

5.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section describes the existing paleontological, archaeological, and historic resources known to exist in the project area; potential environmental impacts; recommended mitigation measures to reduce or avoid impacts to identified paleontological, archaeological, and historic resources; and the significance determination after the incorporation of mitigation. The analysis in this section was summarized from the Santa Ana River Parkway Project – Cultural Resources Assessment (AECOM 2014b). This report is included as Appendix F of this Draft EIR.

5.4.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project area is located on Black Star Canyon and Prado Dam United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle maps (USGS 2012a and USGS 2012b, respectively) within the City of Yorba Linda and unincorporated Orange County, California. The project site is located on unsectioned land of the former Yorba family land grants of Canon de Santa Ana, Santiago de Santa Ana, and Lomas de Santiago.

5.4.1.1 Geological Setting

The proposed project is located in the Santa Ana Canyon or Santa Ana Narrows. The canyon and riverbed were created by tectonic activity of the Elsinore-Whittier Fault, at the north end of the Peninsular Range. The Santa Ana River (SAR) marks the dividing line between the Santa Ana Mountains and the Chino Hills. The Santa Ana Narrows were formed as a result of the faulting that formed the Chino Hills and Santa Ana Mountains. The topography both channels the river water and forces it to the surface. The faulting has also uplifted and exposed beds of sedimentary rock dating from the Cretaceous to the Neogene Periods. Refer to Section 5.5 (Geology and Soils) of this Draft EIR for a complete description of the geologic setting.

5.4.1.2 Cultural Setting

The project footprint falls within three land grants: Canon de Santa Ana, Santiago de Santa Ana, and Lomas de Santiago. The SAR was used as a territorial marker in these land grants (Friis 1982). All of these belonged to members of the Yorba family. The Bryant family purchased the project area from the Yorba family in the 19th century, and it remained active as ranchland and orchards into the middle 20th century. Most of the project footprint is within the Rancho Canon de Santa Ana.

The project area is located at what is now the boundary between three counties: Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside. The western boundary of the project footprint is roughly 4 miles east of the original center of the City of Yorba Linda in Orange County. The eastern boundary is approximately 6 miles west of the original center of the City of Corona in Riverside County.

The Santa Ana Narrows were an important source for irrigation water. The Santa Ana Narrows lie in an area of rich soil and abundant waters that may have made this area desirable during the prehistoric and historic periods. The entire project area lies on the banks of the SAR in a place where it is geologically restricted in its movement. The Cajon Canal was built in the vicinity of the project footprint to divert water from the SAR beginning in 1875.

Santa Ana Canyon's place as a significant pass between the Chino Hills and the Santa Ana Mountains made it an important thoroughfare. In the 1880s, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad opened a line connecting Riverside and San Diego through the Santa Ana Canyon (LAH 1887). This railroad line also

made bulk transit of rock profitable, and allowed the opening of gypsum mines in a side canyon to Santa Ana Canyon (LAH 1891).

5.4.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based upon the thresholds contained in Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, implementation of the project would result in a significant adverse impact related to cultural resources if it would:

- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5.
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5.
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

5.4.3 METHODOLOGY RELATED TO CULTURAL RESOURCES

5.4.3.1 Paleontological Resources

A search for paleontological records was completed by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) on October 1, 2013, to determine the level of paleontological sensitivity within the project area. A follow-up field survey was also conducted of the project area.

5.4.3.2 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The cultural resources investigation for the proposed project involved archival research and a field survey. Archival research was conducted on September 12, 2013 at the Eastern Information Center housed at the University of California, Riverside, and at the San Bernardino County Archaeological Information Center housed at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands, and on September 23, 2013, at the South Central Coastal Information Center housed at California State University, Fullerton. The research focused on the identification of previously recorded cultural resources within a 0.5-mile radius of the proposed project footprint. Archival research involved review of cultural resources site records, historic maps, and historic site and building inventories. The National Register of Historic Places database and listings for the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) and the California Historical Landmarks Register were examined to determine whether any resources in this radius were listed in or had been determined eligible for these registers. The California Point of Historical Interest, California Register of Historical Resources and Riverside County Historic Landmarks also were reviewed for resources located within or adjacent to the project site.

In addition, a letter was prepared and mailed to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on October 2, 2013. The letter requested that a Sacred Lands File check be conducted for the project and that contact information be provided for Native American groups or individuals who may have concerns about cultural resources in the project area.

A cultural resources field survey of the project components including a 25-meter buffer from the centerline of existing trails and around staging areas (approximately 96 acres) was conducted on January

13 and 14, 2014. A pedestrian survey was conducted within all accessible portions of the project site. Short segments were inaccessible due to fencing or active construction not associated with this project; these areas were investigated to the extent possible. The cultural resources survey included identification of archaeological and built-environment resources.

5.4.4 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

5.4.4.1 Paleontological Resources

Directly or Indirectly Destroy a Unique Paleontological Resource or Site or Unique Geologic Feature

The records search indicated that no known (to the NHMLAC) vertebrate fossil localities exist within the proposed project area boundaries (McLeod 2013). However, there are potentially fossil-bearing deposits nearby.

The records search and comparison to the Geologic Atlas of California – Santa Ana Sheet (Rogers 1965) determined that mapped surficial deposits in the entirety of the project area are younger Quaternary alluvium related to the SAR. Due to their age (less than 10,000 years old), younger Quaternary deposits are unlikely to contain fossils. However, younger Quaternary alluvium often overlies older Quaternary alluvium at varying depths. These older deposits may contain significant fossils. Just north of the project area, at NHMLAC fossil locality LACM 1207, such older Quaternary alluvium yielded a fossil specimen of deer (*Odocoileus*).

In addition, fossiliferous deposits are known to occur in the elevated terrain to the north and south of the project area. Rocks of the late Oligocene or early Miocene Sespe and Vaqueros Formations, the middle Miocene Topanga Formation, the Eocene Santiago Formation, the Paleocene Silverado Formation, and the late Cretaceous Williams and Ladd Formations are found in the elevated terrain south of State Route (SR) 91. In the elevated terrain north of the project area are exposures of the late Oligocene or early Miocene Sespe and Vaqueros Formations, as well as the middle Miocene Topanga Formation and the late Miocene Puente Formation. All of these formations, with the exception of the Williams Formation, have known (to the NHMLAC) fossil localities (McLeod 2013).

Although no paleontological resources were identified within the project footprint during the course of the background research and cultural resources field survey, potentially significant buried paleontological resources may exist in the project area which could be disturbed during project construction.

5.4.4.2 Archaeological and Historic Resources

Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource or a Historical Resource or Disturb Any Human Remains (including those interred outside of formal cemeteries)

Archaeological and Historic Resource Surveys within a 0.5-mile of the Project Site

The record search revealed that 47 cultural resources investigations were previously conducted within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site. Thirty-nine are cultural resources inventories, one is a monitoring report, two are environmental impact statements or reports, two are archaeological testing reports, one is a historical report and synopsis of research regarding the Bryant Ranch Headquarters, and two are synopses of archaeological research at Irvine Ranch. The entire project footprint has been previously surveyed.

The record search also indicated that 15 cultural resources have been previously recorded within 0.5 mile of the project site. Ten of these resources are prehistoric and the remaining five are historic. The prehistoric sites include a cluster of four to five formerly inhabited caves or rock shelters and associated artifacts, four groundstone and lithic scatters, and five isolated groundstones. The historic sites include an early 20th century ranch house, a fruit-tree-lined road associated with that ranch house, a canal, an abandoned railway segment, and the remains of the hamlet of Alta Vista or Green Camp. None of these sites were recorded within the project footprint itself.

However, historic resources are known or suspected in the near vicinity. Historic maps suggest that a portion of the Cajon Canal runs through the project footprint. The remains of Alta Vista/Green Camp are immediately adjacent. Between 1927 and the 1950s, the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens on the former Bryant Ranch was located north of the project footprint, beginning at the Bixby Bryant Ranch House and extending up the hillside. Finally, the project location in the Santa Ana Narrows places it within an important travel corridor beside a major water source. The earliest use of the narrows as a transit way and resource collection area began prehistorically, with the earliest peopling of the area. The Santa Ana River was first seen by Europeans during the Portola expedition. The narrows would have been used by the Franciscan missionaries soon after, and a member of the Portola expedition, Jose Antonio Yorba, was later granted land in the Santa Ana Canyon. The canyon remained an important pass between the Chino Hills and the Santa Ana Mountains through the Spanish and Mexican periods into the American period and the present day.

Known Archaeological and Historic Resources within 0.5 mile of the Project Site

The California Office of Historic Preservation’s HRI lists two historic resources within 0.5 mile of the project site. These include a house and a canal, both of which are located in the City of Yorba Linda (see Table 5.4-1).

**TABLE 5.4-1
PREVIOUSLY RECORDED BUILT RESOURCES ON THE CALIFORNIA STATE HISTORIC
RESOURCES INVENTORY WITHIN 0.5 MILE OF THE PROJECT FOOTPRINT**

Primary Number (P-)	Other Identifier	Address	Description
30-162539	Bixby Bryant Ranch House	5700 Susanna Bryant Drive, Yorba Linda, California	Craftsman ranch house. Identical to CA-RIV-1484 and P-30-150052
None	Anaheim Union Water Company Canal	23901 La Palma Avenue, Yorba Linda, California	Historic Canal

Source: AECOM (2014b).

A listing of California Historical Landmarks identified no historic landmarks within 0.5 mile of the project footprint. In addition, no Riverside County Historic Landmarks were identified within 0.5 mile of the project footprint. During the pedestrian survey, no archaeological or built resources were encountered within the project survey area.

Archaeological and Historic Resources Conclusion

The presence of archaeological resources around the project site would normally indicate the likelihood for additional unrecorded archaeological sites to be present within the project site. Although no archaeological resources were identified within the project footprint during the archival and field research, potentially eligible buried archaeological resources may exist within the project area.

Archaeological deposits can be buried, with no surface indications of their existence, particularly in developed areas or in areas of alluvial deposits. The level of potential site preservation below the existing surface remains unknown. Much of the proposed project area is undeveloped or has relatively superficial impacts. Therefore, it may hold intact archaeological deposits, with the likelihood thereof increasing with depth. The project area as a whole may be considered to have moderate to high sensitivity for buried archaeological deposits, with sensitivity increasing with depth. Therefore, potentially significant impacts could occur during project construction.

Native American Consultation

As described, the NAHC was contacted on October 2, 2013 to request a Sacred Lands File check and contact information for Native American groups or individuals who may have concerns about cultural resources in the project area. The NAHC responded on October 10, 2013 and stated that “[a] record search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File failed to indicate the presence of Native American traditional cultural place(s)” in the project area. However, the letter also noted, “Native American cultural resources are in close proximity to the [area of potential effects].” The letter also included a list of Native American contacts that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the vicinity of the project site. Letters were mailed on October 21, 2013, to each group or individual provided on the NAHC contact list. After 1-month comment period, follow-up phone calls were made on November 15, 2013. In the course of these follow-up calls, Joyce Stanfield Perry, speaking on behalf of herself and David Belardes (Chairperson of the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation), expressed concern over the proposed project. She stated that the Bixby Bryant Ranch House was located at a “huge village site.” She stated that a pedestrian archaeological survey would be inadequate, and recommended shovel test pits along the project alignment, as well as randomly placed 1-meter by 1-meter excavations. Depending on the results of such excavations, or in their absence, she recommended both Native American and archaeological monitors be present during excavations, at least during initial ground disturbance. Additionally, Sam Dunlap (Tribal Secretary for the Gabrielino Tongva Nation) sent an e-mail stating that “the proposed project is within the traditional tribal territory of the Gabrielino Tongva Nation” and recommended mitigation measures to protect any potential cultural resources that may exist in the impacted area. Mr. Dunlap recommended that archaeological and Native American monitors be present during all ground-disturbing activities, and requested that the Native American monitor be selected from the Gabrielino Tongva Nation.

As mentioned above, the project area as a whole may be considered to have moderate to high sensitivity for buried archaeological deposits, with sensitivity increasing with depth. Although no resources were identified based on the Sacred Lands File check, it is possible that significant impacts to archaeological resources, including human remains interred outside of formal cemeteries, may be encountered during project construction.

5.4.5 MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures were developed to avoid or minimize the potential impacts related to paleontological resources during construction of the proposed project.

- C-1 Paleontological monitoring shall be conducted during all ground-disturbing activities at depths greater than 5 feet. The County-selected paleontological monitor will have the authority to redirect construction equipment if potential paleontological resources are encountered. If paleontological resources are encountered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will halt until appropriate treatment of the resource is determined by a qualified paleontologist in accordance with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Work may continue on other parts of

the project while consultation and treatment are conducted. Any paleontological materials recovered shall be prepared for and curated at an approved facility.

- C-2 Prior to the commencement of any ground disturbing activities, a County-selected qualified paleontological consultant shall conduct training for construction personnel and supervisory staff on possible paleontological resources that may be present in the area to establish an understanding of what to look for during ground-disturbing activities.

Since the potential to encounter archaeological resources exists, the following mitigation measures have been added to address discovery of unknown archaeological sites or unanticipated human remains.

- C-3 Archaeological monitoring shall be conducted during all ground-disturbing activities (including trenching, boring, and grading) in undisturbed native soils. The archaeological monitor will have the authority to redirect construction equipment in the event potential archaeological resources are encountered. If archaeological resources are encountered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will halt until appropriate treatment of the resource is determined by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If Native American cultural materials are encountered during project-related ground disturbance, a trained Native American consultant shall be engaged to monitor ground-disturbing work in the area containing the Native American cultural resources. This monitoring shall occur on an as-needed basis and shall be intended to ensure that Native American concerns are taken into account during the construction process.
- C-4 Prior to the commencement of any ground-disturbing activities, a qualified archaeological consultant shall conduct training for construction personnel and supervisory staff on possible archaeological resources that may be present in the area to establish an understanding of what to look for during ground-disturbing activities.
- C-5 If human remains are discovered, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall be suspended and the County Coroner shall be contacted. If the remains are deemed Native American in origin, the County Coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission and identify a Most Likely Descendant pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Work may continue on other parts of the project while consultation and treatment are conducted. Any archaeological materials recovered shall be prepared for and curated at an approved facility.

5.4.6 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

5.4.6.1 Paleontological Resources

Implementation of mitigation measures C-1 and C-2 above would reduce impacts related to paleontological resources to a level that is less than significant.

5.4.6.2 Archaeological and Historic Resources

Implementation of mitigation measures C-3 through C-5 above would reduce impacts related to archaeological (including human remains not interred in formal cemeteries) to a level that is less than significant.