

Negative Cultural Resources Survey Report
for the Sweetwater Springs Triangular
Parking Lot Project
San Diego County, California

Project Number PDS2021-STP-21-019

Lead Agency

County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
Environmental Services Unit
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Project Proponent

Mr. Scott Murray
Greenlaw Partners
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Prepared by



Carmen Zepeda-Herman, M.A.
County-Approved Preparer



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RECON Number 9931
July 20, 2021

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA BASE INFORMATION

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RECON Number 9931

Client/Project Proponent: Mr. Scott Murray
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Report Date: July 20, 2021

Report Title: Negative Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Sweetwater Springs Triangular Parking Lot Project

Project Number: PDS2021-STP-21-019

Type of study: Intensive pedestrian survey

New sites: None

Updated sites: None

USGS Quadrangle Map: Jamul Mountains, 1994

Other Locational Data: APN 505-231-35-00 and 505-231-03-00

Acreage: 2.05 acres

Keywords: Negative results, Sweetwater Springs Boulevard

July 20, 2021

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Reference: Negative Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Sweetwater Springs Triangular Parking Lot Project, Project Number PDS2021-STP-21-019 (RECON Number 9931)

Dear Mr. Murray:

This letter report provides the methods and results used for the cultural resources survey of the Sweetwater Springs Triangular Parking Lot Project (project).

PROJECT LOCATION

County:	San Diego
U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' Quadrangle:	Jamul Mountains 1994, unsectioned portion of the Jamacho Land Grant
Address:	2500 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, California
Assessor's Parcel Numbers:	505-231-35-00 and 505-231-03-00
Elevation:	Ranges between 480 – 574 feet above mean sea level
Survey Type:	Intensive pedestrian
Date of Survey:	June 9, 2021
Field Crew:	Nathanial Yerka (RECON Environmental) and Alyssa Soto (Red Tail Environmental)

DESCRIPTION

The subject property is a triangular shaped parcel located behind the industrial building located at 2500 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, California (Figure 1). The project area is located southeast of the intersection of Sweetwater Springs Boulevard and Jamacha Boulevard (Figure 2). The project area consists of approximately 2 acres of vacant land situated northeast of a commercial property, south of a residential trailer home community, and adjacent to a large open space preserve located to the east (Figure 3).

The project area is Zoned M58 (High Impact Industrial) and requires grading and surfacing of the property for the proposed "automotive and equipment: fleet storage" use for the parking of approximately 69 delivery vans. No structures will be constructed, and no building signage will be required. During spring 2021, the current owner cleared the project area in conformance with the brush fire clearance requirement, and to provide fuel modification and safety considerations to the adjacent property owners and residents. Recently, the property has become a homeless encampment and presented a fire hazard to the homeless trespassers as well as the adjacent mobile home park.

A cultural resources survey for the project was completed in accordance with the requirements of the County of San Diego and the California Environmental Quality Act to identify any impacts to significant cultural resources. The goal of the cultural resources survey was to locate any new cultural resources within the project area.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is considered the entire 2.05-acre project area.

METHODS

RECON Environmental, Inc. (RECON) reviewed archival information and performed a pedestrian survey of the project APE. RECON requested a records search with a one-mile search radius from the California Historical Resources Information System, South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) located at San Diego State University (Confidential Attachment 1). The SCIC records search indicate 71 cultural investigations conducted within one mile of the APE, as well as three that include the APE. The records search results also indicate 15 prehistoric resources, one multicomponent resource (consisting of both prehistoric and historic cultural material), and one historic address recorded within one mile of the project APE (Table 1). Previously recorded prehistoric resources consist of bedrock milling features, rock features, hearths, ground stone artifacts, habitation debris, as well as lithic, ceramic, and marine shell scatters. Also in the recording is one historic trash scatter. None of these previously recorded cultural resources are located within or adjacent to the APE.

Table 1 Cultural Resources within One-Mile of APE				
Primary Number	Trinomial Number	Period	Site Type	Date Recorded
P-37-000185	CA-SDI-000185	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter, ground stone; Habitation debris	No Date (Treganza); 1972, 1974 (Gross); 1981 (RECON)
P-37-004759	CA-SDI-004759	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter, ground stone	1972 (SAC); 2015, 2019, 2020 (ICF)
P-37-004764	CA-SDI-004764	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter; Ceramic scatter; Bedrock milling features	1972 (Bull, Cupples, and Gross)
P-37-004772	CA-SDI-004772	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter, ground stone; Marine shell	1972 (Gross); 2013 (ASM Affiliates, Inc.)
P-37-004774	CA-SDI-004774	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	1972 (Gross)
P-37-005696	CA-SDI-005696	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	1978 (Fink); 2016 (Cox)
P-37-006875	CA-SDI-006875	Multicomponent	Lithic scatter; Trash scatter	1978 (Eckhardt)
P-37-006876	CA-SDI-006876	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	1978 (Eckhardt)
P-37-006877	CA-SDI-006877	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	1978 (Eckhardt)
P-37-006878	CA-SDI-006878	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	1978 (Eckhardt)
P-37-006879	CA-SDI-006879	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	1978 (Eckhardt)
P-37-006880	CA-SDI-006880	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	1978 (Eckhardt)
P-37-006881	CA-SDI-006881	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	1978 (Eckhardt)
P-37-012048	CA-SDI-012048	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter; Hearths/ pits	1991 (Brian F. Smith & Associates)
P-37-012299	CA-SDI-012299	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter; Quarry	1991 (Brian F. Mooney Associates)
P-37-030966	CA-SDI-019654	Prehistoric	Other - Rock feature	2009 (RECON)

Review of historic aerial photographs indicate that the northwest-facing slope down to the property line adjacent to the residential trailer home community was disturbed by the former La Mesa Airport. The slope was graded and utilized as ground-to-air signage for the airport as early as 1953. By 1964 the current residential trailer home community was constructed. The south and southwestern approximately two-thirds of the APE was disturbed between 1971 and 1978 by grading in support of current commercial properties to the south. The APE took on its somewhat terraced configuration during this time (Nationwide Environmental Title Research LLC 2021).

RECON contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on June 9, 2021, requesting a search of their Sacred Lands File to identify spiritually significant and/or sacred sites or traditional use areas, and to provide a list of local Native American tribes, bands, or individuals who may have concerns about the proposed project (Attachment 1). As of the writing of this report, no response from the NAHC has been received.

RECON archaeologist Nathaniel Yerka accompanied by Alyssa Soto from Red Tail Environmental conducted the pedestrian survey of the 2.05-acre APE on June 9, 2021. The primary goal of this survey was to determine if there are previously unrecorded cultural resources present, and if so, document the resources' locations and what they consist of. The project area was inspected for evidence of archaeological materials such as flaked and ground stone tools or fragments, ceramics, milling features, and human remains. Photographs and field notes were taken to document the environmental setting and general conditions.

RESULTS

No cultural resources were noted within the APE. The project area was surveyed under partly cloudy skies and warm temperatures. The project area was recently grubbed of vegetation resulting in excellent ground visibility. Several small boulders were noted near the southeast corner; none showed evidence of milling (Photograph 1). A brow ditch is installed along the southern boundary and flows downslope to the northwest (Photograph 2). Also along the southern boundary is a manufactured north-northeast-facing slope providing subjacent support to the graded property adjacent to the south (Photograph 3). Downslope from the southeast corner is the first of two terraces. This terrace presents a manufactured slope that faces northwest, curves to the north, and wraps back into the natural slope close to the eastern boundary where it faces northeast (Photograph 4). There is a rough alignment of secondarily placed boulders, cobbles, and other discarded construction debris along the edge of this first terrace (Photograph 5). A possible road cut originates near the western corner of the APE and runs to the northeast which creates the second terrace (Photograph 6). Along the northwestern project area boundary is a shallow manufactured slope adjacent to the residential trailer home community. These two manufactured northwest-facing slopes roughly make up the area that was utilized for ground-to-air signage associated with the former La Mesa Airport.

Existing conditions indicate that the entire APE has been disturbed in the past by grading for the former airport and adjacent commercial, as well as by vegetation grubbing. The potential for intact buried cultural resources is considered low. The project would not have a significant impact on cultural resources. No further cultural resources work is recommended for the proposed project.

Mr. Scott Murray
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Thank you for the opportunity to work on this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 619-308-9333 extension 192 or Carmen Zepeda-Herman at extension 133.

Sincerely,



Carmen Zepeda-Herman, M.A.
County-Approved Archaeologist



Nathaniel Yerka
Project Archaeologist

NDY:jg

cc: Dean Navarro, Greenlaw Partners
Tarek Shaer, Urbanest Group
Samuel Bellornio, Ware Malcomb
Niraj Patel, Ware Malcomb
Tam Nguyen, Ware Malcomb
Jennifer Euyogqui, Ware Malcomb
Cecile Felsher, NV5
Bryan Woods

Attachments

- 1: Figures
- 2: Photographs
- 3: Native American Heritage Commission Correspondence

Confidential Attachment (Under Separate Cover)

- 1: Records Search

REFERENCE CITED

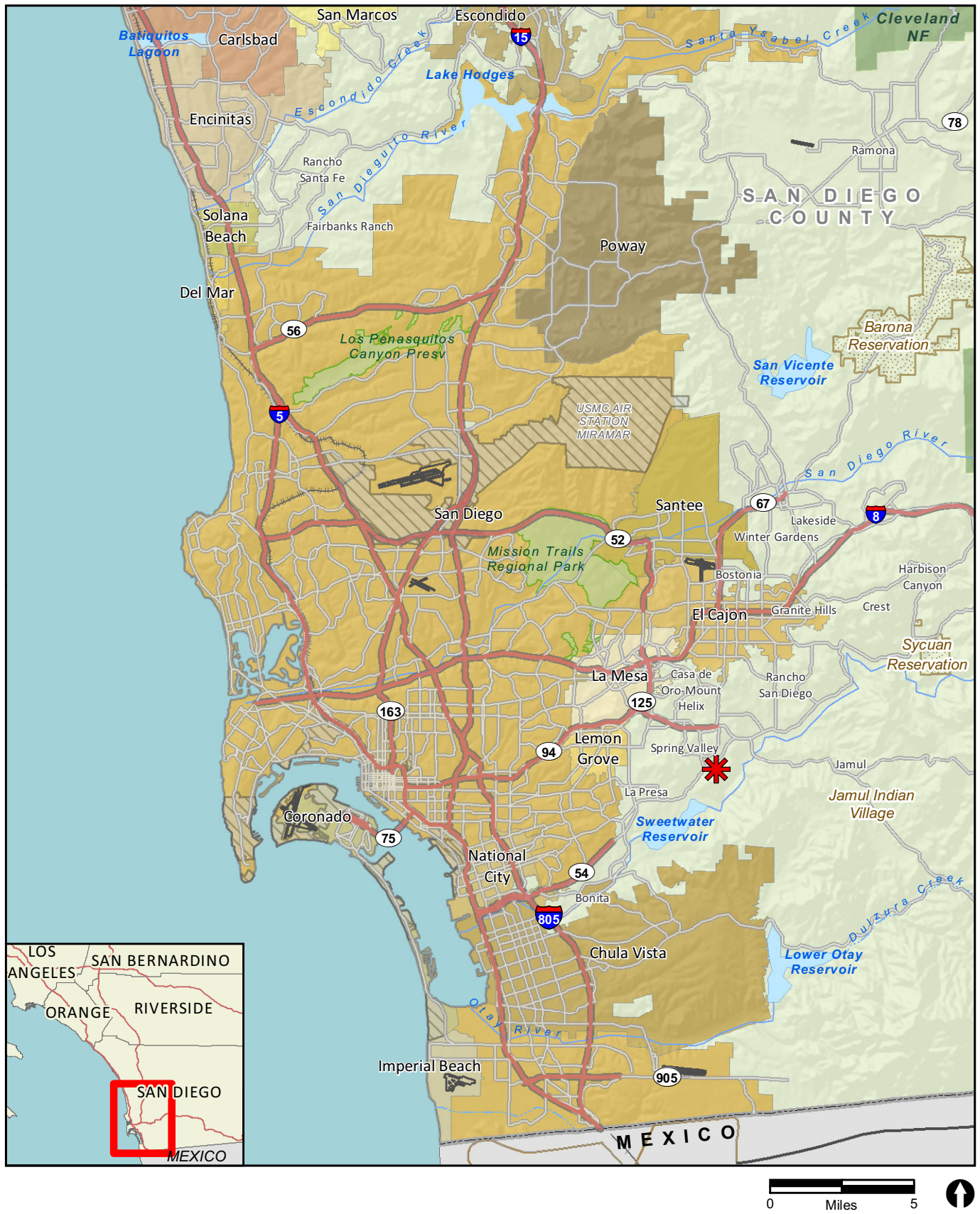
Nationwide Environmental Title Research LLC

2021 Historic Aerials. <http://www.historicaerials.com/>. Accessed June 15, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

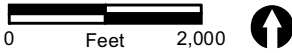
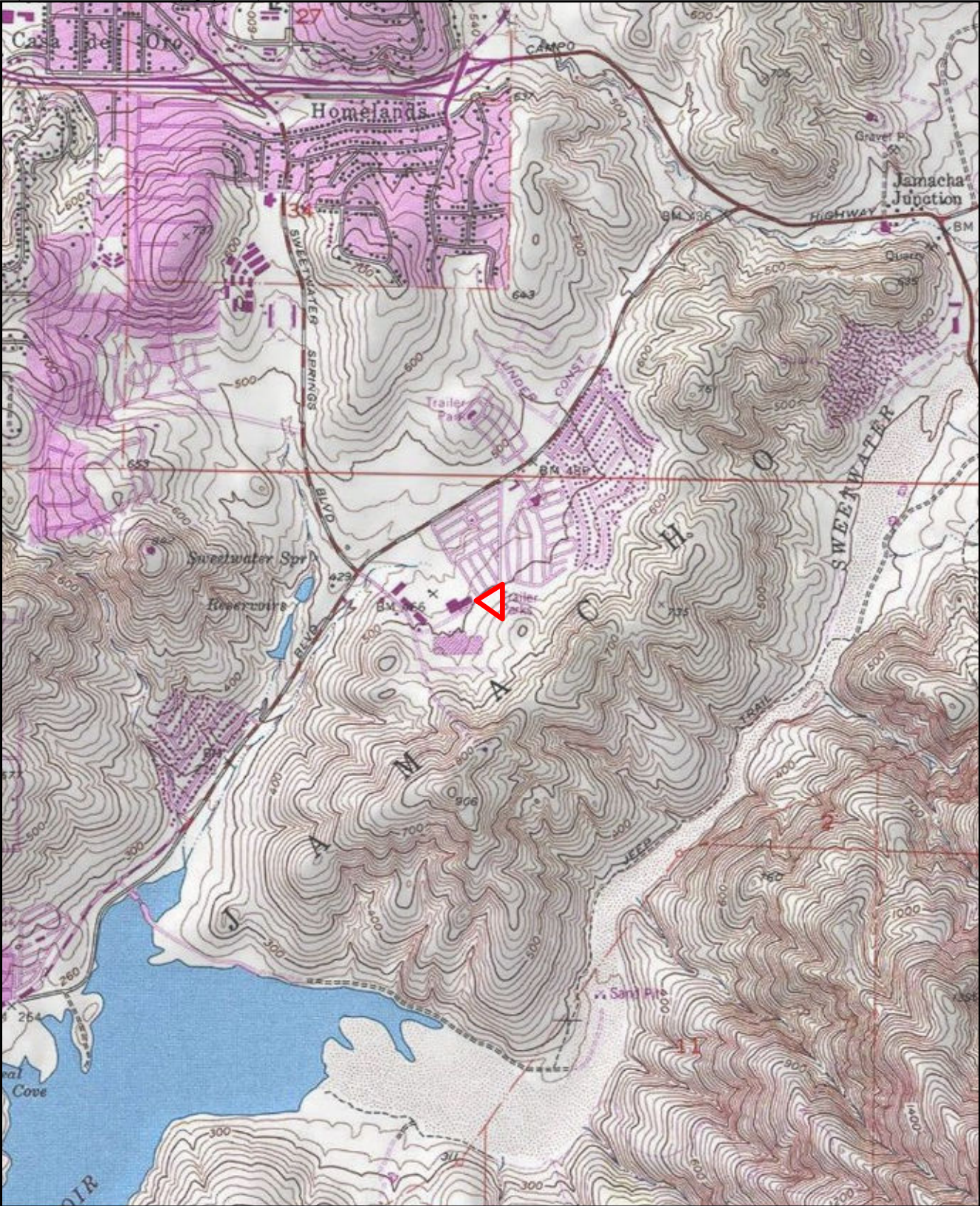
ATTACHMENT 1

Figures



 Project Location

FIGURE 1
Regional Location



 Project Boundary

FIGURE 2
Project Location on USGS Map



0 Feet 300



 Project Boundary

ATTACHMENT 2

Photographs



PHOTOGRAPH 1
Boulders Near Southeast Corner of APE, Looking North



PHOTOGRAPH 2
Brow Ditch Along Southern Boundary, Looking West-Northwest



PHOTOGRAPH 3
North-Northeast-Facing Manufactured Slope, Looking East-Southeast



PHOTOGRAPH 4
Overview of First Terrace with Manufactured Slope,
Looking South-Southwest from Northern Corner of APE



PHOTOGRAPH 5
Alignment of Secondary Placed Material, Looking North-Northeast



PHOTOGRAPH 6
Second Terrace Between Manufactured Slopes, Looking North-Northeast

ATTACHMENT 3

Native American Heritage Commission Correspondence

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 Capitol Mall, RM 364

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 653-4082

(916) 657-5390 – Fax

nahc@pacbell.net

Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search

Project: 2500 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley (RECON-9931)

County: San Diego County

USGS Quadrangle

Name: Jamul Mountain, 1994

Township: Click here to enter text. **Range:** Click here to enter text. **Section(s):** Jamacho Land Grant

Contact Information

Company/Firm/Agency: RECON Environmental, Inc.

Contact: Carmen Zepeda-Herman

Street Address: 3111 Camino del Rio N Suite 600

City: San Diego

ZIP:92108

Phone: 619-308-9333

Fax: Click here to enter text.

Email: czepeda@reconenvironmental.com

Project Description:

The proposed project entails the re-grading of several areas within an existing golf course for drainage purposes. The subject property is a triangular shaped parcel located behind the industrial building located at 2500 Sweetwater Springs Blvd, Spring Valley, California, consisting of approximately 2 acres of vacant land. The property requires grading and surfacing of the lot for proposed automotive and equipment fleet storage use; parking of approximately 62 delivery vans. No structures will be constructed and no building signage will be required.

CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT 1

(Not for Public Review)