

**A CEQA CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION FOR
THE LAKE HEMET MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
(LHMWD) LITTLE LAKE BASIN, STAGE 1
PROJECT, EAST HEMET,
RIVERSIDE COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA**

Prepared for:

LILBURN CORPORATION
Attn: Michael Perry
1905 Business Center Drive
San Bernardino, California 92408

Prepared by:

McKENNA et al.
6008 Friends Avenue
Whittier, California 90601-3724
(562) 696-3852
jeanette.mckennaetal@gmail.com

Author and Principal Investigator: Jeanette A. McKenna, MA/RPA

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by,

Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal
McKenna et al., Whittier CA

INTRODUCTION

McKenna et al. (Appendix A) initiated this Phase I CEQA cultural resources investigation for the Lake Hemet Municipal Water District's proposed improvements to the Little Lake Basin project area at the request of Lilburn Corporation, San Bernardino, California. The project, as currently proposed, will involve the excavation within the existing basin to increase the capacity of the structure. These investigations were initiated in late July, 2013, and completed in August, 2013, and were conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as amended.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project area is located in the eastern extent of the City of Hemet (East Hemet), Riverside County, California (Figure 1) and within Township 5 South, Range 1 East, and the northeastern quarter of the northeastern quarter of Section 19 (Figures 2 and 3). More specifically, the project area is located on the southeastern corner of Stetson Avenue and Lake Street, northeast of Little Lake. The existing basin, not illustrated on the 1996 Hemet Quadrangle, is irregularly shaped and covers an area of approximately 7.2 acres (Figure 4), and cross-referenced as Assessor Parcel No. 555-080-023 (Figure 5).

The basin is currently fenced with chain link fencing. Although the basin is unlined (consisting of a hard packed earthen surface), a concrete overflow spillway structure is present on the western side, along Lake Street. Access into the basin is afforded off Lake Street, near the southwestern corner of the property.

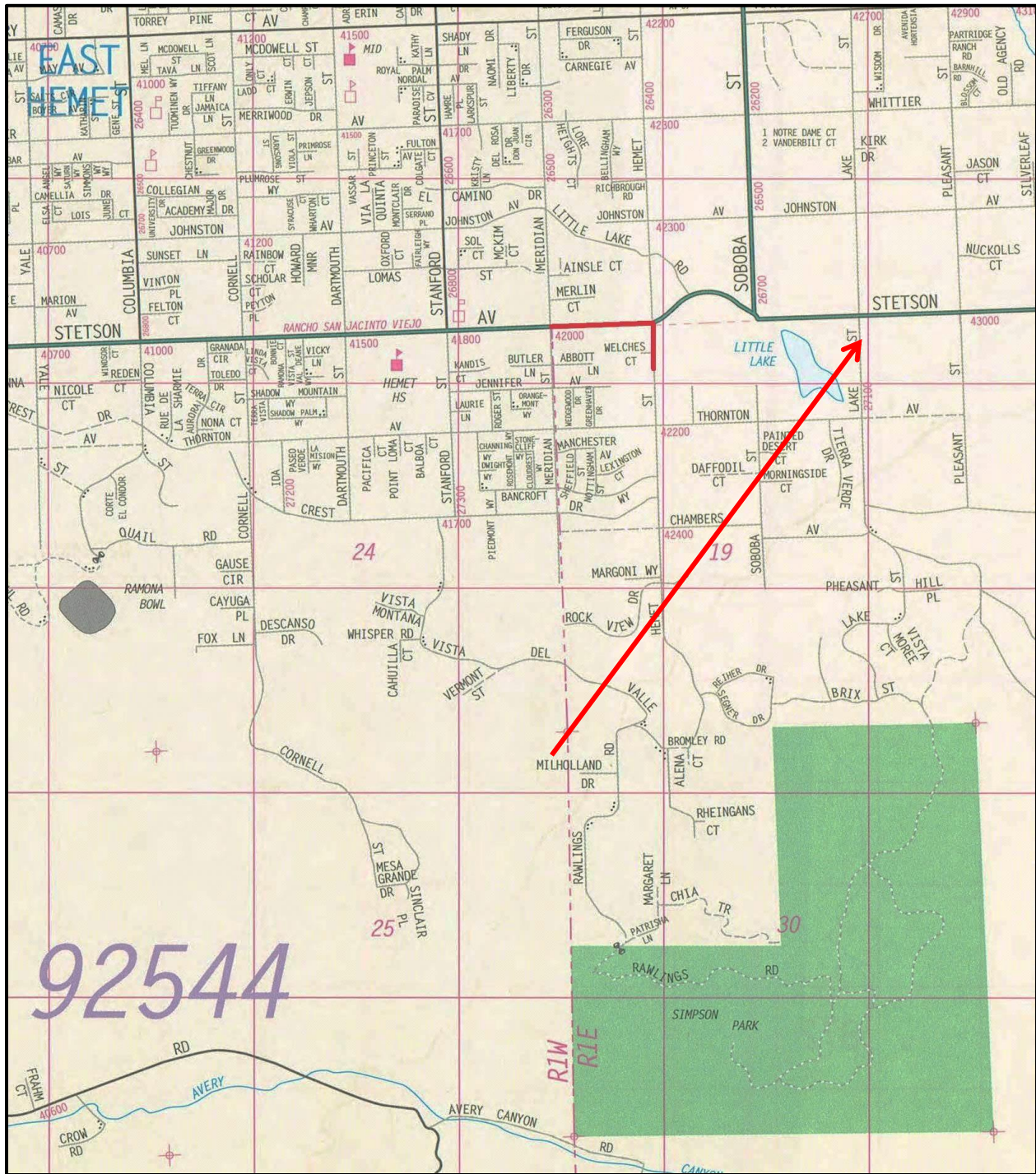


Figure 1. General Location of the Project Area.

Elevations within the project area are artificial and reflect the relatively recent construction of the basin. The average elevation is 1875 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).

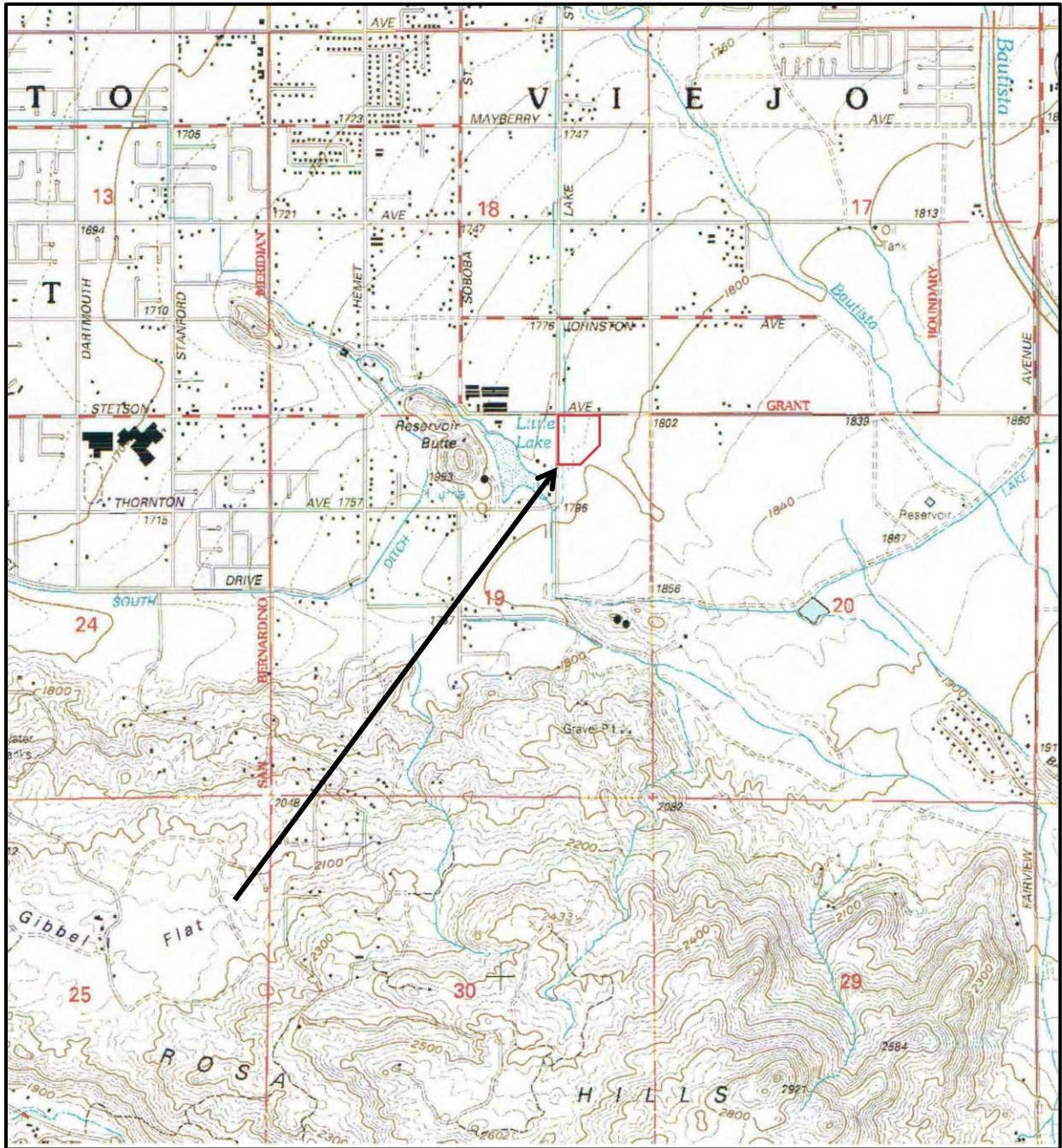


Figure 2. Specific Location of the Project Area (USGS Hemet Quadrangle, rev. 1996).

As late as 2005, this property was zoned as agricultural land of the San Jacinto Valley. The property is within the original holdings of the Hemet Land Company (pre-1892) and within the boundaries of San Diego County prior to the establishment of Riverside County (ca. 1893).



Figure 3. Aerial Photograph Illustrating the Existing Little Lake Basin and surrounding Agricultural Land.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project involves excavation within the existing Little Lake Basin to increase the capacity of the basin to catch and distribute run-off waters. The retrofit of the basin

will require the excavation of approximately 25,000 cubic yards of material within the 7.2 acre basin. The current surface area of the basin is estimated to cover approximately 313,600 square feet or approximately 28,000 square yards. The excavation of the 25,000 cubic yards of soil would equate to approximately one yard of depth within the basin.

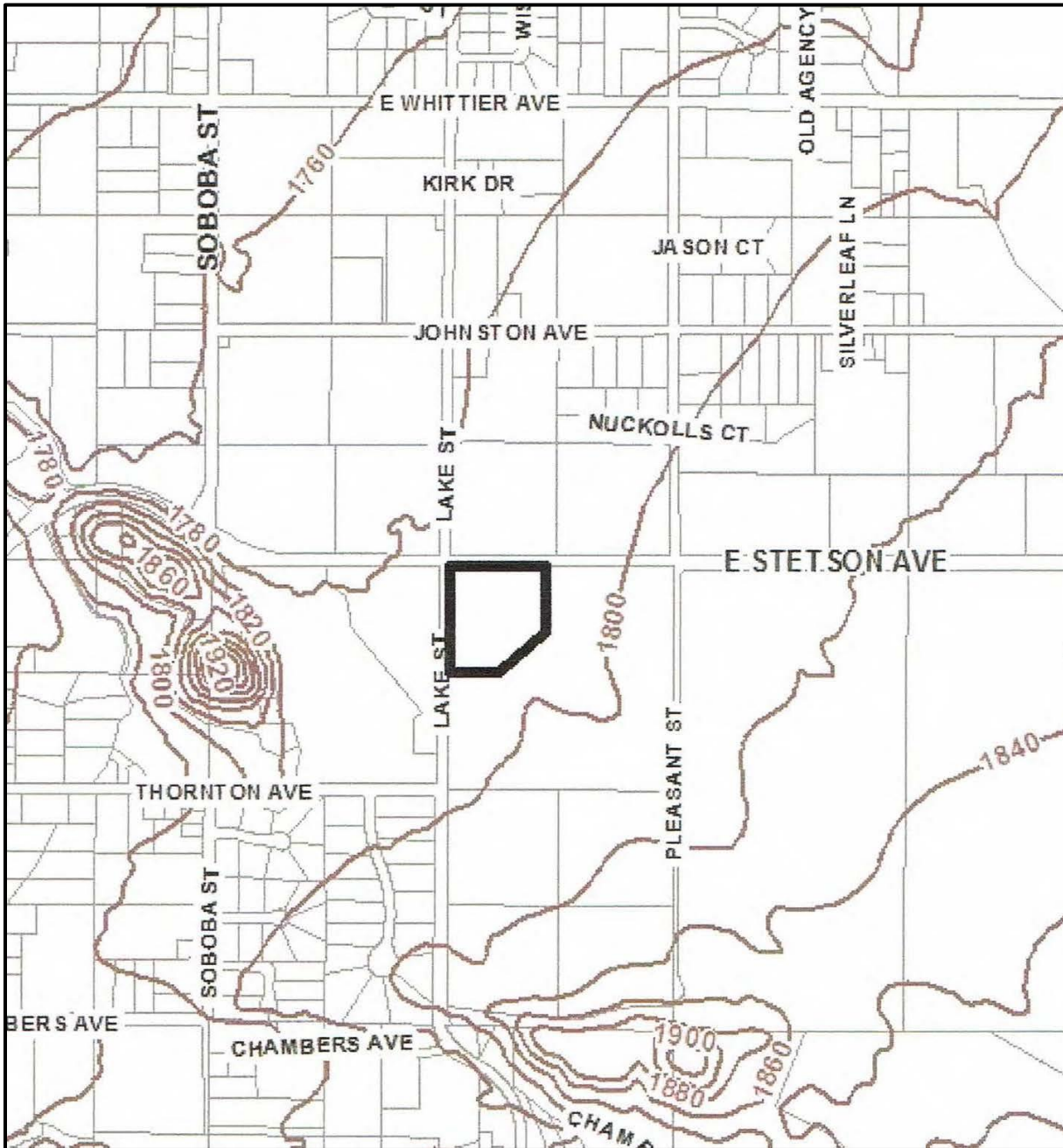


Figure 4. Riverside County TMLA Map Illustrating the Project Area and Related Elevations.

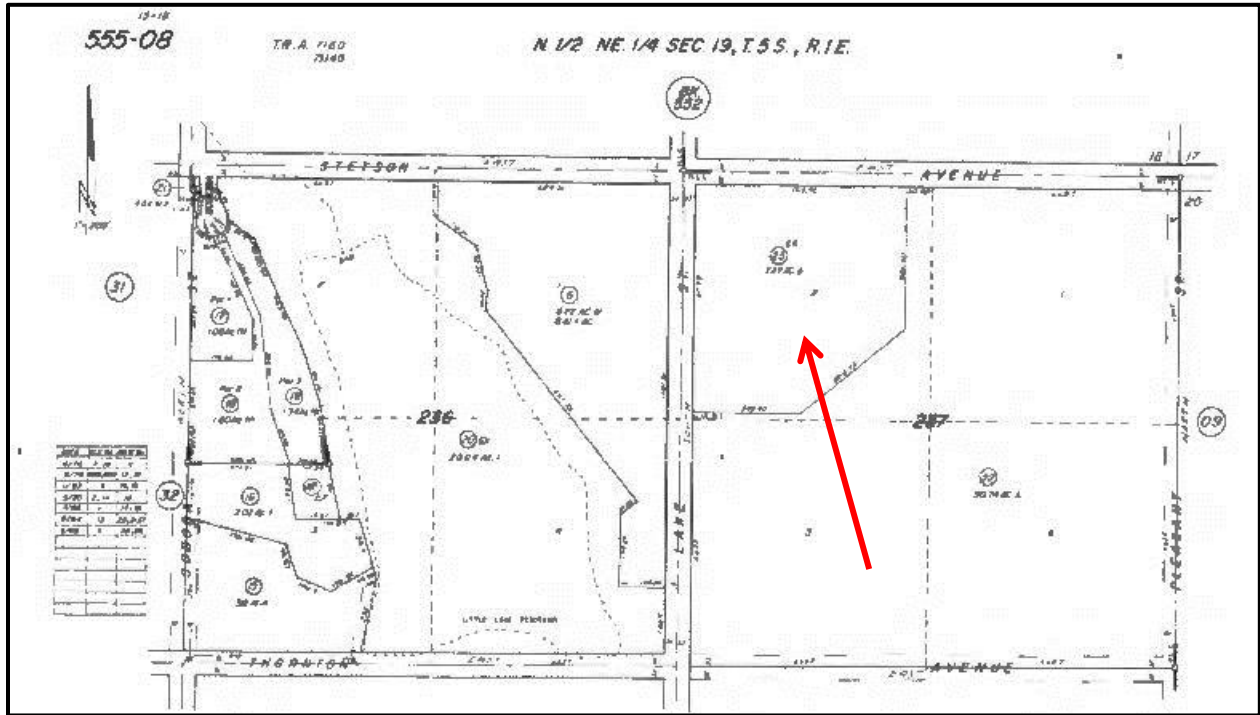


Figure 5. Assessor Parcel Map Illustrating the Project Area.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located in the eastern extent of Hemet, Riverside County, an area referred to as East Hemet. This particular area is associated with the San Jacinto Plain and Valley, which extends southward and southwestward from the foot of the San Jacinto Mountains (Norris and Webb 1990:288). The area is described as:

“... a broad, nearly flat surface dotted with bedrock hills, extending from near Corona, southeasterly to Hemet, This plain has an average elevation of about 520 meters (1700 feet) ... The numerous bedrock hills that interrupt its surface have been described as residual knobs of resistant rock, which survived prolonged erosion (monadnocks). It has been suggested that a surface of low relief was developed on the crystalline bedrock, leaving behind the scattered monadnocks.”

The Valley is within the geomorphologic Peninsula Ranges of Southern California (Norris and Webb 1990:288) with Cretaceous and pre-Cretaceous materials that include limestone, schist, and gneiss. Igneous rock includes the intrusive gabbros, quartz diorite, tonalite, and/or granodiorite. Post-Cretaceous rocks include crystallines, sandstones,

siltstones, and conglomerates. Quaternary deposits include volcanics and coastal marine terraces (Norris and Webb 1990:281-283).

Located south of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains, the area is known to contain banded gneiss and quartz diorite, including (in the Santa Rosa Mountains) great fossil landslides (Norris and Webb 1990:291). Hot springs, in this case associated with the San Jacinto and Elsinore Fault Zones, were known and utilized by prehistoric and historic populations (e.g. Warner Hot Springs and the Murrieta Hot Springs).

This area of Southern California is also associated with the western boundary of the Sonoran desert (MacMahon 1987:34). Flora native to the Sonoran Desert include: Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata*), White Bur Sage (*Ambrosia dumosa*), Bur Sage (*Ambrosia deltoides*), Big Galleta (*Hilaria rigida*), Indigo Bush (*Psoralea schottii*), Mormon Tea (*Ephedra* spp.), Pencil Cholla (*Opuntia ramosissima*), Velvet Mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*), Desert Sand Verbena (*Abronia villosa*), Desert Sunflower (*Geraea canescens*), Graythorn (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*), Beavertail Cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), Blue Palo Verde (*Cercidium floridum*), Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), Golden Cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*), Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus acanthodes*), Desert Ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), Teddybear Cholla (*Opuntia bigelovii*), Hedgehog Cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*), Desert Agave (*Agave deserti*), Trixis (*Trixis californica*), Chuparosa (*Beloperone californica*), Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), Sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*), Buckhorn Cholla (*Opuntia acanthocarpa*), Cane Cholla (*Opuntia spinosior*), Jumping Cholla (*Opuntia fulgida*), Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia phaeacantha*), Desert Christmas Cactus (*Opuntia leptocaulis*), Night-blooming Cereus (*Cereus greggii*), Fishhook Cactus (*Mammillaria microcarpa*), Fishhook Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus wislizenii*), Organ Pipe Cactus (*Cereus thurberi*), and Senita (*Cereus schottii*).

Also associated with the Desert are the Whitehorn Acacia (*Acacia constricta*), Fairy Duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), Limber Bush (*Jatropha cardiophylla*), Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*), Ratany (*Krameria pavifolia*), Desert Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), Paperflower (*Psilostrophe cooperi*), Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), Desert Broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*), Dock (*Rumex hymenosepalus*), Canyon Ragweed (*Ambrosia ambrosioides*), Desert Hackberry (*Celtis pallida*), Mexican Jumping Bean (*Sapium biloculare*), Elephant Tree (*Bursera microphylla*), Boojum Tree (*Fouquieria columnaris*), Maguey (*Agave shawii*), Cardon (*Cereus pringlei*), Ball Moss (*Tillandsia recurvata*), the Mexican Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), and Crucifixion Thorn (*Canotia holacantha*).

Various spiders, scorpions, ants, grasshoppers, toads, lizards, and snakes are also known in the Sonoran Desert (MacMahon 1987:73-76). Birds include sparrows, quail, roadrunners, thrashers, owl, dove, gnatcatchers, flycatchers, warblers, mockingbirds, wrens, ravens, vultures, and kestrels.

Mammals include coyotes (*Canis latrans*), badgers (*Taxidea taxus*), Blacktailed Jack Rabbit (*Lepus californicus*), Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), Roundtailed Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudus*), Rock

Squirrel (*Spermophilus variegatus*), Whitetailed Antelope Squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*), Harris' Antelope Squirrel (*Ammospermophilus harrissii*), Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), Merriam's Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys merriami*), Desert Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys deserti*), Ord's Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys ordii*), Bannertailed Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys spectabilis*), Desert Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus penicillatus*), Rock Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus intermedius*), Bailey's Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus baileyi*), Long-tailed Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus formosus*), Silky Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus flavus*), Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), Cactus Mouse (*Peromyscus eremicus*), Canyon Mouse (*Peromyscus crinitus*), Derest Woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*), Whitetailed Woodrat (*Neotoma albigula*), Botta's Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), and Mexican Longnosed Bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*).

Historic agriculture, orchard development, and grazing activities have obliterated much of the native vegetation in this area. Modern development has also impacted the natural topography and vegetation. In the case of this project area, the native floral and faunal environments have been altered through the establishment of orchards, the Hemet Water Company facilities, residential developments, and, more recently, the construction of the Little Lake Basin.

CULTURE HISTORY BACKGROUND

The San Jacinto Valley, an area also identified as being within the Sonoran Desert, is known to have been occupied during both the prehistoric and historic periods. As such, the resources were exploited and, in some cases, the terrain was altered or impacted by the human occupations.

Ethnographic/Prehistoric Background

The current project area is located within an area of Riverside County that borders the traditional and ethnographic boundaries of the Luiseño (more directly, members of the Soboba) Native American populations (Bean and Shipek 1978). The Luiseño are associated with both coastal and inland areas of present-day Orange and southern Riverside counties with their inland cultural characteristics being similar to those of the Cahuilla, a population associated with geographical areas northeast of the San Jacinto Mountains.

The Valley can be tentatively associated with numerous Native American villages and/or settlements (Barrows 1900; Hooper 1920; Kroeber 1925 and 1976; Curtis 1926; Strong 1929; Bean and Saubel 1972; and Bean 1978). They relied on intermittent drainages and springs for fresh water sources and villages were established near the natural springs. Smaller encampments were founded in other areas. Trails, temporary small camp sites, and other limited use areas have been recorded throughout the Valley and attest to the widespread use of the Valley by prehistoric man. The Luiseño are described as hunters and gatherers who also lived in semi-sedentary villages, practiced a complex form of territoriality and exploitation, and are known throughout Southern California for

their rock art (Shepard 1998). Exchange between the Luiseno and Cahuilla has been documented. In context, the project area is considered a Luiseño area, though evidence of a Cahuilla presence may also be identified (Robinson and Risher 1996:102-103).

The Luiseño practiced a relatively complex social organization based on lineages and clans. Individual clans occupied village sites and exploited individualized territories. Interactions provided exchange in the forms of trade, marriage alliances, and social/ceremonial contact. Basically, marriage occurred between moieties, thereby avoiding marriages between blood relatives. Clan associations were more directly related to the exploitation of resources, trade, and social interaction (Love 1998: 4; McKenna 1997 and 2003). Analysis of ethnographic data and archaeological data has resulted in the development of various chronologies for the Sonoran [California] Desert (Wallace 1962; Warren and Orr 1978; Weide and Barker 1975; Hall and Barker 1975; King and Casebrier 1976; and Gallegos et al. 1979). Jertberg (1982:5-7) synthesized this data and proposed the following chronology for comparative purposes:

10,000 to 6,000 B.C.: The Lake Mojave/San Dieguito Complex and/or Western Lithic Co-Tradition). Characterized by the presence of projectile points, large knives, scrapers, chopping tools, and scraper planes (Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Campbell and Campbell 1937; Rogers 1939; Davis et al. 1969). Items associated with vegetal food processing and hunting and the presence of coniferous woodland and pluvial lakes.

6,000 B.C.-A.D. 500: Archaic or Pinto Armagosa periods (Wallace 1962; Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Weide and Barker 1974). Characterized by diagnostic projectile points, leaf shaped blades, choppers, and scraper planes. Some sites exhibit a small assemblage of milling stones. A shift in climate and vegetation led to a shift in exploitation with an emphasis on vegetal resources.

A.D. 500 to Historic: (un-named). Characterized by the presence of the bow and arrow (opposed to darts), ceramics, and cremations. Milling tools increase, including mortars and pestles. There is evidence of limited agriculture and the appearance of Shoshonean-speakers displacing local Hokan-speaking populations (Wallace 1962:176).

More recent archaeological investigations in portions of the Valley areas suggest Native Americans can be identified in the area as early as 8,000 to 9,000 B.P. (Before Present; Love 1999; Tang et al. 2003). Studies, as those noted above, have resulted in the de-

velopment of a revised general chronological sequence for these inland areas of Southern California. The basic characteristics of these time periods are similar, but still require additional studies to address the unanswered questions and specifics with respect to the prehistoric uses of this area. Grenda (1993) has summarized the chronological data as follows:

11,000-8,000 B.P.	Pleistocene/Early Holocene (Early Man) Period
8,000-5,500 B.P.	San Dieguito Period
5,500-1,500 B.P.	Millingstone/La Jolla-Pauma/Archaic/Encinitas Period
1,500- 300 B.P.	Late Prehistoric/Luiseño Period

Historic Background

Research oriented towards the understanding of contact between Native American populations and non-Native populations emphasizes the impacts of European contact --- chronologically presented by many anthropologists and historians as follows:

1500s-1760s	Periodic contact with Europeans
1770s-1820s	Mission Period
1830s-1840s	Rancho Period
1850s-1870s	American Migration to California
1880s-present	Reservation Period

The “historic” Period of California history begins in 1769 with the initiation of the Mission system in San Diego and the subsequent establishment of Missions throughout Alta California. Missionization was followed by many years of sporadic settlement by Spanish populations traveling predominantly from Mexico and into Alta California. Spanish explorers, such as Pedro Fages and Juan Bautista de Anza, traveled through the San Jacinto Plains as early as 1772-1774. However, no European settlement occurred in the area until after 1800 (McCawley 1996; Marinacci and Marinacci 1988:67). The mission directly associated with this area was the Mission San Luis Rey near Oceanside and in present-day San Diego County.

The first European-American settlers arrived in the late 1860s and were generally concentrated in the area of San Jacinto, the oldest non-Native community in the general area. A land boom swept through much of Southern California in the 1880s and other settlements (e.g. Perris, Hemet, and Valle Vista) appeared (see Dumke 1944) and some individuals began acquiring lands - some with considerable acreage. Angelo Domenigoni and Gaudenzio Garbani established their homesteads on public land south and southwest of the project area, marking the beginnings of two prominent farming families in the Valley (ca. 1879-1880; Barton 1989:251; Garbani 1989).

Riverside County was established in 1893 and the current project area was transferred from San Diego County to the newly defined Riverside County. Avina (1932) and Beck and Haase (1977) confirm that the project area is actually on the southern boundary of the historic Rancho San Jacinto Viejo, a Spanish/Mexican period rancho. This rancho, originally consisting of 48,847.28 acres, was also known as the Sobrante de San Jacinto as granted to Maria del Rosario Estudillo de Aguirre in 1846 (by Governor Pio Pico) and later confirmed by the United States government (Avina 1932:89; BLM GLO CACAAA 08999). This rancho dominated the San Jacinto Valley.

To the south (south of Stetson Avenue), Section 19 was part of the extensive Southern Pacific Railroad Grant (CACAAA 072347) of 1891, which involved odd-numbered sections. Gunther (1984:467) provides a detailed discussion of the San Jacinto Valley, which reads as follows:

“SAN JACINTO VALLEY. Named for Rancho San Jacinto because most of the land concerned was originally considered to be part of that rancho, dating from mission times. Included was all of the mesa or tableland lying between the Box Springs and San Jacinto Mountains and between The Badlands and Temecula Valley, a territory about thirty miles square. According to Judge Benjamin Hayes (1929 p. 141), “In one year (mayordomo) Lorenzo Soto took 20,000 hides from San Jacinto plain” for Mission San Luis Rey from the Temecula and San Jacinto ranchos. With the arrival of settlers beginning in the late 1870s and the 1880s, different names such as Antelope, Auld (or Los Alamos), Diamond, French, La Belle, Menifee, Moreno, Paloma, Perris, Pleasant, as well as San Jacinto and Temecula, began to be used, although most of the boundaries were purely imaginary. The new names reflected the extent of areas served by various rural post office and school districts or new town-sites, as well as names given by settlers to describe their particular locations or ethnic groups.”

With respect to the City of Hemet, Gunther (1984:229) states:

“**HEMET** ... A.L. Kroeber ... said it “appears not to have been identified, although the word sounds as if it might be Luiseno Shoshonean ... the name, local sources say, is Indian, Jemet, and means ‘acorn valley’.”

Gunther (1984:502-503) also addresses the Soboba association with the area:

“**SOBOBA.** The spelling of this name has evolved over a long period of time ... The rancheria was shown as “Indian Village Savabo” on the plat of

Rancho San Jacinto as finally confirmed to the heirs of Jose Antonio Estudillo, November, 1876 ... finally listed in 1925 as Soboba ... SOBOPA INDIAN RESERVATION was established on June 10, 1913 ... Soboba Band of Mission Indians ... Luiseno ...”

The current project area is located along the section line between Section 18 and 19 (marked by Stetson Avenue). According to the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (BLM GLO) records, the area north of Stetson Avenue was within the historic rancho and the area to the south was along the boundary of the Southern Pacific Railroad holdings. Research also showed this area was associated with the historic Hemet Land Company (ca. 1892), suggesting the Railroad transferred the property.

The Hemet Land Company, along with the Lake Hemet Water Company, was established in 1887-88 by a group of four Los Angeles businessmen, including Edward Mayberry, William F. Whittier,, Albert H. Judson, and Hancock M. Johnston. These four businessmen purchased the 3,000 acre Estudillo tract, the 3,000 acre H.T. Hewitt holdings, and the Lake Hemet Company holdings – forming the Lake Hemet Water Company and the Hemet Land Company. Mayberry and Whittier held the majority of stock and essentially ran both companies Whitney 1999:22). Between 1887 and 1897, the Lake Hemet Water Company was involved in the construction of a dam to establish a water source for irrigation and settlement of the valley. The Little Lake Flume system was constructed in the early 1890s by the Lake Hemet Water Company as part of the larger system designed to delivery irrigation water from the Little Lake Reservoir (in the NE quarter of Section 19), now referenced as “Little Lake”. Smallwood (2007:1) states the establishment of the Little Lake Flume and its associated laterals were “largely responsible” for the success of the Hemet Land Company.

With respect to Stetson Street, there were a number of “Stetsons” in Hemet. However, it was James B. Stetson who sat on the Board of Directors of the Lake Hemet Water Company and the Hemet Land Company between 1888 and 1896, after Albert H. Judson resigned and Stetson purchased his share in the companies. Stetson, of San Francisco, was a successful businessman who did not reside in Hemet. He sold his interests to Whittier in 1896. Stetson Avenue was presumably named for James B. Stetson.

Another Stetson, unrelated to James B. Stetson, was Frank Stetson, a surveyor and engineer hired by Whittier in 1903. In 1910, Whittier planned to enlarge the Company’s dam – under the supervision of Stetson. With the completion of construction, Whittier would establish the Ramona Power and Irrigation Company. Given the associations, Stetson Street may have been named for both of these men – each associated in their own way for the development of water systems in the Hemet area.

A third Stetson, R.H. Stetson, was hired by Whittier in ca. 1901 to operate a livery in Hemet and the Hemet Livery Stage Company. This enterprise was specifically founded to provide transportation to the California Health Resort Company’s facilities at San

Jacinto. R.H. Stetson had no involvement in the water system(s) and it is unlikely the street was named for him.

Data compiled at the Riverside County Archives identified the owner of the project area as the Hemet Land Company in 1892 (the Company owning 4 ten acre lots in the north-eastern quarter of the northeastern quarter of Section 19). The existing basin is within Lot 2 of this holding. The Hemet Land Company held this property until 1899-1900, when Lots 1-4 were sold to Clara Graham. No improvements were recorded between 1899 and 1910, the extent of the Clara Graham ownership.

Between 1911 and 1920, Lots 1-4 were owned by G.A. and S.W. Graham, again with no recorded improvements. The first improvements appeared in 1920, under the ownership of Henry M. Jones, and were limited to Lot 1 (east of the present-day basin). Here, between \$220 and \$260 in improvements were listed. In 1925, Jones further improved his holdings and, consolidated in the records, improvements to the 40 acre holdings include general improvements and trees/vines (with the property value, the overall values were between \$4000 and \$5000). During the Depression, land values dropped and, in 1933, the Jones property was sold to Sam G. Wilson et al. for \$1200. Only tree/vines were noted. In 1938, the property was sold to E.D. Elkins and H.A. Moyers, again with tree/vine improvements, only.

In 1942, the 40 acres were held by H.A. Moyers, only, who sold the properties to George Clarke in 1943. Tree/vines were first assessed within Lot 2 in 1943 (\$1350) to \$2520 in 1953. The 40 acres were sold to W.J. Mazzotti in 1954 and held past 1963. Tree/vines were listed for Lot 2 throughout this period, ranging from \$2880 to \$3070. Based on this data, the property was considered agricultural at least through 1963 – likely in orchards, similar to the surrounding properties. Evidence of the orchard development is likely to be present in the form of stumps, irrigation systems, or standing trees.

Aerial photos illustrate the presence of the Little Lake Basin in 1996, suggesting it may have been constructed near the time the Hemet Quadrangle was reissued. County Assessor records identified the Basin as a 1985-1986 improvement, rendering the Basin a modern period improvement.

METHODOLOGY

To adequately and accurately complete the required Phase I cultural resources investigations for this project, McKenna et al. completed the following tasks:

1. Archaeological Records Check: McKenna et al. arranged for an archaeological records search through the University of California, Riverside, Eastern Information Center (UCR-EIC; August 7, 2013). The UCR-EIC is the countywide clearing house/repository for all archaeological and/or

cultural studies completed within the Riverside County. The result of this search is presented in Appendix B and summarized later in this report.

2. Native American Consultation: On July 28, 2013, McKenna et al. requested a Sacred Lands Search from the Native American Heritage Commission, Sacramento. This search produced negative findings (no resources in the Commission's files), but also identified local Native American representatives wishing to comment on projects undertaken within the ancestral territory. The Commission provided a listing of local Native American representatives. McKenna et al. sent letters to these individuals (July 29, 2013), requesting comments or concerns (Appendix C). Responses have been incorporated into this technical report.
3. Paleontological Overview: McKenna et al. completed a paleontological overview for this general area through the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (Appendix D). In addition, McKenna et al. reviewed the Riverside County Land Information System to confirm the County's determination of paleontological sensitivity for this area. The results of these investigations have been incorporated into this report.
4. Historic Background Research: Historic background research was completed by Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal Investigator for McKenna et al. This level of research included an review of data in the McKenna et al. in-house library, published literature on local and regional history, archival records available through the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office files, the Riverside Assessor Riverside County Archives, Planning Department files, and the historic map library at the Science Library, UCR. In addition, Ms. McKenna visited the Hemet Historical Museum and compiled additional information on the history of the area.
5. Intensive Archaeological Field Survey: The field survey was completed by Jeanette A. McKenna and Yahaira Gonzales of McKenna et al. on August 2, 2013. The survey included a pedestrian survey of the periphery of the Little Lake Basin (outside the fenceline). The interior of the basin does not reflect any original soils or topography and was not accessible for physical surveying. The field survey was conducted to adequately identify, describe, and report any cultural resources within the area of direct impact and/or adjacent to the basin. The field studies were supplemented by field notes (on file, McKenna et al.) and a complete photographic record of the alignment (Appendix E).
6. Analysis and Technical Report: The extent of the analysis and the data requirements for this technical report was dependent upon the nature of the project and the requirements set forth by the lead agency and the defined project. In this case, the project analysis addressed improve-

ments within an existing Little Lake Basin, as identified by the surrounding fence line and roadside shoulders. This technical also provides recommendations for the treatment of archaeological/cultural sites, should they be identified.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

A standard archaeological records search was completed by the University of California, Riverside, Eastern Information Center, Riverside, on August 7, 2013 (see Appendix B). This research showed the project area was not previously surveyed for cultural resources, but a minimum of 26 studies were completed within one mile (Table 1). Not included in this listing is the more recently completed Stetson Avenue improvements project completed by McKenna et al. and extending between Hemet Road and Meridian (2013).

As a result of the studies summarized in Table 1, a minimum of 22 cultural resources were identified (Table 2). These resources were dominated by historic period resources and, of those, many were directly associated with the Hemet Water Company and their related irrigation system, including:

- The Little Lake Complex
- The Little Lake Flume – Richie Segment
- The Little Lake Flume – Primary Segment
- The Little Lake Flume – Lake Street Lateral
- The Little Lake Flume – Crest Drive Segment
- The Little Lake Flume – Soboba Street Lateral
- The Little Lake Flume – Stetson Avenue Lateral

As mapped, the features associated with the Little Lake irrigation features are located west and south of the Little Lake Basin. The Little Lake Complex on Lake Street is just southwest of the basin. The Lake Hemet Main Canal is to the south and diverts west of Lake Street at Thornton Avenue. All of the recorded flume segments are west of the basin and, more specifically, west of Little Lake, itself. No features related to the Hemet Water Company system(s) is east of Lake Street.

The Office of Historic Preservation listings of evaluated properties in the area identified four resources: the Richie House (P-33-006331); the Schwacofer Home (P33-006359); the Penacho House (P33-06362); and the property at 43014 Stetson Avenue. Of these, the Richie and Stetson Avenue residential properties were determined eligible for listing in the National Register; the Schwacofer and Penacho residential properties were deemed locally significant. The 1957 Hemet 15' Quadrangle illustrated the East Hemet area with Lake Street being a paved roadway, but the road to the east and south of Stetson Avenue and Lake Street are unimproved roadways. The Little Lake Complex is present, but there is no evidence of any structures or improvements within the area now associated with the project area.

Report	Citation	Description	Resources
RI-00186	Wells 1975	EMDW PL 984 Water Systems	1
RI-00780	Bowles and Salpas 1980	Parcel 16096	2
RI-00910	Salpas 1980	Tract 16656	1
RI-01138	Mack 1981	Tentative Tract 17245	0
RI-01148	Leonard 1978	Tentative Tract 12265	0
RI-01742	Rector 1983	Tentative Parcel 19759	0
RI-02600	Keller 1989	General Plan Amendment	0
RI-03413	Evans 1991	APN 555-500-045	0
RI-03717	Love 1993	Tentative Tract 26273	0
RI-03779	Drover 1994	Little Valley Uplands	1
RI-04528	Goodwin & Reynolds 2001	Stetson Avenue Realignment	12
RI-04811	Padon 2004	Tentative Tract Map 32485	0
RI-04849	Demcek 2003	Cell Tower Site	0
RI-05184	Robinson 2004	Tentative Tract 32089	0
RI-05602	White & White 2004	TPM 32458	1
RI-05603	White and White 2004	Tentative Tract Map 32222	1
RI-05986	Hogan et al. 2003	Tentative Tract Map 31264	0
RI-06953	Applied EarthWorks 2007	APN 552-190-009	0
RI-07650	McGinnis & Murphy 2008	9 Acre Subdivision	1
RI-07652	Tang et al. 2007	Tentative Tract Map 34810	2
RI-07849	Wetherbee 2008	APN 552-210-007	0
RI-07968	Garcia 2008	SCE Dartmouth 12 kV DSP Project	2
RI-08183	Valasquez 2009	Simpson Park Vegetation Plan	1
RI-08214	Hogan et al. 2009	APN 552-110-078	0
RI-08376	Taft and Lynch 2010	APN 555-050-039	0
RI-08563	Tang 2010	Lake Hemet MWD Pipeline Project	0

The few prehistoric sites identified within one mile of the basin are located on the periphery of the study area and nearer the foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains (south of the basin). All are identified as milling stations.

Based on the data presented above and the identification of the Little Lake Basin as a modern feature constructed within an area that was previously developed as an orchard, the potential for identifying any potentially significant historic or prehistoric resources within the project area is very low.

With respect to the paleontological sensitivity for the area, the Riverside County Land Information System identifies the project area as an area of high paleontological sensitivity (High B). Based on the County's system of assessing sensitivity, the "High B" is "... based on the occurrence of fossils at a specified depth below the surface. The Category High B indicates that fossils are likely to be encountered at or below four feet of depth, and may be impacted during excavations by construction activities."

Table 2. Cultural Resources Identified within One Mile of the Current Project Area.			
Primary No.	Trinomial	Citation	Description
P33-000418	CA-RIV-0418	Eicher & Eicher 1958; Salpas 1980	p/o P33-13269 (CA-RIV-7384)
P33-001841	CA-RIV-1841	Salpas and Bowles 1980	Milling Station
P33-002072	CA-RIV-2072	Salpas and Bowles 1980	Milling Station
P33-002073	CA-RIV-2073	Salpas and Bowles 1980	Milling Station
P33-005570	CA-RIV-5502H	White 1994; Reynolds 2001	Lake Hemet Main Canal
P33-006331		Swift 1982; Goodwin 2001; McKenna 2013	Richie Residential Complex
P33-006355		Pratt 1982	Smith Residence
P33-006359		Swift 1982	Schwacofer Residence
P33-006362		Swift 1982	Penacho House
P-33-10979		Goodwin 2001; Smallwood 2007	Little Lake Flume – Primary Segment
P33-010980		Goodwin 2001	Little Lake Flume – Richie Segment
P33-010981		Goodwin 2001	Little Lake Flume – Crest Drive Segment
P33-010982		Goodwin 2001; White 2004	Little Lake Flume – Soboba Street Lateral
P33-010983		Goodwin 2001; McKenna 2013	Little Lake Flume – Stetson Avenue Lateral
P33-010984		Goodwin 2001	Little Lake Complex
P33-010985		Goodwin 2001; Smallwood 2007	Fricker Complex; 27110 Hemet Street
P33-010987		Goodwin 2001	Reber Residence
P33-010988		Goodwin 2001	Kleiber Complex
P33-010989		Goodwin 2001	Milling Station
P33-013269	CA-RIV-7384	Drover & Smith 1994	p/o CA-RIV-0418
P33-013839		White 2004	Little Lake Flume – Lake Street Lateral
P33-016999		Tierra Environ. 2007	26185 Pleasant Street

This designation was reinforced by McLeod’s findings (Appendix D). McLeod identified the area as consisting of younger Quaternary alluvial deposits derived from the hills to the

south (the Santa Rosa Hills) and a small drainage feeding the area. Older Quaternary deposits are exposed nearby and these deposits can be associated with fossil specimens. In addition, underlying older Quaternary sediments are likely present in the vicinity of the project area, at relatively shallow depths. McLeod concluded:

“... excavations below the uppermost layers, therefore, should be monitored closely to quickly and professionally recover any fossil remains discovered while not impeding development ...”

Based on the information presented by the County and Dr. McLeod, a paleontological monitoring program is justified.

RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS

In conducting the recent cultural resources investigations for the proposed Little Lake basin improvements project, McKenna et al. conducted Native American Consultation; research into the prehistoric and historic use of the general area and project specific areas; completed a pedestrian reconnaissance survey of the project area, analyzed the findings on a level deemed appropriate; and completed this technical report.

Native American Consultation

The Native American Heritage Commission had no record of any sacred or religious sites within or near the current project area. Likewise, they had no record of any significant archaeological sites. McKenna et al. sent letters to all local Native American representatives listed by the Commission. To date, the only response received – from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians (August 8, 2013). The Soboba representative (Joseph Ontiveros) emphasized this area is within the ancestral territory of the Soboba and considered sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources. He requested consultation with the Lead Agency and/or their representatives, although SB-18 is not applicable to this project. He was referred to the appropriate contacts. McKenna et al. recommends that, should an archaeological monitoring program be initiated as a result of this project, a representative of the local Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians be included in the program.

Paleontological Resources

Summarizing Reynolds (1999), Scott (2003, Personal Communication), McLeod (2005 and 2013), and the Riverside County Land Information System (2013), the project area is located within an area of high paleontological sensitivity. Fossil specimens may be identified in relatively shallow contexts (as shallow as four feet or less below the current surface) and, therefore, a paleontological monitoring program should be included as a

means to mitigate any potentially adverse impacts. The program should follow the protocols of the Western Center, Riverside County, and be conducted during any excavations that exceed the disturbed deposits associate with the existing basin.

Archaeological Resources

Previous research identified both prehistoric and historic resources within one mile of the current project area. The prehistoric sites were dominated by milling stations and in areas where exposed bedrock boulders yielded evidence of grinding surfaces - predominantly in the nearby foothills. No prehistoric archaeological resources were identified within the current project area boundaries and, given the extent of previous disturbances associated with the orchard development and/or basin development, the potential for the presence of prehistoric archaeological resources is considered highly unlikely. Based on this finding, McKenna et al. is not recommending any mitigation measure(s) with respect to prehistoric archaeological resources.

Evidence of historic archaeological resources was identified in areas adjacent to the Little Lake Basin. Specifically, McKenna et al. identified the remnants of the early 20th century orchard and its associated irrigation system (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Standpipe Irrigation Feature Identified South of the Little Lake Basin.

Remnants of stumps and other fragments of the destroyed irrigation system were also noted in the fields to the south and east of the basin. These features are tentatively associated with George Clark and his ownership of Lot 2 beginning in 1943, the time when the first recorded assessment for trees was identified in the Assessor's Records. No evidence of the post-1943 features was identified within the project area.

The ca. 1985 Little Lake Basin (Figure 7) is a relatively shallow earthen basin with a concrete spillway on the western side and a maintenance road runs the circumference within the fence line and atop the rim of the basin. The basin is fenced with chain link fencing and an access gate is present along Lake Street.



Figure 7. Overview of Little Lake Basin from the Southwestern Corner (Northeast).

The basin is periodically graded for weed abatement and at the time of the reconnaissance survey, the basin was void of all vegetation and exhibited evidence of recent grading. The basin is approximately six feet deep (below the surface of Lake Street). All improvements associated with the basin are modern and of no historical significance.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Research resulted in the identification of the current project areas as highly sensitive for paleontological resources, but not sensitive for prehistoric or historic archaeological resources. The Little lake Basin is a modern feature dating to the mid-1980s, having been placed within a property developed as an orchard in the 1943. The orchard was obviously removed prior to the development of the Basin (pre-1985) and only scant evidence of the larger orchard and irrigation system are visible on the adjoining property.

Based on the results of these studies, McKenna et al. proposes the following recommendations:

1. Excavations for the proposed basin improvements project should be monitored for paleontological resources. All excavations exceeding relative depths of four feet below the current surface (or the relative depth of the original basin construction) must be monitored. The monitoring must be continued while evidence of older Quaternary alluvium is identifiable. The monitoring program must follow the protocols of the Western Center, Hemet, and all recovered fossil specimens must be curated at the Western Center.
2. Although there is no evidence of prehistoric archaeological resources, there is always a potential for buried resources. McKenna et al. recommends the District have an archaeological monitor on-call to assess any evidence of prehistoric archaeological resources and, if the resources are confirmed as prehistoric or of Native American origin, a representative of the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians be added to monitoring program.
3. The potential for historic archaeological resources within the project area is considered extremely low to non-existent. Therefore, McKenna et al. is recommending an archaeological monitor be on-call, although the need for any assessments is unlikely.
4. The Lead Agency, at its discretion, may request the presence of a Native American representative during any excavations. If the Lead Agency requires the presence of a Native American monitor, McKenna et al. strongly recommends the Native American monitor accompany a professional archaeologist rather than working alone. A Native American monitor working without a professional archaeologist on-site would not be CEQA compliant, as the Native American representative may not have the professional training needed to be compliant.
5. If, at any time, evidence of human remains is identified, the County Coroner must be notified immediately and permitted to examine the find, *in situ*. If the

remains are found to be of Native American origin, the Coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission and the Most Likely Descendent (MLD) will be identified. In consultation between the District, MLD, and consulting archaeologist, the disposition of the remains will be determined. Any costs associated with the management of the remains will be borne by the District.

Obviously, the extent and duration of any monitoring program will be dependent upon the final plans for the completion of the proposed project. If any identified resources can be avoided, avoidance is preferred. At this time, McKenna et al. is only recommending paleontological monitoring and the extent and duration of the program would be dependent upon the project specific planning.

CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this report, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATE: August 30, 2013 SIGNED: Jeanette A. McKenna Reg. No. 161

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