

Borrego Springs Library and Park Project

Cultural Resources Survey Report - Negative Findings

Project No. WT-3788307

November 2015

Lead Agency:

County of San Diego
Department of General Services

5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123

Project Proponent:

Mark Cass, Project Manager
County of San Diego
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Mary Robbins-Wade

Director of Cultural Resources



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**CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT - NEGATIVE FINDINGS,
BORREGO SPRINGS LIBRARY AND PARK PROJECT,
BORREGO SPRINGS, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
Project No. WT-3788307**

Lead Agency:

**County of San Diego
Department of General Services
Contact: Marc Cass
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November 2015

HELIX Project No. CSD-04.11

National Archaeological Data Base Information

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Proponent: Marc Cass
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Report Date: November 2015

Type of Survey: Cultural resources/archaeological survey

New Sites: None

Updated Sites: None

USGS Quad: Borrego Palm Canyon

Acreage: 20 acres

Key Words: San Diego County; Borrego Springs; desert; negative archaeological survey; Township 11 South, Range 6 East, Section 5

RE: Borrego Springs Library and Park Project, Borrego Springs, San Diego County,
California
Project No. WT-3788307
Cultural Resources – Negative Findings

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that a survey has been conducted on the above referenced project. It has been determined that there are no cultural resources present within the proposed project area. The project has been plotted on the attached U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute topographical map for your information.

County: San Diego
USGS 7.5' Quad: Borrego Palm Canyon **Date:** 1996
Section: 5 **Township:** 11 South **Range:** 6 East

Address: 2636 Country Club Road
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
(This address is for the northern parcel; no address for 17.7-acre portion)

City: Borrego Springs **State:** California
Thomas Brothers: 1058, Grid J3 (2006 Riverside and San Diego Counties Edition)
Other Locational Data: The project area is located in the Borrego Springs community of eastern San Diego County. The two portions of the project area are bisected by Church Lane (the western extension of Sunset Drive) and are located adjacent to the southwest of Country Club Road, occupying the northwest and southwest quadrants of the intersection (Figures 1 and 2). It should be noted that Church Lane also appears as Diamond Bar Road on some maps. The area to the west of the project is largely undeveloped apart from five churches that occupy most of the area directly adjacent to the southwest of Church Lane, across the street from the 17.7-acre portion of the proposed project.

Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs): 198-020-30, 198-020-34, 198-020-36

UTM: 557784.67 mE / 3679619.08 mN (2.8-acre parcel)
557888.93 mE / 3679445.70 mN (17.7-acre parcel)
Elevation: 599-623 feet above mean sea level ([AMSL] on Google Earth Pro)

Owner and Address: 2.8-acre parcel is privately owned, to be donated to County of San Diego;
17.7-acre parcel is owned by:
County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation
5500 Overland Ave #410
San Diego, CA 92123

Survey Type: Intensive Pedestrian
Date of Survey: August 26, 2015
Field Crew: Kristina Davison (HELIX), Gabe Kitchen (Red Tail Monitoring and Research – Native American Monitor)

Description: The field survey was conducted using standard archaeological procedures and techniques. The property was walked in parallel transects spaced 10 meters (m) apart. The entirety of the project area is generally flat with Sonoran creosote bush, palo verde, and cholla cactus being the dominant vegetation, though sparsely scattered throughout. Visibility was excellent, and the project area was largely undisturbed apart from a small area within the proposed park site that contained some dumped concrete and some modern debris in the portions bordering Church Lane and Country Club Drive. The surface contains evidence of infrequent water runoff by way of ruts and rivulets; the area's flat and sparsely vegetated surface would be vulnerable to erosion during heavy rains. Surface artifacts would likely have been displaced during these runoff events, possibly resulting in the current lack of observed cultural resources. The topography to the southwest is steeply sloping (610 feet to 760 feet AMSL) and the area due west of the 2.8-acre parcel is very flat, with a gradual and slight incline to the west. The soil type mapped for the project area is Rositas loamy coarse sand, 2 to 9 percent slopes; sandy soil typically has a much higher erosion rate than other soil types, contributing to the probability of surface artifacts being displaced by water runoff.

In November 2004, the 17.7-acre portion of the project area was surveyed for cultural resources by Tierra Environmental Services. No resources were noted at the time; however, it was noted that some areas within the parcel had been disturbed by dumping and grading/vegetation removal and some rutting due to water runoff (McGinnis 2004). These observations are concurrent with slight disturbances observed during the current HELIX survey.

The project proposes to construct a new public library facility (with the possibility of an expanded community room and an attached sheriff substation) and a new public park on a total of approximately 20.5 acres of undeveloped land located adjacent to the southwest of Country Club Road and Church Lane (Figure 2). The proposed library would occupy the eastern 2.8-acre portion of a 26.2-acre parcel (APN 198-020-36) in the northwest quadrant of the Country Club Road/Sunset Road/Church Lane intersection. The proposed park would occupy 17.7 acres located across Church Lane from the proposed library site, on two parcels (APNs 198-020-30 and 198-020-34). The parcels are located in the Borrego Springs community south of Palm Canyon Drive and east of S-22. The library/sheriff substation site is privately owned and would be donated to the County upon approval of the project; zoning for the library/sheriff substation site is Residential/Commercial (RC) and includes a 'B' Special Area Designator, which requires the approval of a Site Plan pursuant to Section 5750 et. seq. of the County Zoning Ordinance. The two parcels that would comprise the park site are owned by the County Department of Parks and Recreation; the zoning is Variable Family Residential (RV). As the library/sheriff substation and park are intended to be design/build projects, these elements are currently represented by conceptual plans, which are presented in Figures 3a and 3b. More detailed plans would be completed as part of the design/build process.

Records Search: A records search for the project area and a 1-mile radius was obtained from the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) at San Diego State University in August 2015. Record search maps are included in Confidential Appendix A. A total of six cultural resources are recorded within a 1-mile radius of the project site; no resources are mapped as being within or adjacent to the project area itself. The sites within a one-mile radius of the survey area are summarized in Table 1.

Native American Consultation: The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted for a Sacred Lands File search and list of Native American contacts on July 17, 2015; follow-up requests were made monthly until a response was received on October 28, 2015 (the letter was dated September 16, 2015; however, it had been sent to an incorrect e-mail address; see Confidential Appendix B). The NAHC responses indicated that a Sacred Lands File search “was completed with negative results”. HELIX is in the process of sending letters to the tribal contacts listed. Any responses will be forwarded to County staff.

Native American Heritage Values: Federal and state laws mandate that consideration be given to the concerns of contemporary Native Americans with regard to potentially ancestral human remains, associated funerary objects, and items of cultural patrimony. Consequently, an important element in assessing the significance of the study site has been to evaluate the likelihood that these classes of items are present in areas that would be affected by the proposed project.

Potentially relevant to prehistoric archaeological sites is the category termed Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) in discussions of cultural resource management (CRM) performed under federal auspices. According to Patricia L. Parker and Thomas F. King (1998), “Traditional” in this context refers to those beliefs, customs, and practices of a living community of people that have been passed down through the generations, usually orally or through practice. The traditional cultural significance of a historic property, then, is significance derived from the role the property plays in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices.

The County of San Diego Guidelines identify that cultural resources can also include TCPs, such as gathering areas, landmarks, and ethnographic locations in addition to archaeological districts (County of San Diego 2007). These guidelines incorporate both State and Federal definitions of TCPs. Generally, a TCP may consist of a single site, or group of associated archaeological sites (district or traditional cultural landscape), or an area of cultural/ethnographic importance.

The Traditional Tribal Cultural Places Bill of 2004 requires local governments to consult with Native American representatives during the project planning process. The intent of this legislation is to encourage consultation and assist in the preservation of “Native American places of prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial importance” (County of San Diego 2007). It further allows for tribal cultural places to be included in open space planning. State Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), in effect as of July 1, 2015, introduced the Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR) as a class of cultural resource and additional considerations relating to Native American consultation into CEQA. As a general concept, a TCR is similar to the federally-defined TCP; however, it incorporates consideration of local and state significance and required mitigation under CEQA. A TCR may be considered significant if included in a local or state

register of historical resources; or determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC §5024.1; or is a geographically defined cultural landscape that meets one or more of these criteria; or is a historical resource described in PRC §21084.1, a unique archaeological resources described in PRC §21083.2; or is a non-unique archaeological resource if it conforms with the above criteria.

In 1990 the NPS and Advisory Council for Historic Preservation introduced the term ‘TCP’ through National Register Bulletin 38 (Parker and King 1990). A TCP may be considered eligible based on “its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community’s history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community” (Parker and King 1990:1). Strictly speaking, Traditional Cultural Properties are both tangible and intangible; they are anchored in space by cultural values related to community-based physically defined “property referents” (Parker and King 1990:3). On the other hand, TCPs are largely ideological, a characteristic that may present substantial problems in the process of delineating specific boundaries. Such a property’s extent is based on community conceptions of how the surrounding physical landscape interacts with existing cultural values. By its nature, a TCP need only be important to community members, and not the general outside population as a whole. In this way, a TCP boundary, as described by Bulletin 38, may be defined based on viewscape, encompassing topographic features, extent of archaeological district or use area, or a community’s sense of its own geographic limits. Regardless of why a TCP is of importance to a group of people, outsider acceptance or rejection of this understanding is made inherently irrelevant by the relativistic nature of this concept.

No cultural resources have been identified within the project area. No information has been obtained through Native American consultation or communication with the Native American monitors during fieldwork that any TCRs exist within the project area; no TCRs that currently serve religious or other community practices are known to exist within the project area. Furthermore, per the requirements of AB 52, County staff has notified interested tribal entities of the project to offer them the opportunity to consult on the project and its potential effects on cultural resources, including TCRs. To date, no effects to TCRs have been identified.

Conclusions: The Borrego Springs Library and Park project area was surveyed for cultural resources by a HELIX archaeologist and Native American (Kumeyaay) monitor in August 2015. A records search was conducted as part of the current study, and the NAHC was contacted for a Sacred Lands File search; no Native American cultural resources are listed for the project area in the Sacred Lands File. No cultural resources, including TCRs, have been identified within or adjacent to the project site during the current survey or past studies. Based on this, the project would have no impacts to cultural resources. Therefore, no mitigation measures are recommended.

Sincerely,



Mary Robbins-Wade, RPA

Director of Cultural Resources
Southern California

Attachments:

- Figure 1: Regional Location
- Figure 2: Project Vicinity Map (USGS Topography)
- Figure 3a: Library/Sheriff Substation Site Plan
- Figure 3b: Conceptual Park Site Plan

Confidential Appendices:

- A: Records Search Map
- B: Native American Correspondence

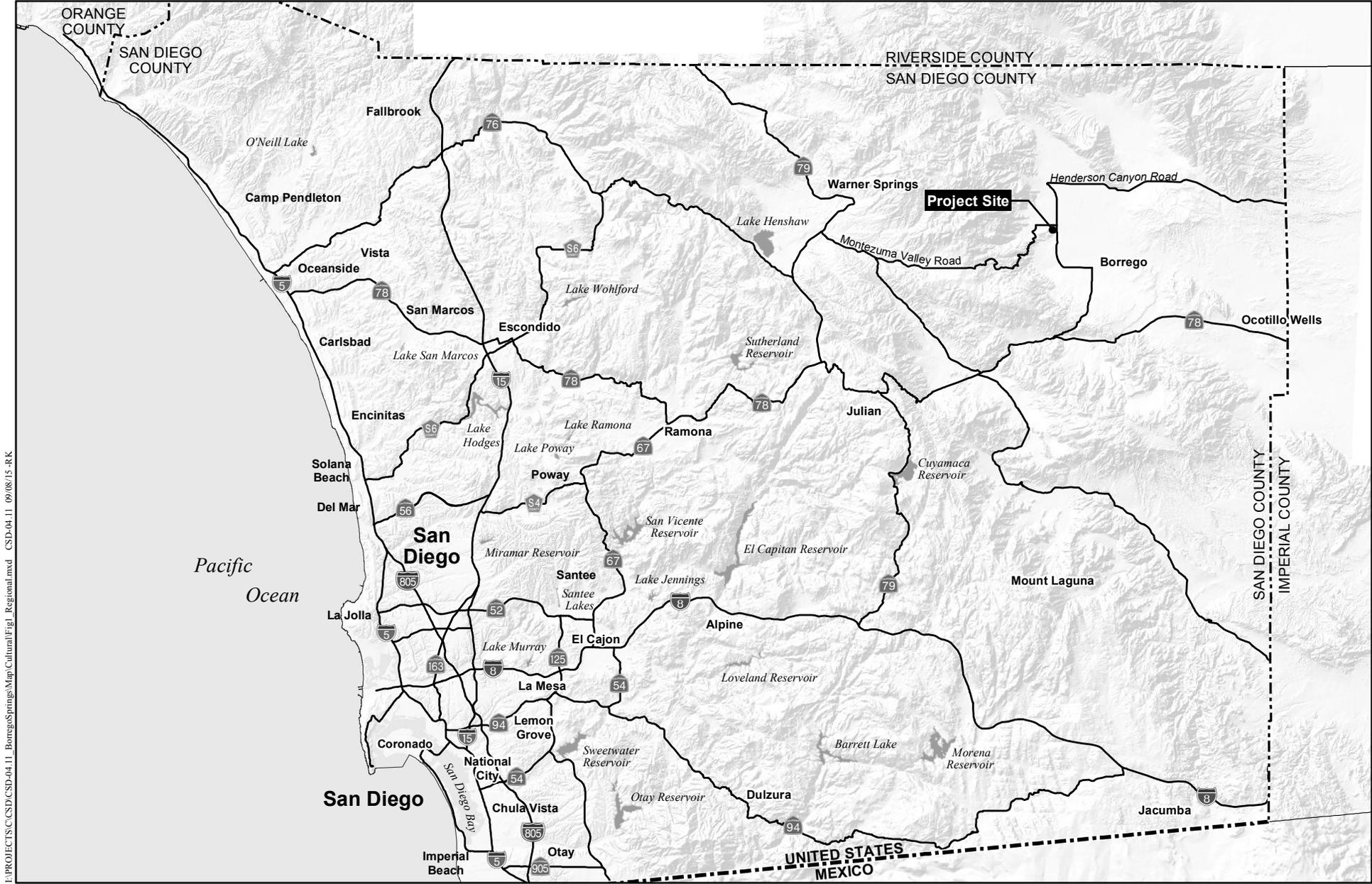
References

McGinnis, Patrick

2004 *CDBG Project: Northeast Rural – Borrego Springs Park*. Tierra Environmental Services, San Diego. Report submitted to State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation. Report on file at South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University.

Table 1
PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES WITHIN ONE-MILE RADIUS

Site Number (P-37#)	Site Number (CA-SDI-#)	Site Type	Site Dimensions	Site Recorder/ Date
006735	6735	Light scatter of Tizon Brown Ware	70 m by 70 m	Van Horn, 1979
006736	6736	Expansive light scatter of Tizon Brown Ware	400 m by 340 m	Van Horn, 1979
006737	6737	Small light sherd scatter	20 m by 20 m	Van Horn, 1979
019278	15927	Low density ceramic scatter, probably secondarily deposited	39 m by 20 m	Pigniolo, Murray, and Jones, 2000
019279	15928	Temporary camp with lithics, ceramics, animal bone, and fire-affected rock	20 m by 24 m	Pigniolo, Murray, and Jones, 2000
019280	15929	Ceramic scatter with animal bone	30 m by 50 m	Pigniolo, Murray, and Jones, 2000



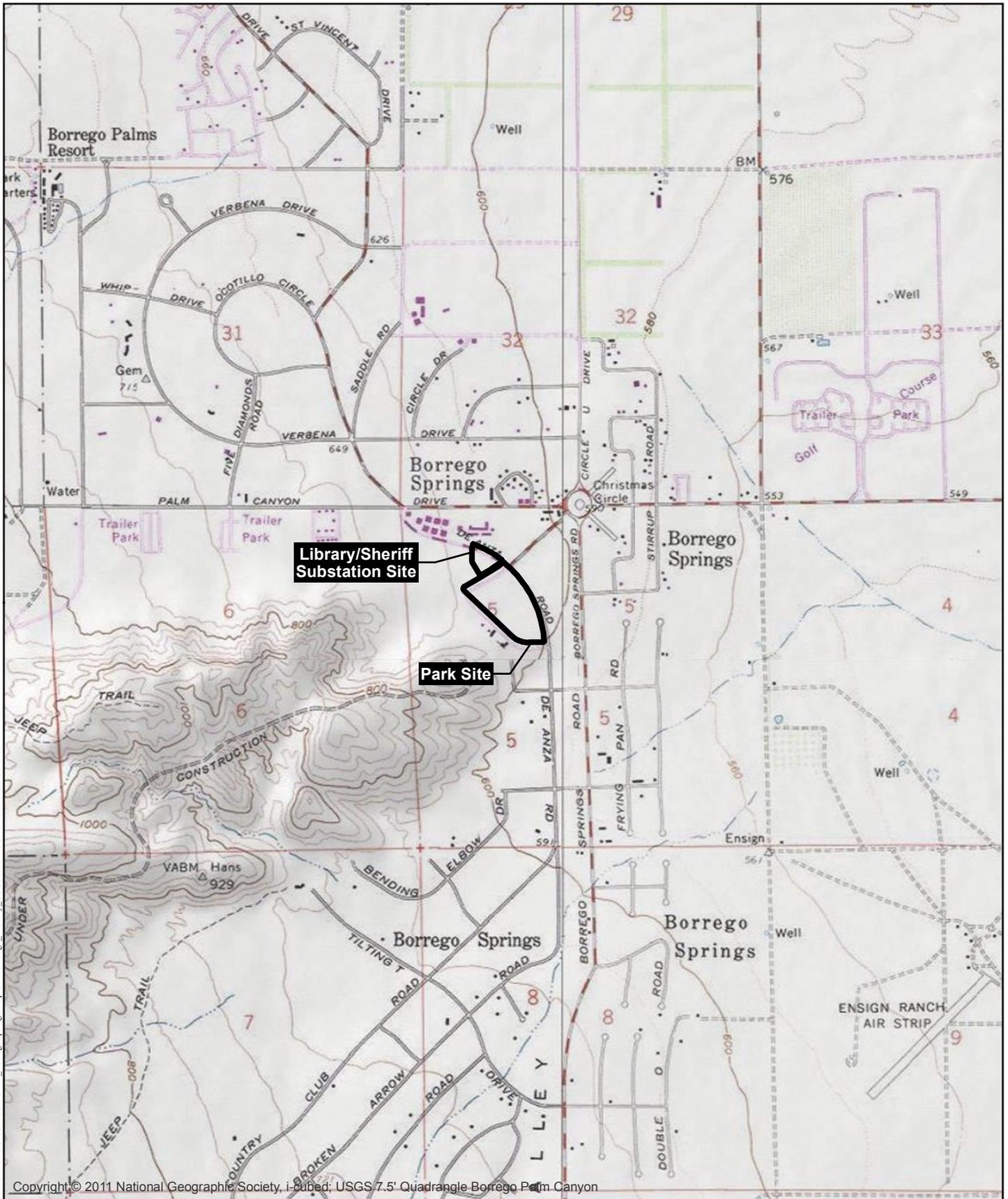
F:\PROJECTS\CSD\SD-04.11_BorregoSprings\Map\Cultural\Fig1_Regional.mxd CSD-04.11_09/08/15-RRK

Regional Location

BORREGO SPRINGS LIBRARY AND PARK PROJECT



Figure 1



Project Vicinity Map (USGS Topography)

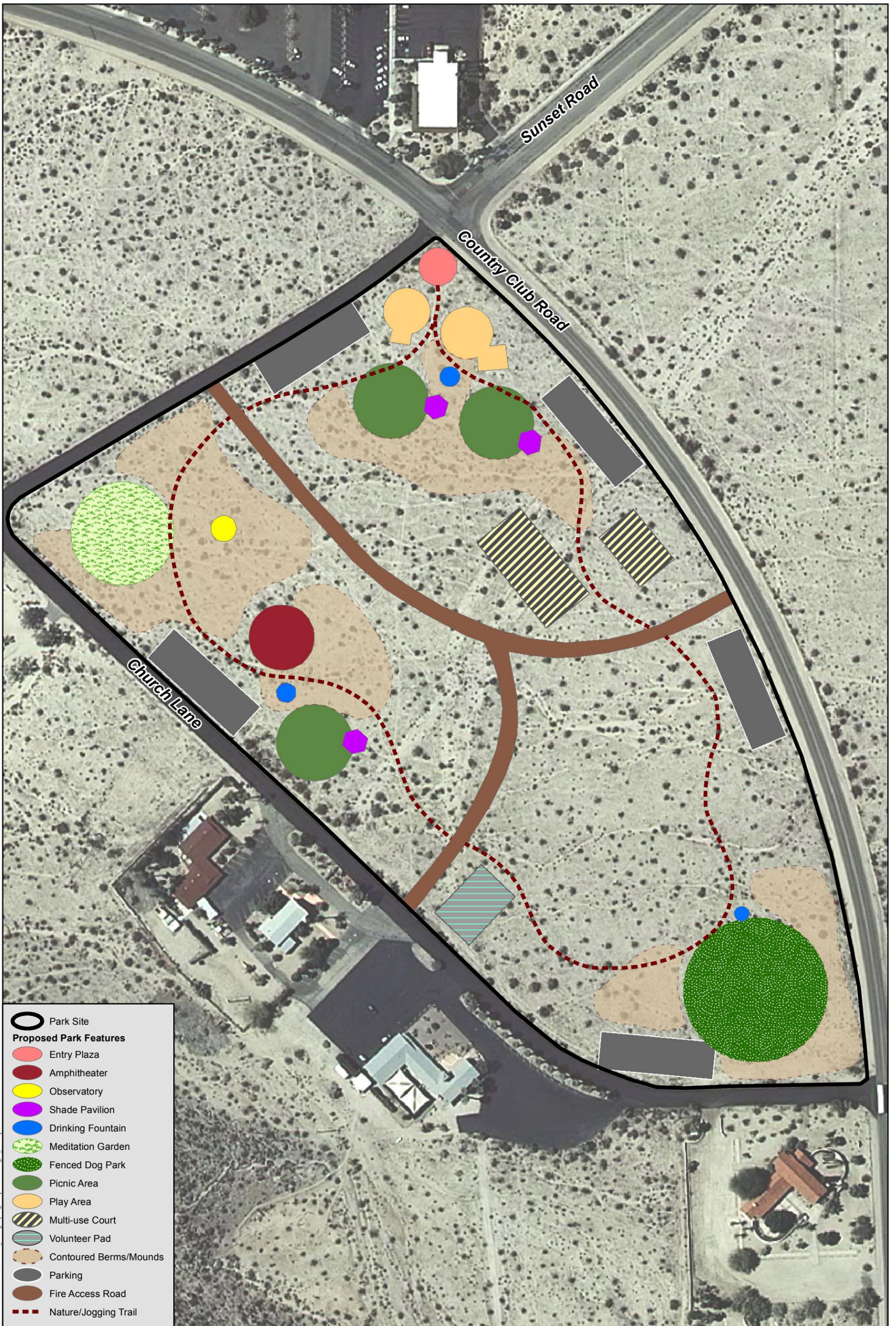
BORREGO SPRINGS LIBRARY AND PARK PROJECT



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Library/Sheriff Substation Site Plan

BORREGO SPRINGS LIBRARY AND PARK PROJECT



Conceptual Park Site Plan

BORREGO SPRINGS LIBRARY AND PARK PROJECT