

Appendix C

Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report

HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

CONNECT COACHELLA PROJECT

**City of Coachella
Riverside County, California**

For Submittal to:

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November 26, 2023
CRM TECH Project No. 4031A
City of Coachella Project No. ST-138

Title: Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Connect Coachella Project, City of Coachella, Riverside County, California

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Project Size: Seven linear miles

USGS Quadrangle: Indio, Calif., 7.5’ quadrangle (Sections 30-32, T5S R8E, and Sections 5, 7-10, and 15-18, T6S R8E, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian)

Keywords: Coachella Valley region, western Colorado Desert; Phase I historical/archaeological resource survey; no “historical resources” impacted under CEQA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between July and November 2023, at the request of Terra Nova Planning and Research, Inc., CRM TECH performed a cultural resources survey for the proposed Connect Coachella Project in the City of Coachella, which seeks to establish Class I and Class II bicycle lanes along segments of Avenue 48, Grapefruit Boulevard, and Avenue 54. The project alignments lie within the existing right-of-way of Avenue 48 from Dillon Road to Grapefruit Boulevard, the Grapefruit Boulevard right-of-way from Avenue 48 to Leoco Lane and from 9th Street to Avenue 54, and the Avenue 54 right-of-way from Jackson Street to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. Measuring approximately seven linear miles in total length, the project route extends across portions of Sections 30-32 of T5S R8E and Sections 5, 7-10, and 15-18 of T6S R8E, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian.

The study is part of the environmental review process for the project. The City of Coachella, as the project proponent and the lead agency, required the study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the study is to provide the City with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the project would cause substantial adverse changes to any “historical resources,” as defined by CEQA, that may exist in or around the project area. In order to identify such resources, CRM TECH conducted a historical/ archaeological resources records search, contacted pertinent Native American representatives, pursued historical background research, and carried out a systematic field survey.

The results of these research procedures indicate that portions of two linear features of historical origin that were previously recorded into the California Historical Resources Inventory, namely Avenue 48 (Site 33-028164) and the former Southern Pacific Railroad (Site 33-009498; now the Union Pacific Railroad), are located within the project area, but neither of them meets the definition of a “historical resource” under CEQA provisions. Meanwhile, all of the other major roadways that coincide with or cross the project route, including Grapefruit Boulevard and Avenue 54, also trace their origins to the historic period. However, as working components of the modern transportation infrastructure that have been subject to repeated upgrading and constant maintenance, these roads do not demonstrate sufficient historical character to be considered potential “historical resources.” Therefore, they require no further study or formal recordation into the inventory.

No other potential “historical resources” of prehistoric or historical origin were identified in the project area during the course of the study. The State of California Native American Heritage Commission stated that the Sacred Lands File maintained by the commission indicated the presence of unspecified Native American cultural resource(s) in the general vicinity of the project location and referred further inquiry to the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. The tribe was contacted during this study, along with the nearby Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, but none of them provided any information pertaining to potential Native American cultural resources in the project vicinity. According to CEQA guidelines, the identification of potential “tribal cultural resources” is beyond the scope of this study and needs to be addressed through government-to-government consultations between the City of Coachella and the pertinent Native American groups pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52.

Based on these findings, CRM TECH recommends to the City of Coachella a tentative conclusion of *No Impact* on cultural resources, pending completion of the AB 52 consultation process. No additional cultural resources investigation is recommended for the project unless project plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study. However, if buried cultural materials are encountered during any earth moving operations associated with the project, all work within 50 feet of the discovery should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

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INTRODUCTION

Between July and November 2023, at the request of Terra Nova Planning and Research, Inc., CRM TECH performed a cultural resources survey for the proposed Connect Coachella Project in the City of Coachella, which seeks to establish Class I and Class II bicycle lanes along segments of Avenue 48, Grapefruit Boulevard, and Avenue 54 (Figs. 1-3). The project alignments lie within the existing right-of-way of Avenue 48 from Dillon Road to Grapefruit Boulevard, the Grapefruit Boulevard right-of-way from Avenue 48 to Leoco Lane and from 9th Street to Avenue 54, and the Avenue 54 right-of-way from Jackson Street to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (Figs. 2a, 2b, 3). Measuring approximately seven linear miles in total length, the project route extends across portions of Sections 30-32 of T5S R8E and Sections 5, 7-10, and 15-18 of T6S R8E, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (Figs. 2a, 2b).

The study is part of the environmental review process for the project. The City of Coachella, as the project proponent and the lead agency, required the study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; PRC §21000, et seq.). The purpose of the study is to provide the City with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the project would cause substantial adverse changes to any “historical resources,” as defined by CEQA, that may exist in or around the project area.

In order to identify such resources, CRM TECH conducted a historical/ archaeological resources records search, contacted pertinent Native American representatives, pursued historical background research, and carried out a systematic field survey. The following report is a complete account of the methods, results, and conclusion of the study. Personnel who participated in the study are named in the appropriate sections below, and their qualifications are provided in Appendix 1.

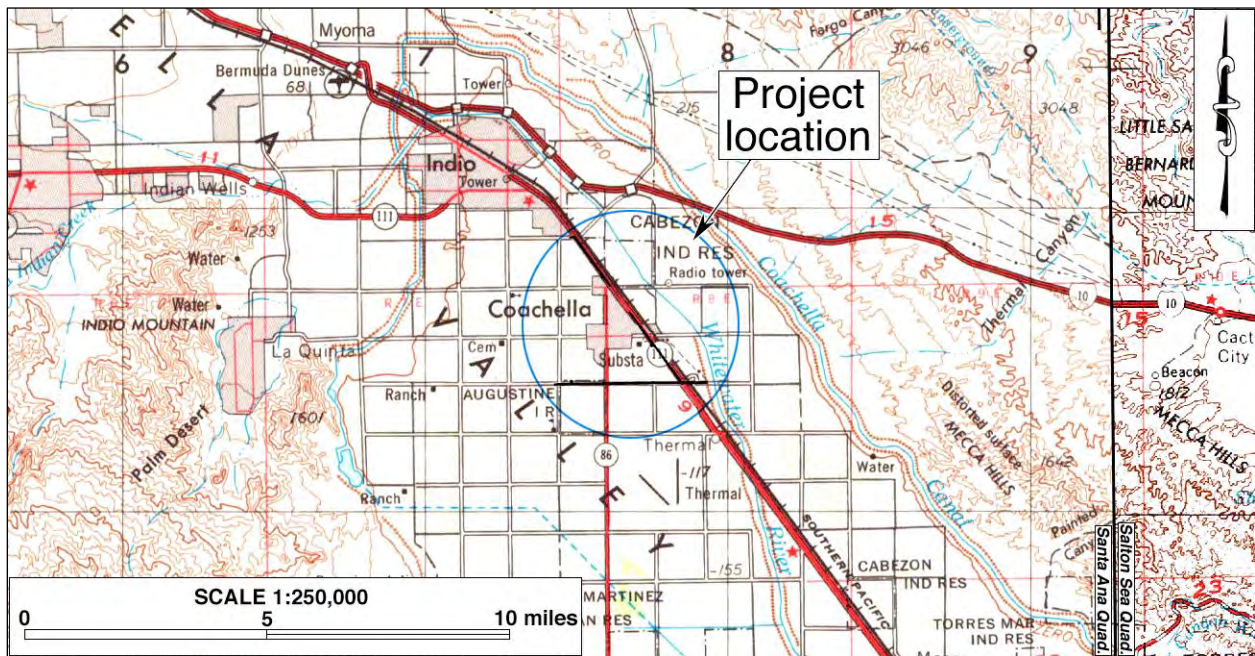


Figure 1. Project vicinity. (Based on USGS Salton Sea, Calif.-Ariz., and Santa Ana, Calif., 120'x60' quadrangles [USGS 1969; 1979])

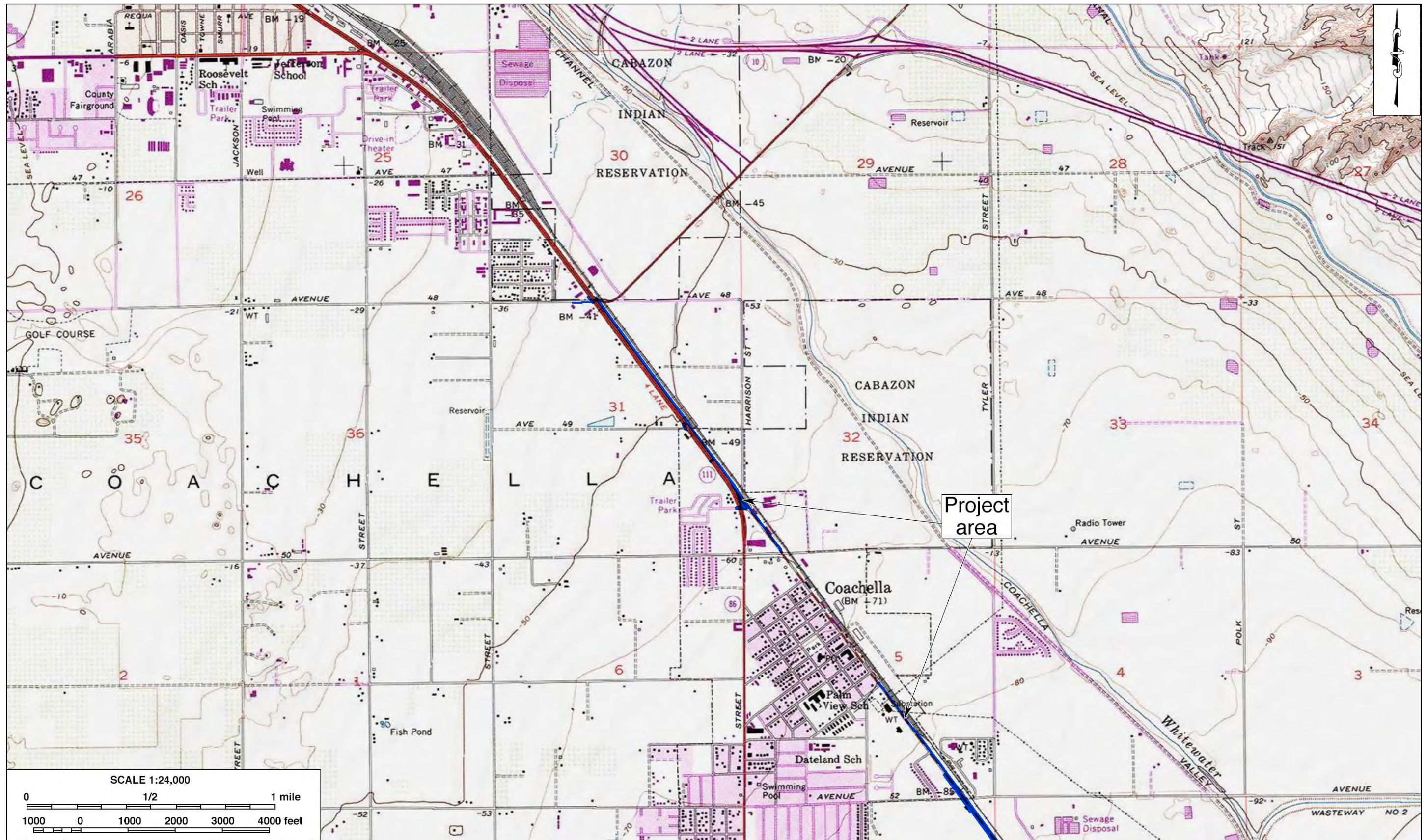


Figure 2a. Northern portion of the project area. (Based on USGS Indio, Calif., 7.5' quadrangle [USGS 1972a])

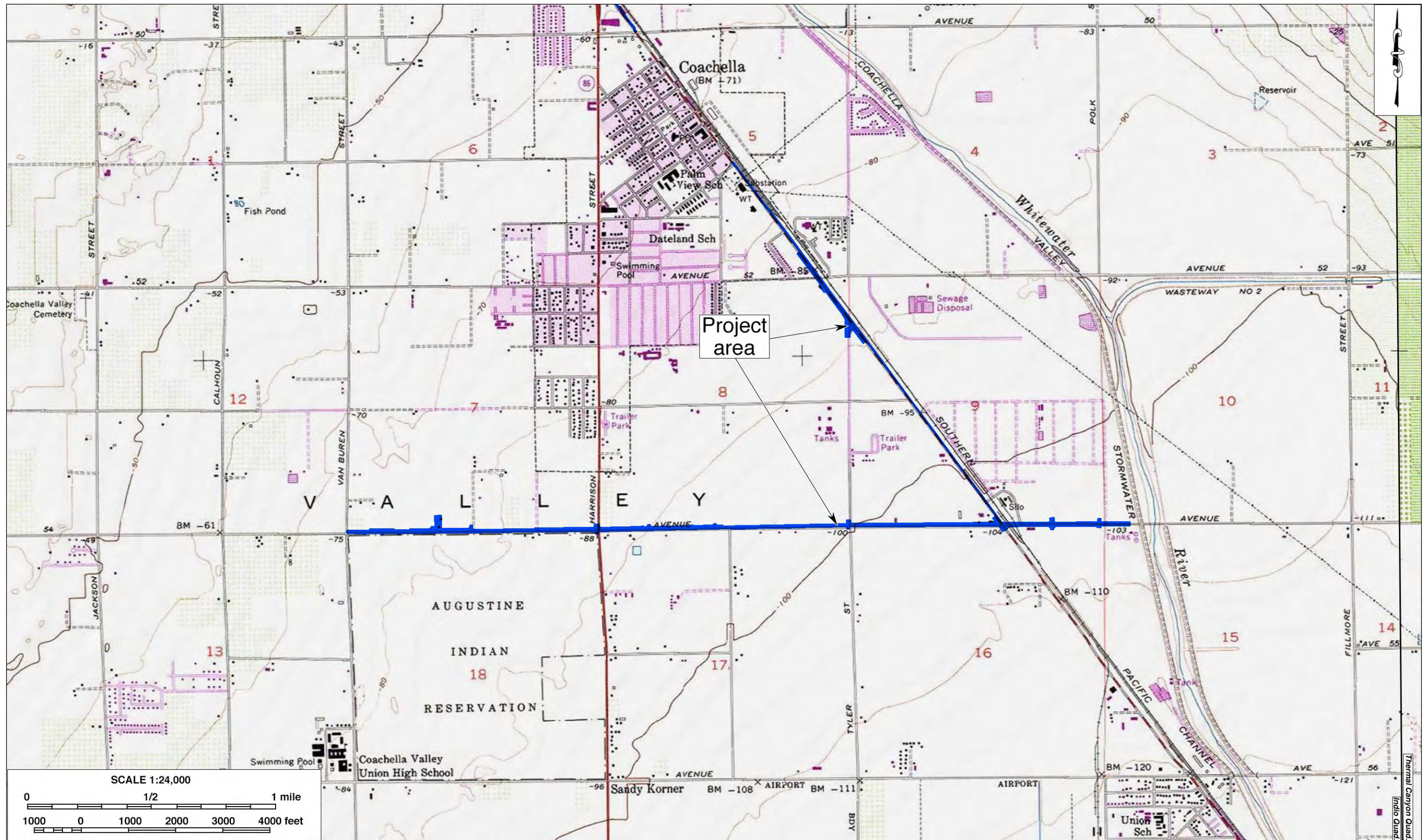


Figure 2b. Southern portion of the project area. (Based on USGS Indio and Thermal Canyon, Calif., 7.5' quadrangles [USGS 1972a; 1972b])

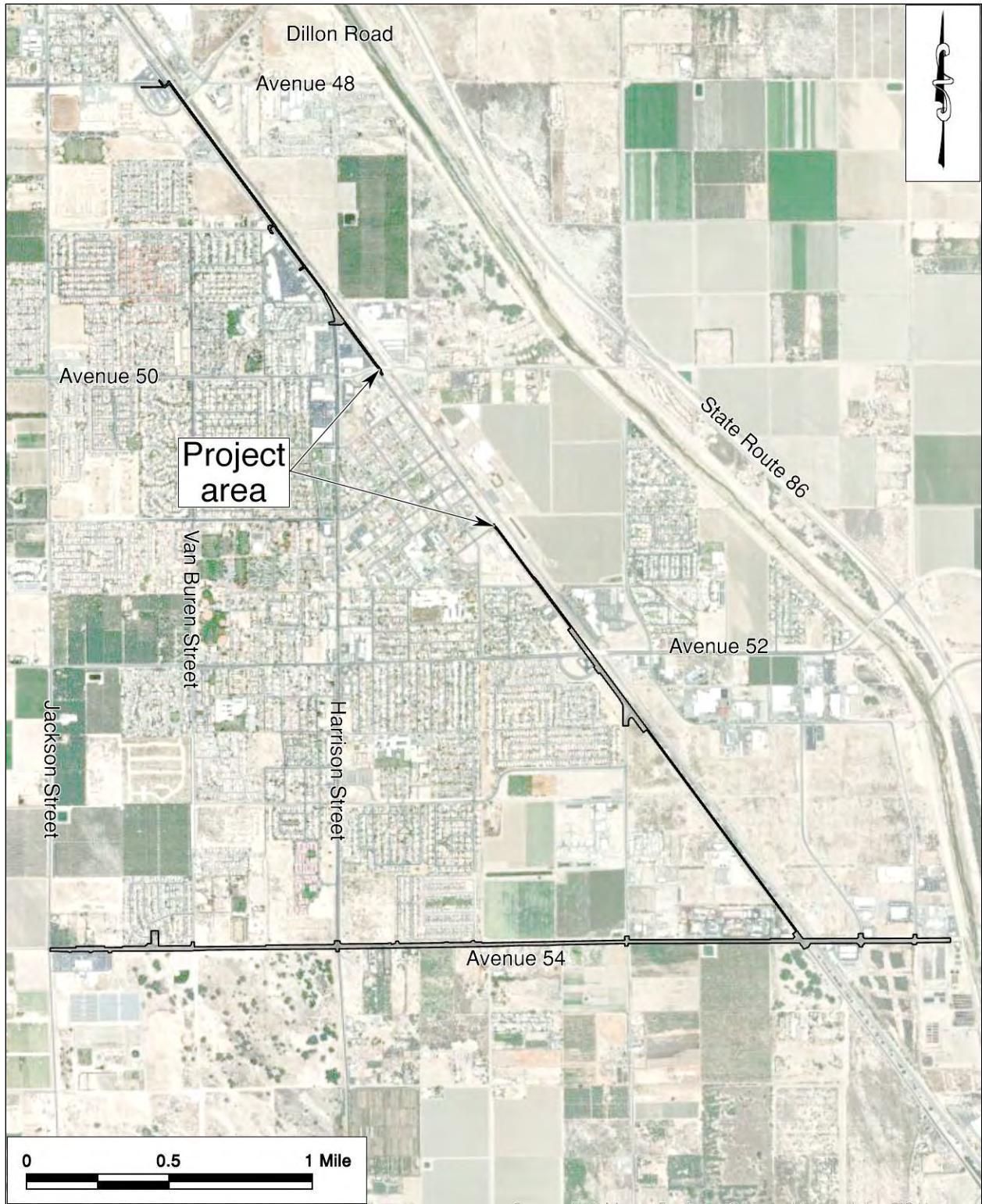


Figure 3. Recent satellite image of the project area. (Based on Google Earth imagery)

SETTING

CURRENT NATURAL SETTING

The City of Coachella is located in the Coachella Valley, a northwest-southeast trending desert valley that constitutes the western end of the Colorado Desert. Dictated by this geographic setting, the climate and environment of the region are typical of southern California's desert country, marked by extremes in temperature and aridity. Temperatures in the region reach over 120 degrees in summer, and dip to freezing in winter. Average annual precipitation is less than five inches, and the average annual evaporation rate exceeds three feet.

The project alignments extend across relatively level terrain on the valley floor, with a slight incline in elevation towards the north. Confined within the rights-of-way of three major roadways in the City of Coachella, the surface soils in the project area have been extensively disturbed in the past by road construction and maintenance as well as underground utility work. The project route along Grapefruit Boulevard is flanked by the Union Pacific Railroad on the east and mostly by commercial properties on the west. Elsewhere along the project route, the surrounding land features mainly residential properties and agricultural fields, along with some parcels of vacant desert land.

In its native state, vegetation common to the vicinity would be consistent with the Creosote Bush Scrub Plant Community, featuring creosote bush, prickly pear cactus, cholla, brittlebush, and globemallow. At the present time, however, very little vegetation remains within the project boundaries, while the surrounding land hosts various growths of agricultural crops, landscaping plants, rabbitbrush, tumbleweed, and other small desert shrubs and grasses (Fig. 4). Elevations



Figure 4. Typical landscape in the project area, view to the northwest along Grapefruit Boulevard. (Photograph taken on August 25, 2023)

along the project route range roughly between 110 feet and 40 feet below mean sea level. The surface soils are composed mainly of pale brown loam, light brownish gray very fine sandy loam, and light olive gray fine sand.

In past centuries, Native lifeways in the Coachella Valley were greatly influenced by the lacustral intervals—i.e., inundation and subsequent desiccation—of Holocene Lake Cahuilla, an ancient freshwater lake that repeatedly filled the Salton Basin over a period of at least 2,300 years before the 1730s A.D. (Rockwell et al. 2022). The shoreline of the lake during its last high stand around 1731-1733 coincided roughly with the present-day 42-foot contour (*ibid.*; Wilke 1978; Waters 1983). At its current range of elevations, the project area would have been submerged entirely by Lake Cahuilla prior to its final desiccation.

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Context

Numerous investigations on the history of cultural development in southern California have led researchers to propose a number of cultural chronologies for the desert regions. A specific cultural sequence for the Colorado Desert was offered by Schaefer (1994) on the basis of the many archaeological studies conducted in the area. The earliest time period identified is the Paleoindian (ca. 8,000 to 10,000-12,000 years ago), when “small, mobile bands” of hunters and gatherers, who relied on a variety of small and large game animals as well as wild plants for subsistence, roamed the region (*ibid.*:63). These small groups settled “on mesas and terraces overlooking larger washes” (*ibid.*:64). The artifact assemblage of that period typically consists of very simple stone tools, “cleared circles, rock rings, [and] some geoglyph types” (*ibid.*).

The Early Archaic Period follows and dates to ca. 8,000 to 4,000 years ago. It appears that a decrease in population density occurred at this time and that the indigenous groups of the area relied more on foraging than hunting. Very few archaeological remains have been identified to this time period. The ensuing Late Archaic Period (ca. 4,000 to 1,500 years ago) is characterized by continued low population densities and groups of “flexible” sizes that settled near available seasonal food resources and relied on “opportunistic” hunting of game animals. Groundstone artifacts for food processing were prominent during this time period.

The most recent period in Schaefer’s scheme, the Late Prehistoric, dates from ca. 1,500 years ago to the time of the Spanish missions and saw the continuation of the seasonal settlement pattern. Peoples of the Late Prehistoric Period were associated with the Patayan cultural pattern and relied more heavily on the availability of seasonal “wild plants and animal resources” (Schaefer 1994:66). It was during this period that brown and buff ware ceramics were introduced into the region.

The shores of Holocene Lake Cahuilla, during times of its presence, attracted much settlement and resource procurement activities. In times of the lake’s desiccation and absence, according to Schaefer (1994:66), the Native people moved away from its receding shores towards rivers, streams, and mountains. Numerous archaeological sites dating to the last high stand of Holocene Lake Cahuilla, roughly between 900 and 1700 A.D., have been identified along its former shoreline. Testing and mitigative excavations at these sites have recovered brown and buff ware ceramics, a variety of groundstone and projectile point types, ornaments, and cremation remains.

Ethnohistoric Context

The Coachella Valley is a historical center of Native American settlement, where U.S. surveyors noted large numbers of Indian villages and *rancherías*, occupied by the Cahuilla people, in the mid-19th century. The Takic-speaking Cahuilla are generally divided by anthropologists into three groups, according to their geographic setting: the Pass Cahuilla of the San Gorgonio Pass-Palm Springs area, the Mountain Cahuilla of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains and the Cahuilla Valley, and the Desert Cahuilla of the eastern Coachella Valley. The basic written sources on Cahuilla culture and history include Kroeber (1925), Strong (1929), and Bean (1978). The following ethnohistoric discussion is based primarily on these sources.

The Cahuilla did not have a single name that referred to an all-inclusive tribal affiliation. Instead, membership was in terms of lineages or clans. Each lineage or clan belonged to one of two main divisions of the people, known as moieties. Members of clans in one moiety had to marry into clans from the other moiety. Individual clans had villages, or central places, and territories they called their own, for purposes of hunting game, gathering food, or utilizing other necessary resources. They interacted with other clans through trade, intermarriage, and ceremonies.

The Cahuilla were primarily hunters and gatherers who exploited nearly all of the resources available in a highly developed seasonal mobility system. They collected roots, fruits, and seeds, including acorns and mesquite beans, and hunted deer, antelope, big horn sheep, rabbits, wood rats and, when Holocene Lake Cahuilla was present, fish and waterfowls with throwing sticks, clubs, nets, traps, snares, as well as bows and arrow (Bean 1978). Common tools and utensils included manos and metates, mortars and pestles, hammerstones, fire drills, awls, arrow-straighteners, and stone knives and scrapers. These lithic tools were made from locally available material as well as exotic material procured through trade or travel. They also used wood, horn, and bone spoons and stirrers; baskets for winnowing, leaching, grinding, transporting, parching, storing, and cooking; and pottery vessels for carrying water, storage, cooking, and serving food and drink (*ibid.*).

Population data prior to European contact is almost impossible to obtain, but estimates range from 3,600 to as high as 10,000 persons. During the 19th century, however, the Cahuilla population was decimated as a result of European diseases, most notably smallpox, for which Native people had no immunity. Today, Native Americans of Pass or Desert Cahuilla heritage are mostly affiliated with one or more of the Indian reservations in and near the Coachella Valley, including Cabazon, Torres Martinez, Augustine, Agua Caliente, and Morongo.

Historic Context

In 1823-1825, José Romero, José Maria Estudillo, and Romualdo Pacheco became the first noted European explorers to travel through the Coachella Valley when they led a series of expeditions in search of a route to Yuma (Johnston 1987:92-95). Due to its harsh environment, few non-Indians ventured into the desert valley during the Mexican and early American periods, except those who traveled along the established trails. The most important of these trails was the Cocomaricopa Trail, an ancient Indian trading route that was “discovered” in 1862 by William David Bradshaw and known after that as the Bradshaw Trail (Gunther 1984:71; Ross 1992:25). In much of the Coachella Valley, this historic wagon road traversed a similar course to that of present-day State Route 111.

During the 1860s-1870s, the Bradshaw Trail served as the main thoroughfare between coastal southern California and the Colorado River, until the completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1876-1877 brought an end to its heyday (Johnston 1987:185).

Non-Indian settlement in the Coachella Valley began in the 1870s with the establishment of railroad stations along the Southern Pacific Railroad, and spread further in the 1880s after public land was opened for claims under the Homestead Act, the Desert Land Act, and other federal land laws (Laflin 1998:35-36; Robinson 1948:169-171). Farming became the dominant economic activity in the valley thanks to the development of underground water sources, often in the form of artesian wells. Around the turn of the century, the date palm was introduced into the Coachella Valley, and by the late 1910s dates were the main agricultural crop and the tree an iconic image celebrating the region as the “Arabia of America” (Shields Date Gardens 1957). Then, starting in the 1920s, a new industry featuring equestrian camps, resorts, hotels, and eventually country clubs began to spread throughout the Coachella Valley, transforming it into southern California’s premier winter retreat.

The City of Coachella traces its roots to a siding on the Southern Pacific Railroad, known originally as Woodspur. In 1901-1902, a townsite was developed around the siding, and a new name for the locale, Coachella, was coined from Coahuilla and Conchilla, two names that had been used alternatively for the Coachella Valley (Gunther 1984:121-122). The Coachella post office was established in late 1901, and the plat of the townsite was filed by the Coachella Land and Water Company the next year. The town was incorporated in 1946 as the 12th city in Riverside County, and since then has grown into a city of more than 29 square miles and an estimated population of more than 41,000 (City of Coachella n.d.).

RESEARCH METHODS

RECORDS SEARCH

On July 21 and August 7, 2023, CRM TECH archaeologist Nina Gallardo completed the records search at the Eastern Information Center (EIC), University of California, Riverside, which is the designated repository for Riverside County in the California Historical Resources Information System. During the records search, Gallardo examined maps and records on file at the EIC for previously identified cultural resources and existing cultural resources reports within a one-mile radius of the project location. Previously identified cultural resources include properties designated as California Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, or Riverside County Landmarks, as well as those listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or the California Historical Resources Inventory.

NATIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION

On July 3, 2023, CRM TECH submitted a written request to the State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a records search in the commission’s Sacred Lands File. In the meantime, CRM TECH contacted the three nearest Native American groups, namely the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, for additional information on potential Native American cultural resources in the

project vicinity and to arrange for tribal participation in the upcoming archaeological field survey. The responses from the NAHC and the tribal organizations are summarized below and attached to this report in Appendix 2.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Historical background research for this study was conducted by CRM TECH archaeologist Breidy Q. Vilcahuaman. Sources consulted during the research included published literature in local and regional history, U.S. General Land Office (GLO) land survey plat maps dated 1856, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps dated 1904-1979, and aerial/satellite photographs taken between 1996 and 2023. The historical maps are accessible at the websites of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the USGS, and the aerial/satellite photographs are available at the Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Online website and through the Google Earth software.

FIELD SURVEY

On August 25, 2023, CRM TECH field director Daniel Ballester carried out the field survey of the project area with the assistance of archaeological technician Paul Morales from the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. Most of the survey was conducted at an intensive level by walking along the side of the roadway where the proposed bicycle lane will be placed and closely inspecting the ground surface for any indication of potential cultural resources. In the portion of the project area along Avenue 54 and to the west of Grapefruit Boulevard, it was unclear at the time of the survey which side of the roadway the bicycle lane will be placed. Parts of that area were surveyed at a reconnaissance level from a slow-moving vehicle to facilitate efficient inspection of both sides of the street, while the other parts were surveyed on foot.

Using these methods, the entire project area was systematically examined for evidence of human activities dating to the prehistoric or historic period (i.e., 50 years or older). Other than the portions under road pavement, visibility of the native ground surface was excellent throughout the project area due to the sparsity of vegetation growth. In light of the extent of past ground disturbances along these major public roadways, the survey methods and ground visibility were deemed sufficient for the purpose of this study.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

RECORDS SEARCH

Records of the EIC identified more than 140 previous cultural resources studies within the one-mile scope of the records search. Together, these studies covered almost all of the land within the scope. At least ten studies completed between 1979 and 2018 included various portions of the current project area, but none of them constituted a systematic survey of the project area in its entirety. As a result of the past survey efforts, nearly 150 cultural resources were recorded within the one-mile radius, including 51 prehistoric (i.e., Native American) sites, 66 historic-period sites, and 32 isolates (i.e., localities with fewer than three artifacts).

The prehistoric cultural resources within the records search scope, both sites and isolates, typically consisted of scattered flaked-stone, groundstone, ceramic, and/or faunal artifacts, some of them considered to be habitation debris, but also included cremation remains and a historic-period Native American cemetery. The historic-period cultural resources were mostly residences and buildings of other types, along with structural remains, infrastructure elements such as roads, irrigation and flood-control features such as the Coachella Canal and the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, and scattered refuse items.

Among these known cultural resources, two linear features of historical origin, designated Sites 33-009498 (CA-RIV-6381H) and 33-028164 in the California Historical Resources Inventory, were recorded as lying partially within the project area. Site 33-009498 represents the entire length of the former Southern Pacific (now Union Pacific) Railroad in Riverside County, which was constructed in 1876-1877 as a part of the Southern Pacific mainline between Los Angeles and Yuma, Arizona (see App. 3). In 2005, a segment of the rail line near the current project location was evaluated under the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, and that segment was found not to meet any of the criteria, nor to retain sufficient historic integrity or to contribute to the potential significance of the Southern Pacific Railroad system as a whole (see App. 3).

Site 33-028164 was recorded in 2017 as a half-mile segment of Avenue 48, which encompassed the segment in the project area. Although known to have been present at this location at least by the early 1940s, the recorded segment of Avenue 48 was described as being “modern in appearance” in 2017 due to alterations in recent years (see App. 3). The segment was evaluated under the criteria of the California Register of Historical Resources at the time and was found not to be eligible or to retain sufficient historic integrity (see App. 3). Except for Sites 33-009498 and 33-028164, none of the other known cultural resources has any potential to be impacted by the proposed project. Therefore, they require no further consideration during this study.

NATIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION

In response to CRM TECH’s inquiry, the NAHC stated that the Sacred Lands File identified unspecified Native American cultural resource(s) in the project vicinity and referred further inquiry on such resources to the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. In addition, the NAHC recommended that other local Native American representatives be contacted for pertinent information as well and provided a referral list of 20 individuals associated with 12 tribal organizations. The NAHC’s reply is attached to this report in Appendix 2 for reference by the City of Coachella in future government-to-government consultations with the local Native American groups, if necessary.

As mentioned above, CRM TECH contacted the three nearest Native American groups during this study, including the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. Among the three tribes, the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians participated in the field survey but did not offer any information or comments. On August 8, 2023, Heather Haines, Tribal Operations Manager for the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, replied by electronic mail, stating that the tribe would not be able to participate in the field survey and did not have any concerns or questions regarding the proposed project (see App. 2). To date, the Cabazon Band has not responded to the inquiry.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Historical sources consulted for this study confirmed the prevalence of Native American activities in the Coachella area during the mid-1850s, when a number of settlements and related features, such as wells and a trail along the Whitewater River (now the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel), were observed in the project vicinity (Fig. 5). None of these features, however, was located in the project area, although two *rancherías* were found in close proximity (Fig. 5). In 1901, shortly before the Coachella townsite was developed, the Southern Pacific Railroad and an accompanying web of winding roads were the only human-made features known to be located within or partially within the project boundaries (Fig. 6).

By the early 1940s, the town of Coachella had largely taken shape, surrounded by a regular grid of roads, including Avenue 48 and a segment of Avenue 54 (Fig. 7). Also noted in the project area at that time was present-day Grapefruit Boulevard, then a part of U.S. Highway 99 and State Route 111, which ran diagonally across the grid (Fig. 7). During the ensuing decade, Avenue 54 was completed through the project area as a paved road (Fig. 8; NETR Online 1953). Since then, the project area has remained an integral part of these local and regional thoroughfares to the present time (NETR Online 1953-2020; Google Earth 1996-2023).

Over the years, various improvements to the roadways were evident in the aerial and satellite images, such as raised medians, curbs, and sidewalks (NETR Online 1953-2020; Google Earth 1996-2023). Most notably, the intersection of Grapefruit Boulevard, Avenue 48, and Dillon Road was reconfigured in 2006-2009, and the segment of Avenue 48 was rebuilt during that project, with a median later added in 2018-2019 (Google Earth 2006-2019). The aerial and satellite images, thus, confirm the 2017 observation that that segment of Avenue 48 was essentially a modern feature (see App. 3).

FIELD SURVEY

The field survey did not encounter any buildings, structures, archaeological deposits, or other notable features of prehistoric or historical origin in the project area. The three public roadways containing the project alignments, the Union Pacific Railroad, and a number of other roads that cross the project route were found to be the only features more than 50 years of age that extend into the project boundaries. As with numerous other historical infrastructure elements that remain in service today, the current configuration and appearance of these features reflect the results of improvements and maintenance during the modern era, and none of them demonstrates any distinctively historical character.

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CEQA establishes that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a “historical resource” is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (PRC §21084.1). “Substantial adverse change,” according to PRC §5020.1(q), “means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of a historical resource would be impaired.” As defined by PRC §5020.1(j), “‘historical resource’ includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically

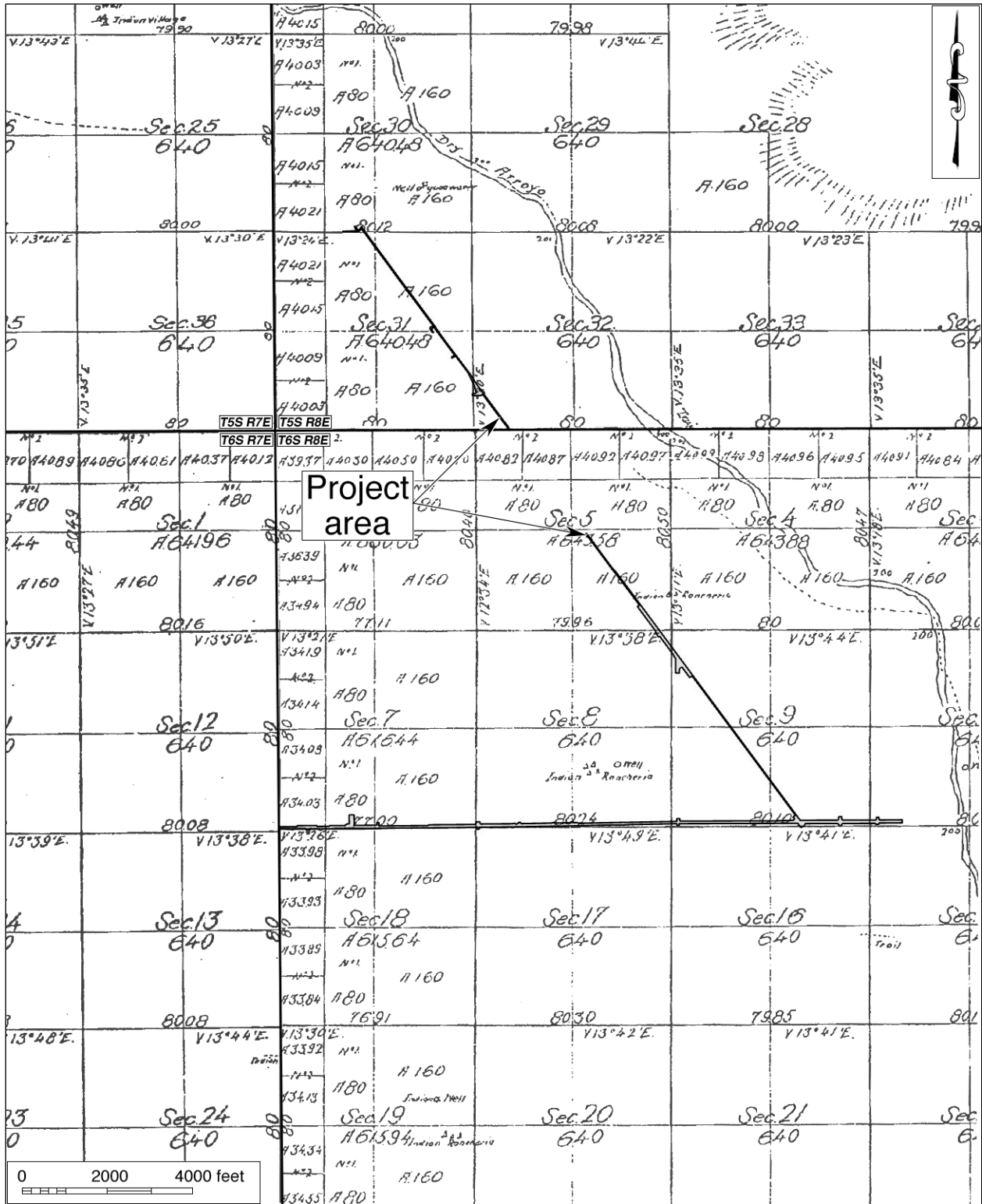


Figure 5. The project area and vicinity in 1853-1856. (Source: GLO 1856a-d)

significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.”

More specifically, CEQA guidelines state that the term “historical resources” applies to any such resources listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, included in a local register of historical resources, or determined to be historically significant by the lead agency (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(1)-(3)). Regarding the proper criteria for the evaluation of historical significance, CEQA guidelines mandate that “generally a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be ‘historically significant’ if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources” (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(3)). A resource may be listed in the California Register if it meets any of the following criteria:

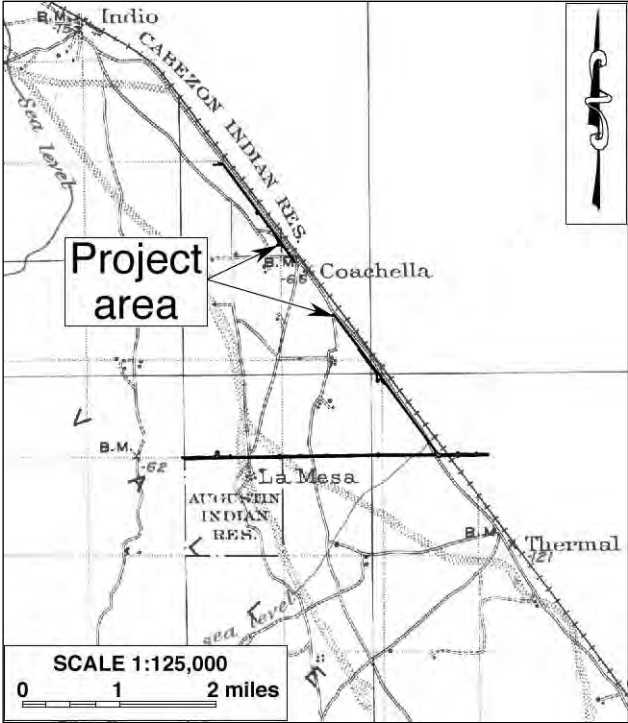


Figure 6. The project area and vicinity in 1901. (Source: USGS 1904)

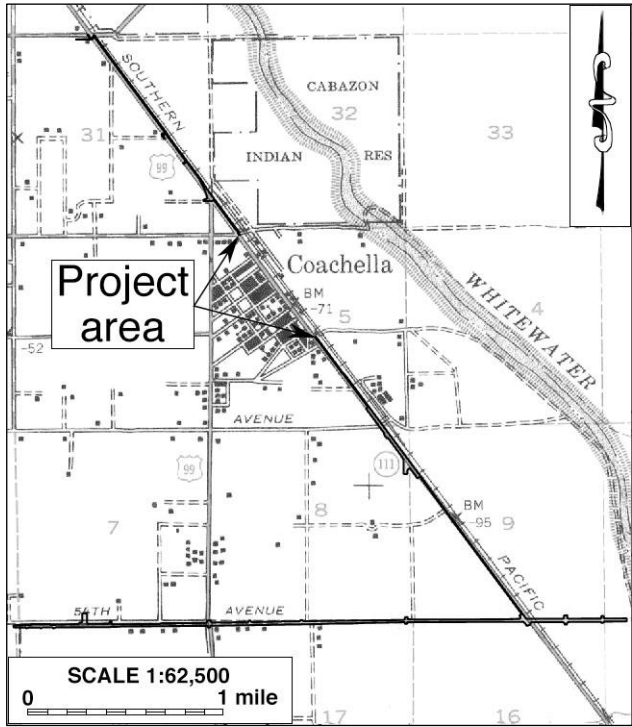


Figure 7. The project area and vicinity in 1941. (Source: USGS 1941)



Figure 8. The project area and vicinity in 1951-1958. (Source: USGS 1958)

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (PRC §5024.1(c))

In summary of the research results presented above, two previously recorded linear features of historical origin, Avenue 48 (Site 33-028164) and the former Southern Pacific Railroad (Site 33-009498), are located partially within the project area. These two cultural resources were previously evaluated under the criteria of the California Register in 2017 and 2005, respectively, and both were determined not to be eligible (see App. 3). As infrastructure features of standard design and construction that have been continuously altered to maintain functionality over their entire history, neither of them was found to be closely associated with any persons or events of recognized historic significance, to represent an important example of its property type, or to hold a high archaeological data potential, nor did they retain sufficient historic integrity to relate to their periods of origin (see App. 3).

While the 2005 evaluation of the former Southern Pacific Railroad pertained specifically to the segment across Dillon Road near the northern end of the current project area, it is equally applicable to the segment lying across the project route along Avenue 54. Throughout the various avenues of research, the present study has not uncovered any new information that would warrant a reconsideration of the previous conclusions on the historic significance of Avenue 48 and the former Southern Pacific Railroad. Therefore, this study concurs with the previous conclusions and finds Sites 33-009498 and 33-028164 not to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources and thus not to qualify as "historical resources" under CEQA provisions.

Meanwhile, all of the other major roadways that coincide with or cross the project route, including Grapefruit Boulevard and Avenue 54, also trace their origins to the historic period. However, as working components of the modern transportation infrastructure that have been subject to repeated upgrading and constant maintenance, these roads do not demonstrate sufficient historical character to be considered potential "historical resources." Therefore, they require no further study or formal recordation into the California Historical Resources Inventory.

No other potential "historical resources" of prehistoric or historical origin were identified in the project area during the course of the study. As stated above, the Sacred Lands File search by the NAHC indicated the presence of unspecified Native American cultural resource(s) in the general vicinity of the project location, and the commission referred further inquiry to the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. The tribe was contacted during this study, along with the nearby Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, but none of them provided any information pertaining to potential Native American cultural resources in the project vicinity. According to CEQA guidelines, the identification of potential "tribal cultural resources," as defined by PRC §21074, is beyond the scope of this study and needs to be addressed through government-to-government consultations between the City of Coachella and the pertinent Native American groups pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52.

Based on these findings, CRM TECH presents the following recommendations to the City of Coachella:

- A tentative conclusion of *No Impact* on known cultural resources appears to be appropriate for this project, pending the completion of the AB 52 consultation process to ensure the proper identification of potential “tribal cultural resources.”
- No additional cultural resources investigation is recommended for this project unless project plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study.
- If buried cultural materials are discovered during any earth-moving operations associated with the project, all work within 50 feet should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

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City of Coachella

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1856a Plat Map: Township No. 5 South Range No. 6 East, SBBM; surveyed in 1855-1856.

1856b Plat Map: Township No. 5 South Range No. 7 East, SBBM; surveyed in 1855-1856.

1856c Plat Map: Township No. 6 South Range No. 7 East, SBBM; surveyed in 1856.

1856d Plat Map: Township No. 6 South Range No. 8 East, SBBM; surveyed in 1856.

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1996-2023 Aerial photographs of the project vicinity; taken in 1996, 2002, 2004-2006, 2009, 2011-2019, and 2021-2023. Available through the Google Earth software.

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 1904 Map: Indio, Calif. (30', 1:125,000); surveyed in 1901.
 1941 Map: Coachella, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); aerial photographs taken in 1941.
 1956 Map: Coachella, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); aerial photographs taken in 1952-1953, field-checked in 1955-1956.
 1969 Map: Salton Sea, Calif.-Ariz. (120'x60', 1:250,000); 1959 edition revised.
 1972a Map: Indio, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); 1956 edition photorevised in 1972.
 1972b Map: Thermal Canyon, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); 1956 edition photorevised in 1972.
 1979 Map: Santa Ana, Calif. (120'x60', 1:250,000); 1959 edition revised.
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 1983 Late Holocene Lacustrine Chronology and Archaeology of Ancient Lake Cahuilla. *Quaternary Research* 19:373-387.
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 1978 *Late Prehistoric Human Ecology at Lake Cahuilla, Coachella Valley, California*. Contributions of the University of California Archaeological Research Facility 38. University of California, Berkeley.

**APPENDIX 1:
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS**

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, HISTORY/ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY
Bai “Tom” Tang, M.A.**

Education

- 1988-1993 Graduate Program in Public History/Historic Preservation, University of California, Riverside.
- 1987 M.A., American History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
- 1982 B.A., History, Northwestern University, Xi’an, China.
- 2000 “Introduction to Section 106 Review,” presented by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the University of Nevada, Reno.
- 1994 “Assessing the Significance of Historic Archaeological Sites,” presented by the Historic Preservation Program, University of Nevada, Reno.

Professional Experience

- 2002- Principal Investigator, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
- 1993-2002 Project Historian/Architectural Historian, CRM TECH, Riverside, California.
- 1993-1997 Project Historian, Greenwood and Associates, Pacific Palisades, California.
- 1991-1993 Project Historian, Archaeological Research Unit, University of California, Riverside.
- 1990 Intern Researcher, California State Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.
- 1990-1992 Teaching Assistant, History of Modern World, University of California, Riverside.
- 1988-1993 Research Assistant, American Social History, University of California, Riverside.
- 1985-1988 Research Assistant, Modern Chinese History, Yale University.
- 1985-1986 Teaching Assistant, Modern Chinese History, Yale University.
- 1982-1985 Lecturer, History, Xi’an Foreign Languages Institute, Xi’an, China.

Cultural Resources Management Reports

Preliminary Analyses and Recommendations Regarding California’s Cultural Resources Inventory System (with Special Reference to Condition 14 of NPS 1990 Program Review Report). California State Office of Historic Preservation working paper, Sacramento, September 1990.

Numerous cultural resources management reports with the Archaeological Research Unit, Greenwood and Associates, and CRM TECH, since October 1991.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, ARCHAEOLOGY
Michael Hogan, Ph.D., RPA (Registered Professional Archaeologist)

Education

- 1991 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of California, Riverside.
1981 B.S., Anthropology, University of California, Riverside; with honors.
1980-1981 Education Abroad Program, Lima, Peru.
- 2002 “Section 106—National Historic Preservation Act: Federal Law at the Local Level,”
UCLA Extension Course #888.
2002 “Recognizing Historic Artifacts,” workshop presented by Richard Norwood,
Historical Archaeologist.
2002 “Wending Your Way through the Regulatory Maze,” symposium presented by the
Association of Environmental Professionals.
1992 “Southern California Ceramics Workshop,” presented by Jerry Schaefer.
1992 “Historic Artifact Workshop,” presented by Anne Duffield-Stoll.

Professional Experience

- 2002- Principal Investigator, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
1999-2002 Project Archaeologist/Field Director, CRM TECH, Riverside, California.
1996-1998 Project Director and Ethnographer, Statistical Research, Inc., Redlands, California.
1992-1998 Assistant Research Anthropologist, University of California, Riverside.
1992-1995 Project Director, Archaeological Research Unit, U.C. Riverside.
1993-1994 Adjunct Professor, Riverside Community College, Mt. San Jacinto College, U.C.
Riverside, Chapman University, and San Bernardino Valley College.
1991-1992 Crew Chief, Archaeological Research Unit, U.C. Riverside.
1984-1998 Project Director, Field Director, Crew Chief, and Archaeological Technician for
various southern California cultural resources management firms.

Research Interests

Cultural Resource Management, Southern Californian Archaeology, Settlement and Exchange
Patterns, Specialization and Stratification, Culture Change, Native American Culture, Cultural
Diversity.

Cultural Resources Management Reports

Principal investigator for, author or co-author of, and contributor to numerous cultural resources
management study reports since 1986.

Memberships

Society for American Archaeology; Society for California Archaeology; Pacific Coast
Archaeological Society; Coachella Valley Archaeological Society.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGIST/REPORT WRITER
Breidy Q. Vilcahuaman, M.A., RPA (Registered Professional Archaeologist)

Education

2018 M.A., Anthropology, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia.
2005 B.A., Anthropology, University Nacional del Centro del Peru.

Professional Experience

2022- Project Archaeologist, CRM TECH, Colton, California.
2021-2022 Archaeological Technician, Applied Earthwork, Inc., Hemet, California.
2021 Archaeologist/Crew Chief, Historical Research Associates, Inc., Portland, Oregon.
2020-2021 Archaeological Technician, Cogstone Resource Management, Orange, California.
2020 Archaeological Technician, McKenna et al., Whittier, California.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGIST/FIELD DIRECTOR
Daniel Ballester, M.S.

Education

2013 M.S., Geographic Information System (GIS), University of Redlands, California.
1998 B.A., Anthropology, California State University, San Bernardino.
1997 Archaeological Field School, University of Las Vegas and University of California, Riverside.
1994 University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.
2007 Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), California State University, San Bernardino.
2002 “Historic Archaeology Workshop,” presented by Richard Norwood, Base Archaeologist, Edwards Air Force Base; presented at CRM TECH, Riverside, California.

Professional Experience

2002- Field Director/GIS Specialist, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
1999-2002 Project Archaeologist, CRM TECH, Riverside, California.
1998-1999 Field Crew, K.E.A. Environmental, San Diego, California.
1998 Field Crew, A.S.M. Affiliates, Encinitas, California.
1998 Field Crew, Archaeological Research Unit, University of California, Riverside.

**PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGIST/NATIVE AMERICAN LIAISON
Nina Gallardo, B.A.**

Education

2004 B.A., Anthropology/Law and Society, University of California, Riverside.

Professional Experience

2004- Project Archaeologist, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.

Cultural Resources Management Reports

Co-author of and contributor to numerous cultural resources management reports since 2004.

APPENDIX 2
NATIVE AMERICAN RESPONSES

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

August 2, 2023

Nina Gallardo
CRM TECH

Via Email to: ngallardo@crmtech.us

Re: Proposed Connect Coachella City Project, Riverside County

Dear Ms. Gallardo:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information submitted for the above referenced project. The results were positive. Please contact the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians on the attached list for information. Please note that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the SLF, nor are they required to do so. A SLF search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with a project's geographic area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites, such as the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) archaeological Information Center for the presence of recorded archaeological sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. Please contact all of those listed; if they cannot supply information, they may recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
**Raymond C.
Hitchcock**
Miwok, Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Riverside County
8/2/2023**

Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Patricia Garcia, Director of Historic Preservation	5401 Dinah Shore Drive Palm Springs, CA, 92264	(760) 699-6907	(760) 699-6919	pagarcia@aguacaliente.net	Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians	F	Amanda Vance, Chairperson	84-001 Avenue 54 Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 398-4722	(760) 369-7161	hhaines@augustinetribe.com	Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	F	Doug Welmas, Chairperson	84-245 Indio Springs Parkway Indio, CA, 92203	(760) 342-2593	(760) 347-7880	jstapp@cabazonindians-nsn.gov	Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Cahuilla Band of Indians	F	Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	52701 CA Highway 371 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-5549		anthonymad2002@gmail.com	Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Cahuilla Band of Indians	F	Daniel Salgado, Chairperson	52701 CA Highway 371 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 972-2568	(951) 763-2808	chairman@cahuilla-nsn.gov	Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Cahuilla Band of Indians	F	BobbyRay Esaprza, Cultural Director	52701 CA Highway 371 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-5549		besparza@cahuilla-nsn.gov	Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians	F	Ray Chapparosa, Chairperson	P.O. Box 189 Warner Springs, CA, 92086-0189	(760) 782-0711	(760) 782-0712		Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Ann Brierty, THPO	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5259	(951) 572-6004	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Robert Martin, Chairperson	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5110	(951) 755-5177	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jordan Joaquin, President, Quechan Tribal Council	P.O.Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(760) 919-3600		executivesecretary@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside, San Bernardino,San Diego
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 261-0254		historicpreservation@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside, San Bernardino,San Diego
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman - Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366	(928) 210-8739		culturalcommittee@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside, San Bernardino,San Diego
Ramona Band of Cahuilla	F	Joseph Hamilton, Chairperson	P.O. Box 391670 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-4105	(951) 763-4325	admin@ramona-nsn.gov	Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Ramona Band of Cahuilla	F	John Gomez, Environmental Coordinator	P. O. Box 391670 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 763-4105	(951) 763-4325	jgomez@ramona-nsn.gov	Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	F	Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair	P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA, 92539	(951) 659-2700	(951) 659-2228	Isaul@santarosa-nsn.gov	Cahuilla	Imperial,Los Angeles,Orange, Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Joseph Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663-5279	(951) 654-4198	jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Luiseno	Imperial,Los Angeles,Orange, Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	F	Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist	P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581	(951) 663-6261	(951) 654-4198	jvaldez@soboba-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Luiseno	Imperial,Los Angeles,Orange, Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	F	Cultural Committee,	P.O. Box 1160 Thermal, CA, 92274	(760) 397-0300	(760) 397-8146	Cultural-Committee@torresmartinez-nsn.gov	Cahuilla	Imperial,Riverside,San Bernardino, San Diego
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	F	Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	46-200 Harrison Place Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 775-3259		amadrigal@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov	Chemehuevi	Imperial,Inyo,Riverside,San Bernardino
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	F	Darrell Mike, Chairperson	46-200 Harrison Place Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 863-2444	(760) 863-2449	29chairman@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov	Chemehuevi	Imperial,Inyo,Riverside,San Bernardino

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Connect Coachella Project, Riverside County.

Record: PROJ-2023-003841
Report Type: List of Tribes
Counties: Riverside
NAHC Group: All

From: Heather Haines <hhaines@augustinetribe.com>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 11:23 AM
To: ngallardo@crmtech.us
Subject: RE: Participation in Field Survey and Information Request for Connect Coachella Project in the City of Coachella (CRM TECH #4031A)

Good Morning Nina-

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, the Tribe will not be able to participate in this event.

At this time, I do not have any concerns or questions.

Best,

Heather Haines, MPA
Tribal Operations Manager
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians

Office: (760) 398-4722 Ext 7497
Cell: (760)574-6444
Email: hhaines@augustinetribe.com
Website: augustinetribe-nsn.gov

APPENDIX 3

CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PROJECT AREA

Available to qualified professionals upon request