). The presence of modern irrigation hoses was noted. No bedrock outcroppings were observed and no cultural resources were discovered.

Survey of the portions of the project less disturbed by modern agricultural activities proceeded in sections. First, the area immediately south of the groves was surveyed, followed by the southeast and eastern edges and lastly, the southwest, west, and northwestern portions. Some of the highest ridges within the project area were found along the southern extent of APNs 114-04-019 and 114-04-020. Loose, linear transects along these southern ridge tops revealed more metavolcanic pebbles, rocks and cobbles with machine-made, angular breaks, faint berms from previous grading and cut activities, and modern refuse indicating use of the area for modern recreational activities (i.e., paintball, skeet shooting). No bedrock outcroppings, clusters of valued plants, or cultural resources were observed along this southern project boundary.

The project area consisting of less developed/undeveloped land to the southeast and east (APN 114-04-020) contained seasonal drainages and ridges that were closely inspected. A modern trash dump was observed near the mouth of a major drainage in the southeast corner of the project area (Plate 5.2–2). Discarded plastics, metals, and clothing littered an area of approximately five meters squared. Also noted along the various drainages were a few oak trees. No large rock outcroppings or evidence of resource processing was encountered. The drainages were narrow with steep cut banks that were at points in excess of one meter in height. The banks revealed compact alluvial soils that lacked large amounts of rock. Dense vegetation within and surrounding the drainages permitted only poor surface visibility and hindered movement. Steep slopes from the drainages to the ridges were covered with dense scrub brush that also impeded movement. The ridges were narrow and similar to those encountered in the southern portion of the project area. Less modern refuse was visible as the distance from the developed orchard portion of the project increased. The physical environment encountered in this portion of the site was unsuitable and inconvenient for long-term prehistoric and historic exploitation, despite the presence of some potentially useful plant (i.e., oak, poison oak, yucca, prickly-pear) and stone resources in small quantities.

The last area surveyed (APN 275-100-003 and to a lesser extent APN 114-004-019), in the southwest, west, and northwest of the project area contained greater amounts of modern refuse than previously observed in other areas of the project. The topography consisted of slightly more gentle slopes and the drainage was more open. In the southwest and west, the survey crew observed mature olive trees along the graded road that followed the drainage. The olive trees were noted as corresponding to the odd, boundary-like lines of trees observable from neighboring ridges and within the aerial photograph of the project area (Figure 5.2–1 and Plate 5.2–1). While the existence of these olive trees is possibly associated with the 1968 construction of the residence on APN 275-100-003, it is also possible that these trees and the artificial lines that they create indicate the presence of unobserved subterranean historic structure remnants

and/or deposits. The records search revealed no explanation for the presence of these intentionally planted trees. In the northwest of the project area, abandoned temporary shelters (for homeless individuals or migrant workers) were visible beneath some large trees and consisted of thin wood, or cardboard, 'flooring' and minimal living debris (blankets, clothing, containers, etc.). Along the drainage, large introduced boulders and rocks were observed. Closer inspection of these boulders noted no cultural modification (grinding or extraction activities). No bedrock outcroppings or cultural resources were discovered.

Records search results indicated that the fruit grove portion of the project area was previously surveyed as part of the Main Ranch study (Hatheway et al. 1986), during which time no culture resources were located. The disturbance from machine grading at that time was cited as the cause of thorough alteration to this foothill region and as a contributing explanation for the lack of cultural resources (Hatheway et al. 1986). Hatheway et al. (1986) further pointed to the nature of the foothills, their steep slopes between narrow ridges and drainages, as possessing little to no potential for cultural materials. The results of the current survey independently confirm the earlier findings for this specific area of the current project.

The current survey did not result in the identification of any cultural materials. The property does not contain bedrock outcrops, organic midden-like soils, or rock shelters, which can indicate prehistoric land use. While vegetative resources that prehistoric populations may have utilized were visibly present within the drainages, the steepness of the foothill slopes, narrow ridges and drainages, dense vegetation, and lack of bedrock outcroppings or other desirable lithic extraction areas suggest that this region was less attractive to prehistoric populations and, therefore, not likely to have been exploited. The presence of olive trees arranged as if to construct a boundary line is potentially indicative of unobserved historic cultural resources yet to be located; however, the residence on APN 275-100-004 was constructed in 1968 and these trees may only date as early as that time period. As a result of this archaeological assessment, no historic or prehistoric resources were identified within project boundaries.

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1:360
1 inch equals 30 feet
0 1 2 3 4 Meters
0 3 6 12 18 24 Feet

Figure 5.2–1

Project Location on Aerial

The Rancho Paseo de Valencia
Archaeological Assessment Project

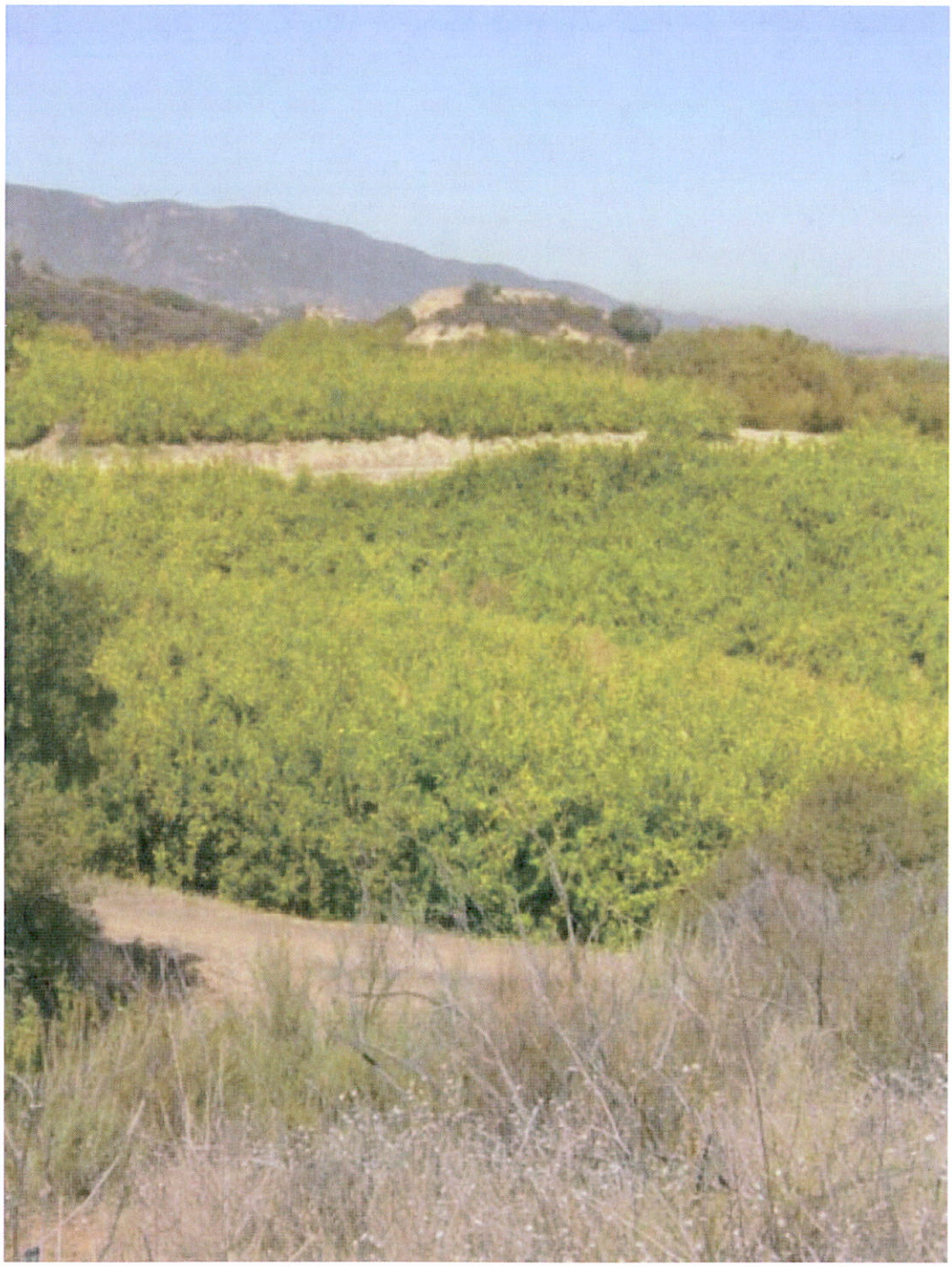

Plate 5.2–1. Overview of portion of project area containing groves, facing northwest.

Plate 5.2–2. Overview of modern trash dump and native vegetative community in southeastern portion of project, facing southeast.

6.0 DISCUSSION/MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Phase I archaeological assessment for the proposed Rancho Paseo de Valencia Project, involving a records search and pedestrian survey, was negative for the presence of cultural resources. Survey conditions were poor with environmental constraints and intense levels of disturbance. The records search indicated that there had been one previous survey (Hatheway et al. 1986) involving a portion of the current project area (APNs 114-04-019 and 114-04-020); however, no cultural resources were identified at that time within those particular parcels. In addition, an adequate archaeological sample of the surrounding area indicated that prehistoric and historic resources are sparse within the immediate vicinity. The pedestrian survey conducted on April 27, 2007 identified no cultural resources; however, in light of poor surface visibility in portions of the project area due to dense native vegetation and orchards, the possibility still exists that the proposed project may represent a source of direct or indirect impacts to hidden or unexposed archaeological sites. This is especially true for the parcel APN 275-100-003 containing the mature olive trees acting as a boundary in the drainage along the graded road. Therefore, it is recommended that the mitigation measures for this project include archaeological monitoring by a qualified archaeologist for all clearing and grading activities. Monitoring will facilitate the identification of any cultural resources uncovered during grading. Should archaeological deposits be discovered, the discovery area shall be temporarily secured from any disturbance until the City of Corona can be notified, the resource evaluated, and any appropriate mitigation completed.

7.0 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this archaeological report, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and have been compiled in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) criteria as defined in Section 15064.5 and the Riverside County cultural resource criteria.

May 14, 2007; Revised March 11, 2009

Brian F. Smith
Principal Investigator

Date

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APPENDIX I

Archaeological Records Search Results
(Confidential Appendix; bound separately)

APPENDIX II

Native American Heritage Commission
Sacred Lands File Search
(Confidential Appendix; bound separately)