Appendix 4.2-1: Archaeological Resources Assessment

Kimley **»Horn**

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Greg Tsujiuchi and Lisa Kranitz, City of Gardena
From: Jessica Mauck and Rita Garcia
Date: November 2, 2023
Archeological Resources Assessment for the 16911 South Normandie
Subject: Avenue Project, City of Gardena, Los Angeles County, California Updates Peer Review

Kimley-Horn has conducted a follow-up third-party peer review of the Project's Archaeological Resources Assessment (SWCA Environmental Consultants, October 2023) on behalf of the City of Gardena to verify that BCR Consulting's January 26, 2023 third-party peer review Technical Memo (TM) recommendations have been incorporated. The revised October 2023 Technical Report Memorandum addressed the third-party peer review comments and thus is in compliance with the TM recommendations. The analysis, as revised, meets the applicable provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines and is adequate for inclusion in the Project EIR.

Please do not hesitate to contact Rita Garcia at 714.786.6116 or rita.garcia@kimley-horn.com with any questions.



Archaeological Resources Assessment for the Proposed Development at 16911 South Normandie Avenue, City of Gardena, Los Angeles County, California

October 2023

PREPARED FOR 16911 NORMANDIE ASSOCIATES, LLC

PREPARED BY

SWCA Environmental Consultants

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 16911 SOUTH NORMANDIE AVENUE, CITY OF GARDENA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for

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SWCA Project No. 66768 SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 22-58

October 20, 2023

Keywords: CEQA; archaeological sensitivity assessment; City of Gardena; 16911 Normandie; Los Angeles County; Township 3 South, Range 12 West

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Purpose and Scope: 16911 Normandie Associates, LLC (the project applicant) retained SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to conduct tribal and archaeological resources reviews and sensitivity assessments in support of the proposed 16911 Normandie Project (also known as the Normandie Crossing Specific Plan Project) (project) in the city of Gardena and county of Los Angeles, California. The project applicant proposes to construct a seven-level apartment building on a 5.25-acre site located at 16829, 16835, 16907, and 16911 South Normandie Avenue (project site). The proposed project consists of a 403-dwelling unit multi-family residential development divided into two subareas. Subarea A, in the northern portion of the project site, would contain 328 apartment units in one sevenstory building and associated open space and amenities. Onsite vehicle parking (approximately 399 spaces) and bicycle parking (173 spaces) are proposed in the building's first two levels. Subarea B, in the southern portion of the project site, would contain 75 townhome-style units in nine three-story buildings, and open space and amenities. Parking would include 150 spaces in attached garages, and 10 guest spaces. The following study was conducted to analyze the potential impacts this project may have on tribal and archaeological resources located in the project site to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including relevant portions of Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024.1, Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, and PRC Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1. The following report documents the methods and results of a confidential records search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) and archival research used to evaluate the presence or likelihood of archaeological resources within the project site.

Dates of Investigation: SWCA conducted a CHRIS search for the project site plus a 0.8-kilometer (km) (0.5-mile) radius on December 21, 2021, at the South Central Coastal Information System (SCCIC) located at California State University, Fullerton. SWCA received the results of a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on January 25, 2022.

Summary of Findings: The CHRIS records search and archival research identified seven previously recorded resources within a 0.8-km (0.5-mile) radius of the project site. Five of the seven previously recorded resources were historic in nature, comprising one site, one structure, and three buildings. Two of the seven resources are prehistoric sites. None of the resources are located within the project site. A literature search and archival research indicate that at least one ethnographically named Native American community has been mapped approximately 2.4 km (1.5 miles) southeast of the project site. The NAHC's search of the SLF did not identify any sacred lands or sites in the immediate vicinity of the project site. SWCA considers the vicinity of the project site to have moderate sensitivity for prehistoric or historic Native American archaeological resources. The project site, however, consists of a comparatively small area within the greater region and has been subject to multiple episodes of ground disturbances. Based on the results of this report, SWCA finds a low to moderate potential for encountering intact prehistoric and historic Native American archaeological resources within the project site. Historic period archaeological resources could be preserved below the current ground surface. Specifically, there is potential to encounter structural remains, features, and artifacts associated with rail car infrastructure, residential structures revealed in historical aerial photographs, industrial buildings previously and currently present within the project site, and the surrounding residential neighborhoods from the early to mid-twentieth century. Considering that modifications were made to the project site as part of the construction of the residential and industrial buildings and structures currently and formerly occupying the project site, the probability for intact archaeological resources to be identified is considered moderate. For these reasons, SWCA finds the project site has a moderate sensitivity for containing historic period (non-Native American) archaeological resources.

Conclusion: No previously recorded archaeological resources were identified by the CHRIS within the project site. The NAHC's search of the SLF did not identify any sacred lands or sites within the project

site. The depth of excavation for the proposed project is approximately 6 feet below the surface, which would likely require excavation of the underlying alluvial sediments and removal of the overlying artificial fill that may be associated with previous construction activity. The project site was assessed for the potential to contain previously unrecorded archaeological resources. Given the extent of disturbances to the physical setting, the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological resources is found to be low to moderate. A qualified archaeologist should be retained to conduct a Pre-construction. Worker Training on the types of unanticipated resources that could be encountered during construction, based on the site's history. This archaeologist may also be retained to ensure prompt assessment in the event that unanticipated cultural resources are encountered during construction.

Disposition of Data: This report will be on file with 16911 Normandie Associates, LLC; the SCCIC at California State University, Fullerton; the Los Angeles Department of City Planning; and SWCA's Pasadena office.

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INTRODUCTION

16911 Normandie Associates, LLC (the project applicant) retained SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to conduct tribal and archaeological resources reviews and sensitivity assessments in support of the proposed 16911 Normandie Project (also known as the Normandie Crossing Specific Plan Project) (project) in the city of Gardena and county of Los Angeles, California. The project applicant proposes to construct a seven-level apartment building on a 5.25-acre site located at 16829, 16835, 16907, and 16911 South Normandie Avenue (project site).

The city of Gardena (the City) is the lead agency for the project. The following study was conducted to address archaeological resources for the purpose of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but also including relevant portions of Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024.1, Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, and PRC Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1. This study pertains only to archaeological resources and distinguishes different types of archaeological sites based on cultural and temporal affiliations, referred to here as prehistoric and historic period sites.¹ The assessment of buildings, structures, objects, and other elements of the historical built environment, and tribal cultural resources are not included here. A Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and archival research used to evaluate the presence or likelihood of archaeological resources within the project site and inform the analysis of potential impacts in accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.

SWCA Cultural Resources Team Lead Aaron Elzinga, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), Cultural Resources Archaeologist, Katie Dumm, M.Sc., RPA, and Senior Team Lead Liz Denniston, M.A., RPA conducted background research and co-authored the report. The report was reviewed for technical accuracy and quality assurance by SWCA Principal Archaeologist Michael Bever, Ph.D., RPA. Mr. Elzinga, Ms. Denniston, and Dr. Bever meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology. Copies of the report are on file with SWCA's Pasadena office and the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of a 403-dwelling unit multi-family residential development divided into two subareas. Subarea A, in the northern portion of the project site, would contain 328 apartment units in one seven-story building and associated open space and amenities. Onsite vehicle parking (approximately 399 spaces) and bicycle parking (173 spaces) are proposed in the building's first two levels. Subarea B, in the southern portion of the project site, would contain 75 townhome-style units in nine three-story buildings, and open space and amenities. Parking would include 150 spaces in attached garages, and 10 guest spaces. Ground-disturbing construction activities would involve grading, excavation, shoring tiebacks, and drilling of soldier piles conducted using loaders, excavators, compactors, hauling trucks, and a drill. The maximum anticipated depth of excavation below the existing surface grade is estimated at 6 feet.

The project site is located at 16829, 16835, 16907, and 16911 South Normandie Avenue, Gardena, California (Appendix A, Figure A-1 and Figure A-2). The project site is a 5.25-acre site, including the

¹ For purposes of this report, the terms "archaeological resource" and "archaeological site" will be used synonymously; however, any such references are categorically distinct from a "unique archaeological resource" or "historical resources," as defined under CEQA, and should not be used interchangeably. Additional definitions are provided in subsequent sections.

following Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs): 6106-030-011, 6106-030-015, 6106-030-016, and 6106-030-017. The site is a currently occupied by five one- and two-story warehouse buildings with accessory office uses and a paved parking lot. The site is bounded to the north 169th Street, to the west by Brighton Way, to the south by West 170th Street, and to the east by South Normandie Avenue. This location is plotted in Township 3 South, Range 14 West, as depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Inglewood, California, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

REGULATORY SETTING

State Regulations

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), a division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, performs certain duties described in the California PRC and maintains the California Historic Resources Inventory and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The state-level regulatory framework also includes CEQA, which requires the identification, and mitigation if necessary, of substantial adverse impacts that may affect the significance of eligible historical and archaeological resources.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires a lead agency to analyze whether historic and/or archaeological resources may be adversely affected by a proposed project. Under CEQA, a "project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC Section 21084.1). Answering this question is a two-part process: first, the determination must be made whether the proposed project involves cultural resources. Second, if cultural resources are present, the proposed project must be analyzed for a potential "substantial adverse change in the significance" of the resource.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, for the purposes of CEQA, historical resources are:

- A resource listed in, or formally determined eligible...for listing in the CRHR (PRC 5024.1, 14 CCR 4850 et seq.).
- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k) or identified as significance in a historic resources survey meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(g).
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that the lead agency determines to be eligible for national, state, or local landmark listing; generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be historically significant (and therefore a historic resource under CEQA) if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR (as defined in PRC Section 5024.1, 14 CCR 4852).

Resources nominated to the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to convey the reasons for their significance. Resources whose historic integrity (as defined above) do not meet National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

According to CEQA, the fact that a resource is not listed in or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR or is not included in a local register or survey shall not preclude the lead agency from determining that the

resource may be a historical resource (PRC Section 5024.1). Pursuant to CEQA, a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5[b]).

Substantial Adverse Change and Indirect Impacts to Historical Resources

CEQA Guidelines specify that a "substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired" (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5). Material impairment occurs when a project alters in an adverse manner or demolishes "those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion" or eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP, CRHR, or local register. In addition, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2, the "direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment shall be clearly identified and described, giving due consideration to both the short-term and long-term effects."

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

In terms of archaeological resources, PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archaeological resource as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

California Register of Historical Resources

Created in 1992 and implemented in 1998, the CRHR is "an authoritative guide in California to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state's historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change" (PRC Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1). Certain properties, including those listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP and California Historical Landmarks numbered 770 and higher, are automatically included in the CRHR. Other properties recognized under the California Points of Historical Interest program, identified as significant in historical resources surveys, or designated by local landmarks programs, may be nominated for inclusion in the CRHR. According to PRC Section 5024.1(c), a resource, either an individual property or a contributor to a historic district, may be listed in the CRHR if the State Historical Resources Commission determines that it meets one or more of the following criteria, which are modeled on NRHP criteria:

- **Criterion 1:** It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- Criterion 2: It is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- Criterion 3: It 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.

• Criterion 4: It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Resources nominated to the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to convey the reasons for their significance. Resources whose historic integrity does not meet NRHP criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR. While all sites are evaluated according to all four of the CRHR criteria, the eligibility for archaeological resources is typically considered under Criterion 4. Most prehistoric archaeological sites are lacking identifiable or important association with specific persons or events of regional or national history (Criteria 1 and 2), or are lacking the formal and structural attributes necessary to qualify as eligible under Criterion 3.

An archaeological site may be considered significant if it displays one or more of the following attributes: chronologically diagnostic, functionally diagnostic, or exotic artifacts; datable materials; definable activity areas; multiple components; faunal or floral remains; archaeological or architectural features; notable complexity, size, integrity, time span, or depth; or stratified deposits. Determining the period(s) of occupation at a site provides a context for the types of activities undertaken and may well supply a link with other sites and cultural processes in the region. Further, well-defined temporal parameters can help illuminate processes of culture change and continuity in relation to natural environmental factors and interactions with other cultural groups. Finally, chronological controls might provide a link to regionally important research questions and topics of more general theoretical relevance. As a result, the ability to determine the temporal parameters of a site's occupation is critical for a finding of eligibility under Criterion 4 (information potential). A site that cannot be dated is unlikely to possess the quality of significance required for CRHR eligibility or be considered a unique archaeological resource. The content of an archaeological site provides information regarding its cultural affiliations, temporal periods of use, functionality, and other aspects of its occupation history. The range and variability of artifacts present in the site can allow for reconstruction of changes in ethnic affiliation, diet, social structure, economics, technology, industrial change, and other aspects of culture.

Treatment of Human Remains

The disposition of burials falls first under the general prohibition on disturbing or removing human remains under California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) Section 7050.5. More specifically, remains suspected to be Native American are treated under CEQA at CCR Section 15064.5; PRC Section 5097.98 illustrates the process to be followed if remains are discovered. If human remains are discovered during excavation activities, the following procedure shall be observed:

• Stop immediately and contact the County Coroner:

1104 N. Mission Road

Los Angeles, CA 90033

(323) 343-0512 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) or

(323) 343-0714 (after hours, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays)

- If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the Coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).
- The NAHC will immediately notify the person it believes to be the most likely descendant (MLD) of the deceased Native American.
- The MLD has 48 hours to make recommendations to the owner, or representative, for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the human remains and grave goods.

• If the owner does not accept the MLD's recommendations, the owner or the MLD may request mediation by the NAHC.

Local Regulations

City of Gardena General Plan

The historical conservation element of the City of Gardena General Plan, adopted in 2006, includes Land Use (LU) Goal 4, intended to "provide the highest quality of public facilities possible to meet the needs of the City's residents and businesses and promote the City's image and cultural heritage" (City of Gardena 2006). In support of this goal, eight policies were adopted. Among these, Policy LU 4.5 is to "encourage the preservation of historical and cultural locations and monuments to preserve the heritage of the City".

METHODS

The following section presents an overview of the methodology used to identify the potential for archaeological resources within the project site.

CHRIS Records Search

SWCA requested a confidential search of the CHRIS records at the SCCIC on the campus of California State University, Fullerton, to identify previously documented cultural resources within a 0.8-kilometer (km) (0.5-mile) radius of the project site, as well as any selectively chosen outside the radius to aid in the assessment of archaeological resource sensitivity. The SCCIC maintains records of previously documented archaeological resources and technical studies; it also maintains copies of the OHP's portion of the Historic Resources Inventory.

Confidential CHRIS results include specific information on the nature and location of sensitive archaeological sites, which should not be disclosed to the public or unauthorized persons and are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. Accordingly, the results are included here as a confidential attachment (Appendix B), which is excluded from publicly circulated drafts of this report. The information included in a confidential CHRIS records search is needed to assess the sensitivity for undocumented archaeological resources and to inform the impact analysis. The search included any previously recorded archaeological resources (i.e., excludes historic buildings) within the project site and surrounding 0.8-km (0.5-mile) area.

Archival Research

Concurrent with the confidential CHRIS records search, SWCA also reviewed property-specific historical and ethnographic context research to identify information relevant to the project site. Research focused on a variety of primary and secondary materials relating to the history and development of the project site, including historical maps, aerial and ground photographs, ethnographic reports, and other environmental data. Historical maps drawn to scale were georeferenced using ESRI ArcMAP v10.5 to show precise relationships to the project site. Sources consulted included the following publicly accessible data sources: City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources (SurveyLA); City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (building permits); Library of Congress; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps (Sanborn maps); USGS historical topographic maps; University of California, Santa Barbara Digital Library (aerial photographs); and University of Southern California Digital Library.

Sensitivity Assessment

In circumstances where a known archaeological resource is not present, SWCA assessed the potential for the presence of an unidentified resource in the form of a buried archaeological site. That determination considers historical use of the project vicinity, broadly, and the physical setting, specifically, including an assessment of whether the setting is capable of containing buried archaeological material. Lacking any data specifically gathered to assess the presence or absence of archaeological material below the surface, the resulting sensitivity is by nature qualitative, ranging along a spectrum of increasing probability for encountering such material, designated here as low, moderate, and high.

SWCA assessed the sensitivity of the project site to contain non–Native American archaeological resources as well as prehistoric and historic period Native American archaeological resources. Specific factors are considered for each respective resource type. Indicators of favorable habitability for Native Americans are proximity to natural features (e.g., perennial water source, plant or mineral resource, animal habitat) and other known Native American archaeological sites, flat topography, prominent viewsheds, and relatively dry conditions. Indicators of historic period (non–Native American) archaeological resources sensitivity include presence of bricks, glass, building materials, historically documented occupation, and multiple episodes of construction and demolition of historical structures. Areas with a favorable setting for Native American habitation or temporary use, recorded historical occupation(s), soil conditions capable of preserving buried material, and little to no disturbances are considered to have a high sensitivity. Areas lacking these traits are considered to have low sensitivity. Areas with a combination of these traits as are considered as having moderate sensitivity.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This project site is located in the northwestern portion of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province. The site is within the Los Angeles Basin, a broad, level coastal and alluvial plain defined by the Pacific Ocean to the south and west, the Santa Monica Mountains to the northwest, the Puente Hills to the northeast, and the Santa Ana Mountains to the east. Within this extensive alluvial plain, the project site is situated on an uplifted marine alluvium and terrace landform, with remnant alluvial fans and uplifted alluvium and estuarine deposits. Several major watercourses drain the Los Angeles Basin, including the Los Angeles, Rio Hondo, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers. The project site and vicinity are within a fully urbanized setting on an open-aspect plain at an elevation of approximately 12 meters (40 feet) above mean sea level. An 1896 topographic map shows that before urbanization, the project site was on a relatively level alluvial plain approximately 0.3 km (0.2 mile) northwest of Dominguez Slough. The site is approximately 0.6 km (0.4 mile) northwest of the Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve.

In the absence of any previous geotechnical studies for the project site, SWCA relied on online soil and geologic map data from the USGS. The project site is set within what was once a broad floodplain of the Los Angeles River and Dominguez Slough. Older Surficial (abbreviated Qae) alluvium, dating to greater than 12,500 years before present (BP), is mapped within the project site. Soils within the project site are described as unconsolidated to weakly consolidated alluvial sediments, characterized by alluvial gravel, sand, and clay (Dibblee and Minch 2007). The soils are further characterized as Windfetch loam with overly uplifted alluvium and terraces, varying from 8 centimeters to 2 meters (3–78 inches) deep and consisting of pale brown to dark brown, friable, moderate to blocky-textured clay loam.

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistory

Prehistoric Overview

In the last several decades, researchers have devised numerous prehistoric chronological sequences to aid in understanding cultural changes in southern California. Building on early studies and focusing on data synthesis, Wallace (1955, 1978) developed a prehistoric chronology for the southern California coastal region that is still widely used today and is applicable to near-coastal and many inland areas. Four horizons are presented in Wallace's prehistoric sequence: Early Man, Milling Stone, Intermediate, and Late Prehistoric. Although Wallace's 1955 synthesis initially lacked chronological precision due to a paucity of absolute dates (Moratto 1984:159), this situation has been alleviated by the availability of thousands of radiocarbon dates obtained by southern California researchers in the last three decades (Byrd and Raab 2007:217), and several revisions were subsequently made to Wallace's 1955 synthesis using radiocarbon dates and projectile point assemblages (e.g., Koerper and Drover 1983; Koerper et al. 2002; Mason and Peterson 1994). The summary of prehistoric chronological sequences for southern California coastal and near-coastal areas presented below is a composite of information in Wallace (1955) and Warren (1968), as well as more recent studies, including Koerper and Drover (1983).

HORIZON I: EARLY MAN (CA. 10,000-6,000 BC)

The earliest accepted dates for archaeological sites on the southern California coast are from two of the northern Channel Islands, located off the coast of Santa Barbara. On San Miguel Island, Daisy Cave clearly establishes the presence of people in this area approximately 10,000 years ago (Erlandson 1991:105). On Santa Rosa Island, human remains have been dated from the Arlington Springs site to approximately 13,000 years ago (Johnson et al. 2002). Present-day Orange and San Diego Counties contain several sites dating from 9,000 to 10,000 years ago (Byrd and Raab 2007:219; Macko 1998:41; Mason and Peterson 1994:55–57; Sawyer and Koerper 2006). Although the dating of these finds remains controversial, several sets of human remains from the Los Angeles Basin (e.g., "Los Angeles Man," "La Brea Woman," and the Haverty skeletons) apparently date to the Middle Holocene, if not earlier (Brooks et al. 1990; Erlandson et al. 2007:54).

Recent data from Horizon I sites indicate that the economy was a diverse mixture of hunting and gathering, with a major emphasis on aquatic resources in many coastal areas (e.g., Jones et al. 2002), and a greater emphasis on large-game hunting inland.

HORIZON II: MILLING STONE (6,000-3,000 B.C.)

Set during a drier climatic regime than the previous horizon, the Milling Stone horizon is characterized by subsistence strategies centered on collecting plant foods and small animals. The importance of seed processing is apparent in the dominance of stone grinding implements in contemporary archaeological assemblages, namely milling stones (metates) and hand stones (manos). Recent research indicates that Milling Stone horizon food procurement strategies varied in both time and space, reflecting divergent responses to variable coastal and inland environmental conditions (Byrd and Raab 2007:220).

HORIZON III: INTERMEDIATE (3,000 B.C.-A.D. 500)

The Intermediate horizon is characterized by a shift toward a hunting and maritime subsistence strategy, along with a wider use of plant foods. An increasing variety and abundance of fish, land mammal, and sea

mammal remains are found in sites from this horizon along the California coast. Related chipped stone tools suitable for hunting are more abundant and diversified, and shell fishhooks became part of the toolkit during this period. Mortars and pestles became more common during this period, gradually replacing manos and metates as the dominant milling equipment and signaling a shift away from the processing and consuming of hard seed resources to the increasing importance of the acorn (e.g., Glassow et al. 1988; True 1993).

HORIZON IV: LATE PREHISTORIC (A.D. 500-HISTORIC CONTACT)

In the Late Prehistoric horizon, there was an increase in the use of plant food resources in addition to an increase in land and sea mammal hunting. There was a concomitant increase in the diversity and complexity of material culture during the Late Prehistoric horizon, demonstrated by more classes of artifacts. The recovery of a greater number of small, finely crafted projectile points suggests increased use of the bow and arrow rather than the atlatl (spear thrower) and dart for hunting. Steatite cooking vessels and containers are also present in sites from this time, and there is an increased presence of smaller bone and shell circular fishhooks, perforated stones, arrow shaft straighteners made of steatite, a variety of bone tools, and personal ornaments such as beads made from shell, bone, and stone. There was also an increased use of asphaltum (also known as bitumen) for waterproofing and as an adhesive.

By A.D. 1000, fired-clay smoking pipes and ceramic vessels were being used at some sites (Drover 1971, 1975; Meighan 1954; Warren and True 1961). The scarcity of pottery in coastal and near-coastal sites implies that ceramic technology was not well developed in that area, or that occupants were trading with neighboring groups to the south and east for ceramics. The lack of widespread pottery manufacture is usually attributed to the high quality of tightly woven and watertight basketry that functioned in the same capacity as ceramic vessels.

During this period, there was an increase in population size accompanied by the advent of larger, more permanent villages (Wallace 1955:223). Large populations and, in places, high population densities are characteristic, with some coastal and near-coastal settlements containing as many as 1,500 people. Many of the larger settlements were permanent villages in which people resided year-round. The populations of these villages may have also increased seasonally.

In Warren's (1968) cultural ecological scheme, the period between A.D. 500 and European contact, which occurred as early as 1542, is divided into three regional patterns: Chumash (Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties), Takic/Numic (Los Angeles, Orange, and western Riverside Counties), and Yuman (San Diego County). The seemingly abrupt introduction of cremation, pottery, and small triangular arrow points in parts of modern-day Los Angeles, Orange, and western Riverside Counties at the beginning of the Late Prehistoric period is thought to be the result of a Takic migration to the coast from inland desert regions. Modern Gabrielino, Juaneño, and Luiseño people in this region are considered the descendants of the Uto-Aztecan, Takic-speaking populations that settled along the California coast in this period.

Ethnographic Overview

The project site is in an area historically occupied by the Gabrielino (Bean and Smith 1978:538; Kroeber 1925:Plate 57). Surrounding Native groups included the Chumash and Tatataviam/Alliklik to the north, the Cahuilla to the east, Serrano to the northeast, and the Luiseño/Juaneño to the south and southeast. There is well-documented interaction between the Gabrielino and many of their neighbors in the form of intermarriage and trade.

The name "Gabrielino" (sometimes spelled Gabrieleno or Gabrieleño) denotes those people who were administered by the Spanish from Mission San Gabriel. This group is now considered a regional dialect of the Gabrielino language, along with the Santa Catalina Island and San Nicolas Island dialects (Bean and Smith 1978:538). In the post-European contact period, Mission San Gabriel included Natives of the greater Los Angeles area, as well as members of surrounding groups such as Kitanemuk, Serrano, and Cahuilla. There is little evidence that the people we call Gabrielino had a broad term for their group (Dakin 1978:222); rather, they identified themselves as an inhabitant of a specific community with locational suffixes (e.g., a resident of Yaanga was called a Yabit, much the same way that a resident of New York is called a New Yorker; Johnston 1962:10).

Native words suggested as labels for the broader group of Native Americans in the Los Angeles region include Tongva (or Tong-v; Merriam 1955:7–86) and Kizh (Kij or Kichereno; Heizer 1968:105), although there is evidence that these terms originally referred to local places or smaller groups of people within the larger group that we now call Gabrielino. Nevertheless, many present-day descendants of these people have taken on Tongva as a preferred group name because it has a Native rather than Spanish origin (King 1994:12). The term Gabrielino is used in the remainder of this report to designate Native people of the Los Angeles Basin and their descendants.

The Gabrielino subsistence economy was centered on gathering and hunting. The surrounding environment was rich and varied, and the tribe exploited mountains, foothills, valleys, deserts, riparian, estuarine, and open and rocky coastal eco-niches. Like that of most Native Californians, acorns were the staple food (an established industry by the time of the Early Intermediate period). Inhabitants supplemented acorns with the roots, leaves, seeds, and fruits of a variety of flora (e.g., islay, cactus, yucca, sages, and agave). Freshwater and saltwater fish, shellfish, birds, reptiles, and insects, as well as large and small mammals, were also consumed (Bean and Smith 1978:546; Kroeber 1925:631–632; McCawley 1996:119–123, 128–131).

The Gabrielino used a variety of tools and implements to gather and collect food resources. These included the bow and arrow, traps, nets, blinds, throwing sticks and slings, spears, harpoons, and hooks. Groups residing near the ocean used oceangoing plank canoes and tule balsa canoes for fishing, travel, and trade between the mainland and the Channel Islands (McCawley 1996:7). Gabrielino people processed food with a variety of tools, including hammer stones and anvils, mortars and pestles, manos and metates, strainers, leaching baskets and bowls, knives, bone saws, and wooden drying racks. Food was consumed from a variety of vessels. Catalina Island steatite was used to make ollas and cooking vessels (Blackburn 1963; Kroeber 1925:629; McCawley 1996:129–138).

At the time of Spanish contact, the basis of Gabrielino religious life was the Chinigchinich cult, centered on the last of a series of heroic mythological figures. Chinigchinich gave instruction on laws and institutions, and also taught the people how to dance, the primary religious act for this society. He later withdrew into heaven, where he rewarded the faithful and punished those who disobeyed his laws (Kroeber 1925:637–638). The Chinigchinich religion seems to have been relatively new when the Spanish arrived. It was spreading south into the southern Takic groups even as Christian missions were being built and may represent a mixture of Native and Christian belief and practices (McCawley 1996:143–144).

Deceased Gabrielino were either buried or cremated, with inhumation more common on the Channel Islands and the neighboring mainland coast, and cremation predominating on the remainder of the coast and in the interior (Harrington 1942; McCawley 1996:157). Remains were buried in distinct burial areas, either associated with villages or without apparent village association (Altschul et al. 2007). Cremation ashes have been found in archaeological contexts buried within stone bowls and in shell dishes (Ashby and Winterbourne 1966:27), as well as scattered among broken ground stone implements (Cleland et al. 2007). Archaeological data such as these correspond with ethnographic descriptions of an elaborate

mourning ceremony that included a variety of offerings, including seeds, stone grinding tools, otter skins, baskets, wood tools, shell beads, bone and shell ornaments, and projectile points and knives. Offerings varied with the sex and status of the deceased (Dakin 1978:234–365; Johnston 1962:52–54; McCawley 1996:155–165).

Native American Communities in Greater Los Angeles

In general, it has proven very difficult or impossible to establish definitively the precise location of Native American villages occupied in the Ethnohistoric period (McCawley 1996:31–32). Native American place names referred to at the time of Spanish contact did not necessarily represent a continually occupied settlement within a discrete location. Instead, in at least some cases, the communities were represented by several smaller camps scattered throughout an approximate geography, shaped by natural features subject to change over generations (see Johnston 1962:122). Many of the villages had long since been abandoned by the time ethnographers, anthropologists, and historians attempted to document any of their locations, at which point the former village sites were affected by urban and agricultural development, and Native American lifeways had been irrevocably changed. Alternative names and spellings for communities, and conflicting reports on their meaning or locational reference, further confound efforts at relocation. McCawley quotes Kroeber (1925:616) in his remarks on the subject, writing that "the opportunity to prepare a true map of village locations 'passed away 50 years ago'" (McCawley 1996:32). Thus, even with archaeological evidence, it can be difficult to conclusively establish whether any given assemblage represents the remains of the former village site.

History

Post-contact history for the state of California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish period (1769–1822), Mexican period (1822–1848), and American period (1848–present). Although Spanish, Russian, and British explorers visited the area for brief periods between 1529 and 1769, the Spanish period in California begins with the establishment in 1769 of a settlement at San Diego and the founding of Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first of 21 missions constructed between 1769 and 1823. Independence from Spain in 1821 marks the beginning of the Mexican period, and the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, ending the Mexican–American War, signals the beginning of the American period, when California became a territory of the United States.

Spanish Period (1769–1822)

Spanish explorers made sailing expeditions along the coast of southern California between the mid-1500s and mid-1700s. In search of the legendary Northwest Passage, Juan Rodríquez Cabríllo stopped in 1542 at present-day San Diego Bay. With his crew, Cabríllo explored the shorelines of present Catalina Island as well as San Pedro and Santa Monica Bays. Much of the present California and Oregon coastline was mapped and recorded in the next half-century by Spanish naval officer Sebastián Vizcaíno. Vizcaíno's crew also landed on Santa Catalina Island and at San Pedro and Santa Monica Bays, giving each location its long-standing name. The Spanish crown laid claim to California based on the surveys conducted by Cabríllo and Vizcaíno (Bancroft 1886:96–99; Gumprecht 2001:35).

More than 200 years passed before Spain began the colonization and inland exploration of Alta California. The 1769 overland expedition by Captain Gaspar de Portolá marks the beginning of California's Historic period, occurring just after the King of Spain installed the Franciscan Order to direct religious and colonization matters in assigned territories of the Americas. With a band of 64 soldiers, missionaries, Baja (lower) California Native Americans, and Mexican civilians, Portolá established the Presidio of San Diego, a fortified military outpost, as the first Spanish settlement in Alta California.

In July 1769, while Portolá was exploring Southern California, Franciscan Fr. Junípero Serra founded Mission San Diego de Alcalá at Presidio Hill, the first of the 21 missions that would be established in Alta California by the Spanish and the Franciscan Order between 1769 and 1823.

The Portolá expedition first reached the present-day boundaries of Los Angeles in August 1769, thereby becoming the first Europeans to visit the area. Father Juan Crespí, a member of the expedition, named the campsite by the river Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles de la Porciúncula or "Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of the Porciúncula." Two years later, Fr. Junípero Serra returned to the valley to establish a Catholic mission, the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, on September 8, 1771 (Engelhardt 1927). In 1781, a group of 11 Mexican families traveled from Mission San Gabriel Arcángel to establish a new pueblo called El Pueblo de la Reyna de Los Angeles ("the Pueblo of the Queen of the Angels"). This settlement consisted of a small group of adobe-brick houses and streets and would eventually be known as the Ciudad de Los Angeles ("City of Angels").

A major emphasis during the Spanish period in California was the construction of missions and associated presidios to integrate the Native American population into Christianity and communal enterprise. Incentives were also provided to bring settlers to pueblos or towns, but just three pueblos were established during the Spanish period, only two of which were successful and remain as California cities (San José and Los Angeles). Several factors kept growth within Alta California to a minimum, including the threat of foreign invasion, political dissatisfaction, and unrest among the indigenous population.

Mexican Period (1822–1848)

After more than a decade of intermittent rebellion and warfare, New Spain (Mexico and the California territory) won independence from Spain in 1821. In 1822, the Mexican legislative body in California ended isolationist policies designed to protect the Spanish monopoly on trade, and decreed California ports open to foreign merchants.

Extensive land grants were established in the interior during the Mexican period, in part to increase the population inland from the more settled coastal areas where the Spanish had first concentrated their colonization efforts. The secularization of the missions following Mexico's independence from Spain resulted in the subdivision of former mission lands and establishment of many additional ranchos.

During the supremacy of the ranchos (1834–1848), landowners largely focused on the cattle industry and devoted large tracts to grazing. Cattle hides became a primary southern California export, providing a commodity to trade for goods from the east and other areas in the United States and Mexico. The number of non-Native inhabitants increased during this period because of the influx of explorers, trappers, and ranchers associated with the land grants. The rising California population contributed to the introduction and rise of diseases foreign to the Native American population, who had no associated immunities.

American Period (1848–Present)

War in 1846 between Mexico and the United States began at the Battle of Chino, a clash between resident Californios and Americans in the San Bernardino area. This battle was a defeat for the Americans and bolstered the Californios' resolve against American rule, emboldening them to continue the offensive in later battles at Dominguez Field and in San Gabriel (Beattie 1942). However, this early skirmish was not a sign of things to come and the Americans were ultimately the victors of this 2-year war. The Mexican–American War officially ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, which resulted in the annexation of California and much of the present-day Southwest, ushering California into its American period.

California officially became a state with the Compromise of 1850, which also designated Utah and New Mexico (with present-day Arizona) as U.S. territories. Horticulture and livestock, based primarily on cattle as the currency and staple of the rancho system, continued to dominate the southern California economy through 1850s. The Gold Rush began in 1848; with the influx of people seeking gold, cattle were no longer desired mainly for their hides, but also as a source of meat and other goods. During the 1850s cattle boom, rancho vaqueros drove large herds from southern to northern California to feed that region's burgeoning mining and commercial boom. Cattle were at first driven along major trails or roads such as the Gila Trail or Southern Overland Trail, then were transported by trains when available. The cattle boom ended for southern California as neighboring states and territories drove herds to northern California at reduced prices. Operation of the huge ranchos became increasingly difficult, and droughts severely reduced their productivity (Cleland 1941).

On April 4, 1850, only 2 years after the Mexican–American War and 5 months prior to California's achieving statehood, Los Angeles was officially incorporated as an American city. Settlement of the Los Angeles region continued steadily throughout the Early American period. Los Angeles County was established on February 18, 1850, one of 27 counties established in the months prior to California's acquiring official statehood in the United States. At that time, the city was bordered on the north by the Los Felis and the San Rafael Land Grants and on the south by the San Antonio Luge Land Grant. Many of the ranchos in the area now known as Los Angeles County remained intact after the United States took possession of California; however, a severe drought in the 1860s resulted in many of the ranchos being sold or otherwise acquired by Americans. Most of these ranchos were subdivided into agricultural parcels or towns (Dumke 1944).

Ranching retained its importance through the mid-nineteenth century, and by the late 1860s, Los Angeles was one of the top dairy production centers in the country (Rolle 2003). By 1876, the county had a population of 30,000 (Dumke 1944:7). Los Angeles maintained its role as a regional business center, and the development of citriculture in the late 1800s and early 1900s further strengthened this status (Caughey and Caughey 1977). These factors, combined with the expansion of port facilities and railroads throughout the region, contributed to the impact of the real estate boom of the 1880s on Los Angeles (Caughey and Caughey 1977; Dumke 1944). By the late 1800s, government leaders recognized the need for water to sustain the growing population in the Los Angeles area. Irish immigrant William Mulholland personified the city's efforts for a stable water supply (Dumke 1944; Nadeau 1997). By 1913, the City of Los Angeles had purchased large tracts of land in the Owens Valley, and Mulholland planned and completed the construction of the 240-mile aqueduct that brought the valley's water to the city (Nadeau 1997).

As the population of Los Angeles continued to expand throughout the Mexican period the transition of many former rancho lands to agriculture, as well as the development of citriculture in the late 1800s became a draw for many. Los Angeles continued to grow in the twentieth century, in part due to the discovery of oil in the area and its strategic location as a wartime port. The county's mild climate and successful economy continued to draw new residents in the late 1900s, with much of the county transformed from ranches and farms into residential subdivisions surrounding commercial and industrial centers. Hollywood's development into the entertainment capital of the world and southern California's booming aerospace industry were key factors in the county's growth in the twentieth century. The same real estate and population surge provided opportunities for the settlement and development of communities, such as Gardena, well beyond the city core of Los Angeles.

City of Gardena

The City of Gardena is a community within the South Bay region of Los Angeles County. The City traces its roots to the 1880s, when Spencer R. Thrope of Ventura, California, reportedly started a settlement near

what is now Alondra Boulevard and Figueroa Street, near the intersection of 161st Street and Figueroa. However, Gardena's true founder was later confirmed to be real estate businessman and developer, Abram Ehle Pomeroy. Pomeroy was the first to advertise and market the area to would-be land buyers interested in developing orchards and gardens (City of Gardena 2016). How the city got its name is unclear; perhaps because it was considered to be a beautiful garden spot due to the fertile valley created by the Laguna Dominguez slough nearby. The City was incorporated on September 11, 1930, nearly 50 years after the first settlers moved to the area, consolidating the surrounding communities of Gardena, Strawberry Park, and Moneta (City of Gardena 2016). At that time the city was a farming community of approximately 20,000 people. Gardena is what is known as a General Law City, which under California law means that there is no city charter other than the laws, resolutions, and ordinances adopted and passed by the City Council and the "appropriate statutes" of the State of California.

RESULTS

CHRIS Records Search

Previously Conducted Studies

SWCA obtained the results of the records search from the SCCIC on December 21, 2021. The results indicate that 13 cultural resource studies have been conducted within 0.8 km (0.5 mile) of the project site. None of these studies directly intersected the project site. The results of this search are summarized below in Table 1.

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Study Type	Author: Affiliation	Year	Relationship to Project Site	
LA-00114	Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources and Potential Impact of Proposed New Freeway Construction on the Harbor Freeway (Route 11) and the Artesia Freeway (Route 91)	Literature search and reconnaissance survey	Clewlow Jr., Carl William	1974	Outside (within 0.5 mile)	
LA-03572	Cultural Resource Investigation for the Proposed Willows Wetland Restoration Project	Literature search and pedestrian survey	Unknown: Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.	1997	Outside (within 0.5 mile)	
LA-03583	The Los Angeles Basin and Vicinity: A Gazetteer and Compilation of Archaeological Site Information	Literature search	Bucknam, Bonnie M.: Archaeological Research, Inc.	1974	Outside (within 0.5 mile)	
LA-05996	Cultural Resource Assessment at & T Wireless Services Facility No. 05146a Los Angeles County, California	Literature search	Duke, Curt	2002	Outside (within 0.5 mile)	
LA-06028	Cultural Resource Assessment AT & T Wireless Services Facility No. 05147 Los Angeles County, California	Literature search	Duke, Curt	2002	Outside (within 0.5 mile)	
LA-07689	Cultural Resources Records Search Results and Site Visit for Sprint Candidate La70xc303f (gardena Ice Co.) 16526 South Normandie Avenue, Gardena, Los Angeles County, California	Literature search and site visit	Bonner, Wayne H.	2005	Outside (within 0.5 mile)	

Table 1. Previously Conducted Cultural Resource Studies within 0.5 mile of the Project Site

Archaeological Resources Assessment for the Proposed Development at 16911 South Normandie Avenue, City of Gardena, Los Angeles County, California

SCCIC Report Number	Title	Study Type	Author: Affiliation	Year	Relationship to Project Site
LA-07989	Direct APE Historic Structural Assessment for Cingular Telecommunications Facility Candidate EL-049-11 (SCE/Western Torrance) Western Avenue and Artesia Boulevard, Torrance, Los Angeles County, California	Literature review, pedestrian survey, and historic evaluation	Bonner, Wayne H., and Kathleen A. Crawford: Michael Brandman Associates	2005	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
LA-10438	A Phase I Archaeological Study for the Sage Park Apartments Project: W 177th Street, S. Budlong Avenue, Normandie Avenue and Gardena High School, City of Gardena, County of Los Angeles, California	Literature search and pedestrian survey	Wlodarski, Robert: Rincon Consultants, Inc.	2010	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
LA-10567	Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties: West Basin Municipal Water District Harbor-South Bay Water Recycling Project Proposed Project Laterals	Literature search and pedestrian survey	Hogan, Micael, Bai "Tom" Tang, Josh Smallwood, Laura Hensley Shaker, and Casey Tibbitt: CRM Tech	2005	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
LA-11150	West Basin Municipal Water District Harbor/South Bay Water Recycling Project	Literature search and pedestrian survey	Maxwell, Pamela: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	2003	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
LA-11482	Camp Sites in Harbor District	Literature search	Racer, F.H.	1939	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
LA-11716	Seismic Retrofit, Gardena Senior High School, Los Angeles Unified School District, HMGP-DR-1810-CA	Historic properties report	Donaldson, Milford Wayne: Office of Historic Preservation	2012	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
LA-12461	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for T Mobil West, LLC Candidate LA02550A (M7-T4Mesa-Dedondo 220kV), 17795 Normandie Avenue, Gardena, Los Angeles County, California	Literature review, pedestrian survey, and historic evaluation	Bonner, Wayne, and Kathleen Crawford: Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc.	2003	Outside (within 0.5 mile)

Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

The CHRIS records search identified a total of seven previously documented cultural resources within a 0.8-km (0.5-mile) radius of the project site (Table 2). None of the seven resources overlap the project area. Five of the previously recorded resources consist of historic sites or historic built environment resources. The remaining two resources, P-19-000088 and P-19-000101, are prehistoric archaeological sites. The historic-age resources are the Dominquez Slough (P-19-177369), the Gardena Department Store Building (P-19-177464), the Gardena Senior High School (P-19-190006), SCE Tower (P-19-190646), and a residential structure (P-19-192741).

The prehistoric sites are P-19-000088/CA-LAN-88 and P-19-000101/CA-LAN-101. Site P-19-000088 (also known as "Racer's Site #14") was described as a "small site on bank of slough," and consisted of shell midden, flint chips, and broken manos (Racer 1939:3). Site P-19-000101 (also known as "Racer's Site #13") was described as an artifact scatter with a burial (Racer 1939:2). Both were recorded in 1939 and collectively referred to as "Indian Camp Sites in the Harbor District." Their current condition is unknown but given the amount of development that has since occurred in the area, it is doubtful they still exist.

Primary Number	Trinomial	Resource Type	Temporal Affiliation	Resource Description	Recording Year (Name, Affiliation)	Proximity to Subject Property
P-19-000088	CA-LAN-88	Site	Prehistoric	Shell midden, workshop, flint chips	1939 (Racer, F.H., unknown)	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
P-19-000101	CA-LAN-101	Site	Prehistoric	Artifact scatter, burials	1939 (Racer, F.H., unknown)	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
P-19-177369	N/A	Site	Historic	Dominguez Slough (OHP Property Number 028045)	1981 (no author)	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
P-19-177464	N/A	Building	Historic	Gardena Department Store Building	2007 (Supernowicz, Dana E., Historic Resources Associates)	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
P-19-190006	N/A	Building	Historic	Gardena Senior High School	2011 (Campbell, Lex F., Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc.)	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
P-19-190646	N/A	Structure	Historic	T-Mobile West LLC LA02550A/ SCE Tower #M7-T4 Mesa-Redondo	2013 (Crawford, K.A., Crawford Historic Services)	Outside (within 0.5 mile)
P-19-192741	N/A	Building	Historic	1348 W 168th Street	2018 (Brunzell, Kara, Brunzell Historical)	Outside (within 0.5 mile)

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within 0.5 mile of the Project Site

Archival Research

SWCA's archival research included a review of historical maps for the project site and vicinity and focused on documenting modifications to the physical setting and identifying any potential natural or artificial features that may reflect use by Native Americans or by non–Native American people in the Historic period (e.g., stream courses, vegetation, historical topography, roads, habitation markers). Though no reliable maps exist showing the precise location of travel routes within the project site or vicinity, it is likely that many of the routes used by the Spanish, Mexican, and Euro-American inhabitants followed many of the same alignments previously established by Native Americans. The Kirkman-Harriman map (Kirkman 1938) illustrates this pattern of historically significant points connected by travel corridors composed of superimposed paths from multiple time periods.

Although the precise location of any given village is subject to much speculation, it is clear the greater Los Angeles area once contained many Gabrielino villages, including several concentrated along the banks of major waterways (Figure A-3 and Figure A-4). This settlement pattern is reflected in historical maps published by the Southwest Museum (1962; reprinted in Johnston 1962) and George Kirkman (1938), shown here with the project site plotted in Figure A-5 and Figure A-6, respectively. Maps such as these convey a general sense of significant historical areas based on the geographic information available at the time and are considered as a representational depiction of these locations rather than explicit geographic points.

The closest ethnographically documented village to the project site may be Amupubit, which is estimated to have been located approximately 2.4 km (1.5 miles) southeast of the project site (Figure A-7). Jautibit, another named ethnographic Native American settlement, has been mapped between approximately 2.7 km and 5.6 km (1.7 miles and 3.5 miles) northeast and east-northeast of the project site. Aside from the ethnographic evidence suggesting the location of these villages, little direct, indisputable archaeological evidence for the location of Native American villages has been produced to date. The project site is in the vicinity of at least one previous Native American trade route (named "New Salt

Road 1848–1878") to the north of the project site. A portion of the 1769 Portolá Expedition route is located approximately 17.3 km (10.7 miles) north of project site (see Figure A-6).

Historical Development of the Project Site

The following provides an overview of the project site history. A detailed history of the project site can be found in the Historical Resources Assessment (Howell-Ardila and Zamudio-Gurrola 2023).

The project site is located in the south-central portion of the City's boundary when it was incorporated in 1930. The subject property is located within part of what was once the 43,000-acre Spanish land grant known as Rancho San Pedro, to the west of what was the Hellman Tract, and just south of the former Rosecrans Tract (Figure A-8). Apart from the presence of late-nineteenth century irrigation infrastructure within the project site, as early as 1888, the former pueblo lands remained mostly undeveloped agricultural land until the early to mid-twentieth century (Hall 1888). The establishment of the Southern Pacific Railroad to the north of the project site by 1896 undoubtedly spurred an increase in development of the region in the early to middle part of the twentieth century (see Figure A-8). The completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad sparked what turned into a population boom in the late-nineteenth century. Through the 1890s and into the early twentieth century, the areas surrounding the project site were subdivided and developed into city blocks with residential buildings being erected (Figure A-9). The primary road system around the project area was already established during the early and middle of the twentieth century.

By 1924, a segment of the Pacific Electric passenger rail line (also known as the "Red Cars") is present along the eastern edge of the subject property, along with Normandie Avenue; 170th Street appears along the southern boundary of the project site (see Figure A-9 and Figure A-10). The Pacific Electric system was the main streetcar system for the greater Los Angeles area until its discontinuation in the early 1960s (Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California 2013). Sometime between 1924 and 1927, at least one building is present in the southwest corner of the project site and one residential plot is present within the northern portion. Both development areas are likely associated with agricultural use of the subject property. Between 1927 and 1941, the project site saw the additional of several structures within both the southwest corner and northern portion of the project site (Figure A-11). The project site remained largely undeveloped until after about 1941, when the structures in the southwest corner were altered, and the residential property within the northern portion was demolished and warehouses began being constructed within the property boundary.

As the twentieth century unfolded, the project site was developed as an industrial locus surrounded by residential neighborhoods with some commercial properties such as garages and theaters in the vicinity, as well as some religious institutions. The mid-twentieth century saw many changes within the project site partially related to growth in automobile sales and increases in business and commerce. By 1960, the project site had been further developed with multiple industrial buildings and structures (warehouses) and approached the property's current physical building configuration (Figure A-12). By 1971, all but two of the buildings currently occupying the project site are present, with one previous building having been demolished and removed (Figure A-13). Further warehouse construction occurred in the mid- to late twentieth century, and by the end of the twentieth century the entire area was either developed or paved over.

Review of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, newspaper articles, and building permits failed to produce conclusive results for the subject property. This is likely because the area was undeveloped and may have been used primarily as an agricultural field until as late as the mid-twentieth century, when warehouses were constructed. Assessor records document that most of the buildings on the parcel were constructed between 1952 and 1967.

NATIVE AMERICAN COORDINATION

Sacred Lands File Search

On December 3, 2021, SWCA requested a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) from the NAHC. SWCA received the results of the SLF search from the NAHC on January 25, 2022. The NAHC's SLF results letter indicated negative findings. The letter notes that the SLF and CHRIS are not exhaustive inventories of resources that may be present in any given area, and that tribes may uniquely possess information on the presence of an archaeological resource. The NAHC provided a list of nine Native American contacts and suggested contacting them to provide information on sacred lands that may not be listed in the SLF. The NAHC letter is included in Appendix C.

SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

The physical environment of the project site has undergone massive alterations in the last 135 years from the initial use of the area for agriculture, to the outward expansion of the built environment from the City of Gardena's historic core, including the construction of an early irrigation system and the Pacific Electric rail line, to multiple mid-twentieth century redevelopments. As a result, most of the sediments below the paved surfaces within the project site have been subject to at least some amount of ground disturbance, which, in most cases, diminishes the likelihood of encountering archaeological resources.

Archaeological Resources

As described above, the CHRIS records search identified seven previously recorded resources within a 0.8-km (0.5-mile) radius of the project site. None of the resources were located within the project site. All but two of the resources identified within the 0.5-mile radius are historic resources. As described above, the records search identified two prehistoric sites (P-19-000088 and P-19-000101) within 0.5 mile of the project site.

Generally speaking, prehistoric artifacts and sites are more likely to be found near sources of water. Water features including perennial springs and small wetlands are known to have existed just southeast of the project site. The site records noted above indicate that both prehistoric resources were located near or adjacent to the Dominguez Slough. The slough is located approximately 0.3 km (0.2 mile) to the southeast of the project site. A portion of the Dominguez Channel 2.4 km (1.5 miles) to the west-northwest fed into the Laguna Dominguez river going southeast to the slough. As the previously documented sites indicate, areas such as this would have been frequented by Native Americans.

Archaeological remains associated with prehistoric or historic-era Native Americans can exist below paved surfaces within developed urban settings. While the CHRIS records search results did not identify any such archaeological resources within the project site or its immediate vicinity, most of the project site was not inspected for archaeological resources before being developed. SWCA considers the greater region of the project site as having moderate sensitivity for prehistoric or historic Native American archaeological resources. However, the project site consists of a comparatively small area within the greater region and has been subject to multiple episodes of ground disturbance. Archival research reveals the land-use history of the project site and its transitions from former pueblo lands, into a somewhat dense industrial locus surrounded by the growth and establishment of residential developments during the midtwentieth century. As a result, archaeological material once located on the surface or in shallow deposits is unlikely to have been preserved within the project site, and though more deeply buried deposits could exist, SWCA considers the sensitivity for prehistoric and historic Native American archaeological resources to decrease within the project site.

Qae alluvium, dating to greater than 12,500 years BP, is mapped within the project site (Dibblee and Minch 2007). Given the age of this formation, intact, naturally buried archaeological resources are not expected. Additionally, the impacts to the near-surface from historic period developments and the fact that most of the Los Angeles Basin is composed of alluvium from this time period, suggest decreased levels of sensitivity. Based on the above considerations, SWCA finds a <u>low to moderate potential for encountering prehistoric and historic period Native American archaeological resources</u> within the project site.

Historic period archaeological resources could be preserved below the current ground surface, especially within the artificial fill associated with past construction activities. Specifically, there is potential to encounter structural remains, features, and artifacts associated with the residential and industrial buildings from the early to mid-twentieth century. Considering that modifications were made to the project site as part of the removal of former buildings and structures and the construction of the current warehouses between approximately 1941 and 1971, the probability for intact archaeological resources to be identified is considered moderate. For these reasons, SWCA finds the project site has a <u>moderate sensitivity for containing historic period (non–Native American) archaeological resources.</u>

CONCLUSION

Archaeological Resources

No previously recorded archaeological resources have been identified within the project site. The depth of excavation for the project is approximately 6 feet below the surface, which would likely require excavation of underlying alluvial sediments and removal of the overlying artificial fill. The potential for unidentified archaeological resources within the project site is found to be low to moderate. Although such a discovery is unlikely, any previously unidentified archaeological resources, if present, have the potential to be significant under CEQA.

A qualified archaeologist should be retained to conduct a Pre-construction Worker Training on the types of unanticipated resources that could be encountered during construction, based on the site's history. This archaeologist may also be retained to ensure prompt assessment in the event that unanticipated cultural resources are encountered during construction.

If archaeological resources are exposed during construction, work within 50 feet of the find must stop until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find. Construction activities may continue in other areas. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA (14 CCR 15064.5[f]; PRC 21082), additional work such as testing or data recovery may be warranted. While it is considered to be very unlikely, the discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbances. Section 7050.5 of the State of California Health and Safety Code states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Los Angeles County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Section 5097.98 of the PRC. The Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

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APPENDIX A

Report Figures
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Figure A-1. Project site plotted on USGS Inglewood, California, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.



Figure A-2. Project site shown on a 2022 aerial photograph and street map.



Figure A-3. Former courses of the Los Angeles River with map of villages cited in Gabrielieno ethongraphic sources (Gumprecht 2001).



Figure A-4. Project site plotted on McCawley's (1996:36) map of villages cited in Gabrielieno ethongraphic sources.



Figure A-5. Project site plotted on a map of Native American and historical sites in the Los Angeles Basin published by the Southwest Museum (1962) and reprinted in Johnston (1962).



Figure A-6. Project site plotted on the Kirkman-Harriman map (Kirkman 1938).



Figure A-7. Project site plotted with historical reference points associated with ethnographic sources to Gabrielino settlements in Los Angeles County (King 2004).



Figure A-8. An 1888 irrigation map of Los Angeles County, indicating presence of roads, irrigation pipes, flumes, and canals/ditches within the project site (Hall 1888).



Figure A-9. A 1924 historical topographic map showing surrounding communities and segment of Pacific Electric line within eastern portion of the project site.



Figure A-10. A 1947 map of Pacific Electric passenger rail line routes Los Angeles County, showing passenger line within eastern portion of project site (Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California 2013).



Figure A-11. Detailed view of project site plotted on 1941 aerial map, showing multiple buildings/structures in southwest corner.



Figure A-12. A 1960 aerial map showing multiple buildings throughout the project site.



Figure A-13. A 1971 aerial view of the project site showing additional buildings/structures since 1960, and one building in southwestern portion that has since been removed.

APPENDIX B

California Historical Resources Information System Search Results (CONFIDENTIAL)

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APPENDIX C

Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File Search Results This page is intentionally blank.



CHAIRPERSON Laura Miranda Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON Reginald Pagaling Chumash

Parliamentarian **Russell Attebery** Karuk

COMMISSIONER William Mungary Paiute/White Mountain Apache

COMMISSIONER Isaac Bojorquez Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER Sara Dutschke Miwok

COMMISSIONER Buffy McQuillen Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki

Commissioner Wayne Nelson Luiseño

COMMISSIONER Stanley Rodriguez Kumeyaay

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Gavin Newsom, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

January 25, 2022

Liz Denniston SWCA

Via Email to: <u>liz.denniston@swca.com</u>

Re: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resource Studies with Optional Services for a Proposed Development at 16911 South Normandie Avenue, Gardena, California Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Denniston:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were <u>negative</u>. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded 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. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might 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 me. 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: <u>Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Indrew Green.

Andrew Green Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contact List Los Angeles County 1/25/2022

Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation

Andrew Salas, Chairperson P.O. Box 393 Gabrieleno Covina, CA, 91723 Phone: (626) 926 - 4131 admin@gabrielenoindians.org

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel

Band of Mission IndiansAnthony Morales, ChairpersonP.O. Box 693GabrielenoSan Gabriel, CA, 91778Phone: (626) 483 - 3564Fax: (626) 286-1262GTTribalcouncil@aol.com

Gabrielino /Tongva Nation

Sandonne Goad, Chairperson 106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St., Gabrielino #231 Los Angeles, CA, 90012 Phone: (951) 807 - 0479 sgoad@gabrielino-tongva.com

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of

California Tribal CouncilRobert Dorame, ChairpersonP.O. Box 490GabrielinoBellflower, CA, 90707Phone: (562) 761 - 6417Fax: (562) 761-6417gtongva@gmail.com

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of

California Tribal Council Christina Conley, Tribal Consultant and Administrator P.O. Box 941078 Gabrielino Simi Valley, CA, 93094 Phone: (626) 407 - 8761 christina.marsden@alumni.usc.ed u

Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe

Charles Alvarez, 23454 Vanowen Street G West Hills, CA, 91307 Phone: (310) 403 - 6048 roadkingcharles@aol.com

Gabrielino

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla

Indians Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA, 92539 Phone: (951) 659 - 2700 Fax: (951) 659-2228 Isaul@santarosa-nsn.gov

Cahuilla

Soboba Band of Luiseno

Indians Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson P. O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581 Phone: (951) 654 - 5544 Fax: (951) 654-4198 ivivanco@soboba-nsn.gov

Cahuilla Luiseno

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians

Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural Resource Department P.O. BOX 487 San Jacinto, CA, 92581 Phone: (951) 663 - 5279 Fax: (951) 654-4198 jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov

Cahuilla Luiseno

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 Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resource Studies with Optional Services for a Proposed Development at 16911 South Normandie Avenue, Gardena, California Project, Los Angeles County.