

January 26, 2023

Simon Bouzaglou  
55555 Amargosa, LLC  
5901 South Eastern Avenue  
Commerce, CA 90040

Subject: Cultural and Paleontological Resources Assessment for the Johnson/Navajo Road Project, Town of Apple Valley, San Bernardino County, California (Project Number C-0464)

Dear Mr. Bouzaglou:

At the request of the 55555 Amargosa, LLC (CLIENT), Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC (DUKE CRM) has prepared a cultural and paleontological resources assessment for the proposed construction of an industrial warehouse building at the Johnson/Navajo Road project (Project), located in the Town of Apple Valley, San Bernardino County, California. The Project is 18.71 acres in size. The Town of Apple Valley (Town) is the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Project is located in the High Desert within APNs 0463-213-26, -27, and -28 in Section 16, Township 6 North, Range 3 West, as shown on the USGS *Apple Valley North, Calif. 7.5'* quadrangle map (see Attachment 1 for Project Maps). The Project will construct an industrial warehouse building with a maximum depth of excavation of 30 feet (ft.).

This report includes the results of background research and field survey for cultural and paleontological resources.

## Research

DUKE CRM conducted a records search conducted by the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC). The SCCIC located at the California State University, Fullerton is part of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). The records search included a review of all recorded cultural resources within a ½-mile radius of the Project, as well as a review of known cultural resource reports. In addition, the California Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) was examined, which includes the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest. The BERD did not identify cultural resources within the Project.

The records search from the SCCIC was conducted on January 18, 2023. The records search did not identify any cultural resources within ½ mile of the Project. Additionally, the SCCIC identified two (2) cultural resource studies within ½ mile of the Project, none of which covered the Project area (see Table 1 below).

**Table 1: Cultural Resource Reports within ½ mile of the Project**

| Report No. | Year | Report Title                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Authors                                              |
|------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| SB-00874   | 1979 | An Archaeological Sampling of the Proposed Allen-Warner Valley Energy System, Western Transmission Line Corridors, Mojave Desert, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties, California and Clark County, Nevada | James P. Baker, Carol H. Rector, and Philip J. Wilke |
| SB-03677   | 2001 | A Cultural Resources Assessment of the 300 Acre Pluto Development, Inc Property, SE Corner of Johnson Road and Dale Evans Parkway, Town of Apple Valley, San Bernardino County, CA 15PP                         | Robert White and Laurie White                        |

Additionally, an inquiry to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was submitted to ascertain the presence of known sacred sites, Native American cultural resources, and/or human remains within the boundaries of the proposed Project. On January 15, 2023, the NAHC indicated that there have been no Native American cultural resources identified within the Sacred Lands File for the Project location (see Attachment 2).

DUKE CRM conducted a review of online historical aerial photographs and historic USGS quad maps utilizing UCSB FrameFinder, HistoricAerials.com, and USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer. The 1932 Barstow 1:125,000 map shows a road grid that includes Johnson Road and Navajo Rd. The Project area shows no development. The 1957 Apple Valley 15' map and the 1968 aerial illustrates Johnson Road as dirt without reference to Navajo Road. The surrounding area remains undeveloped until the Midfield Aviation runway was constructed, which is graded circa 1969 and established prior to the 1984 aerial. Subsequent years shows the increase in buildings to the south and west of the Project. The Project area has remained vacant with no evidence of trails or structures going through the site (HistoricAerials.com; accessed January 18, 2023).

The geology in the vicinity of the Project has been mapped by Dibblee and Minch (2008). A review of this map indicates the proposed Project is located within alluvial silt, sand, and clay from the Holocene epoch (*Qa*). Holocene alluvial units are considered to be of high preservation value, but material found is unlikely to be fossil material due to the relatively modern associated dates of the deposits. However, as planned the development requires disturbance to a depth of 30 ft, thus the likelihood of reaching Pleistocene alluvial sediments is increased.

DUKE CRM requested that the Western Science Center perform a paleontological records search for known fossil localities within, and in the vicinity of, the Project. On January 12, 2023, the Western Science Center reported they did not find any paleontological resources within one (1) mile of the Project. While the presence of any fossil material is unlikely in the near-surface excavations, if excavation activity disturbs deeper sediment dating to the earliest parts of the Holocene or Late Pleistocene periods it would impact soils that may contain scientifically significant fossil resources. It is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that excavation activity associated with the development of the project area is unlikely to be paleontologically sensitive, but caution during development should be observed.

### Field Survey

Morgan Bender, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) and Lauren Biltonen, B.A, Archaeologist, conducted an intensive pedestrian survey on January 20, 2023. The survey area included the entirety of the 18.71 acres of the proposed Project. Transects began in the southeast corner of the Project boundary and were spaced no more than 15 meters apart. Ground visibility was moderate, ranging from 50-70 percent. Ground cover consists of desert clover with scattered creosote bushes throughout site with a mean elevation of approximately 3080 feet above sea level. Topography is relatively flat with a small wash running east to

west in center of site. Disturbances within the Project include rodent burrows, vehicle tracks, and modern refuse. Additionally, one historic tin can isolate was observed and recorded during the survey (see Attachment 3). No other cultural or paleontological resources were observed. See photographs in Attachment 4.

### **Conclusions**

DUKE CRM assessed the proposed Project area for the presence of cultural and paleontological resources according to CEQA. One historic isolate was observed during the field survey. However, due to the resource being an isolate and negative finding from the SCCIC, our assessment is that the Project has a low potential to impact cultural resources. Therefore, monitoring is not recommended for cultural resources.

Research that included a paleontological records search with the Western Science Center indicates that there is a high sensitivity for paleontological resources in the alluvial sand and gravel from the Holocene epoch (*Qa*) that underlies the Project. Although it is unlikely that fossil material is present, if excavation activities disturb deeper sediment dating to the earliest parts of the Holocene or Late Pleistocene periods, fossil material recovered may be scientifically significant and caution during development should be observed.

If previously unidentified cultural and/or paleontological materials are unearthed later construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist can assess the significance of the find. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur in the area of the find until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or their authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Thank you for contacting DUKE CRM on this interesting project. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (949) 356-6660, or by e-mail at [morganbender@dukecrm.com](mailto:morganbender@dukecrm.com).

Sincerely,

**DUKE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC**



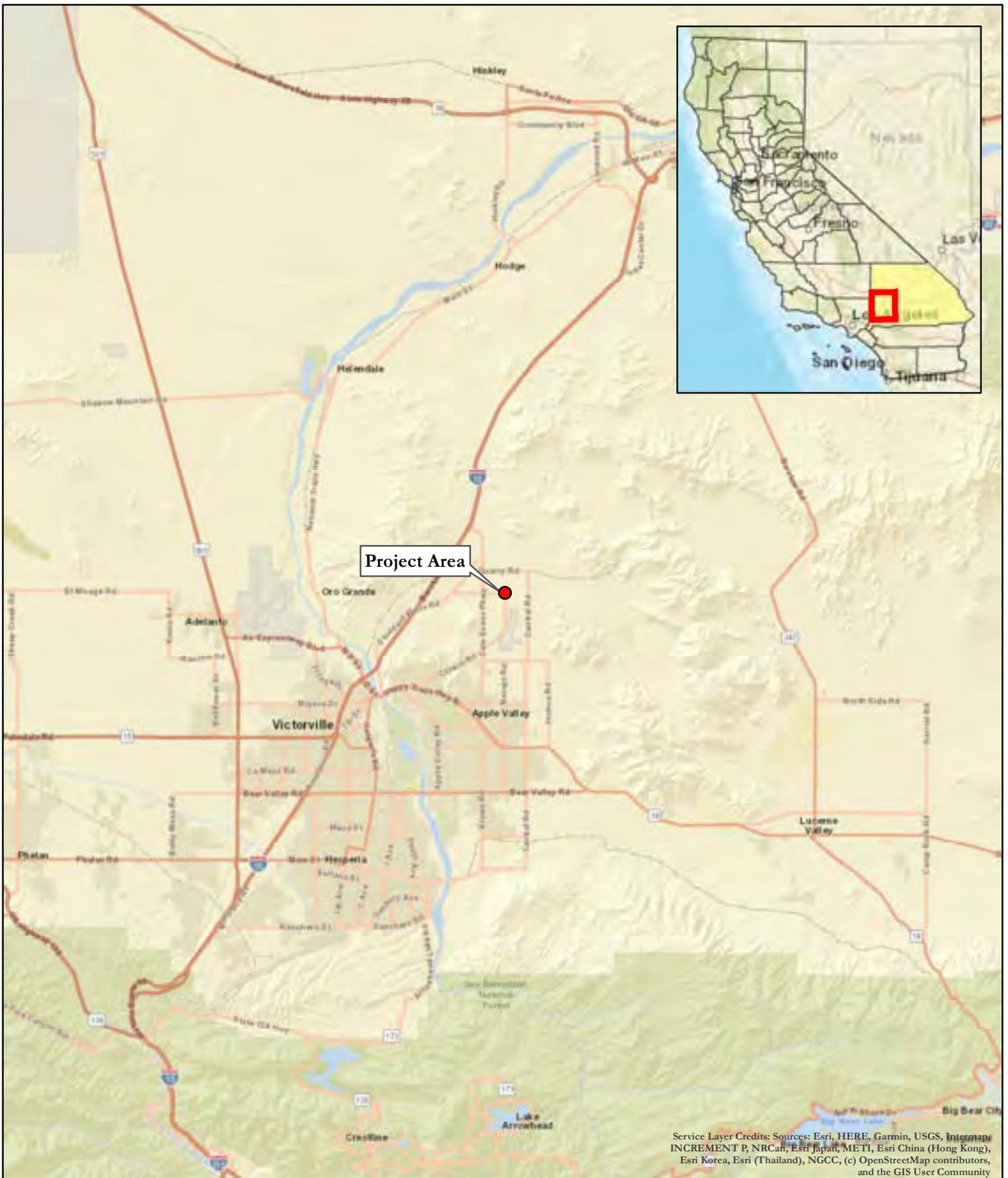
Morgan Bender, M.A., RPA  
Archaeologist

### Attachments

- 1: Project Maps
- 2: Native American Heritage Commission Letter
- 3: Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record 523 Form
- 4: Project Photographs

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

## **PROJECT MAPS**

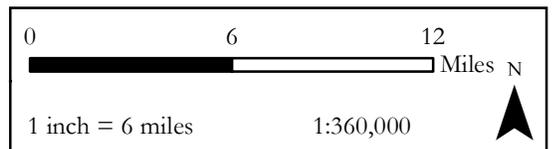


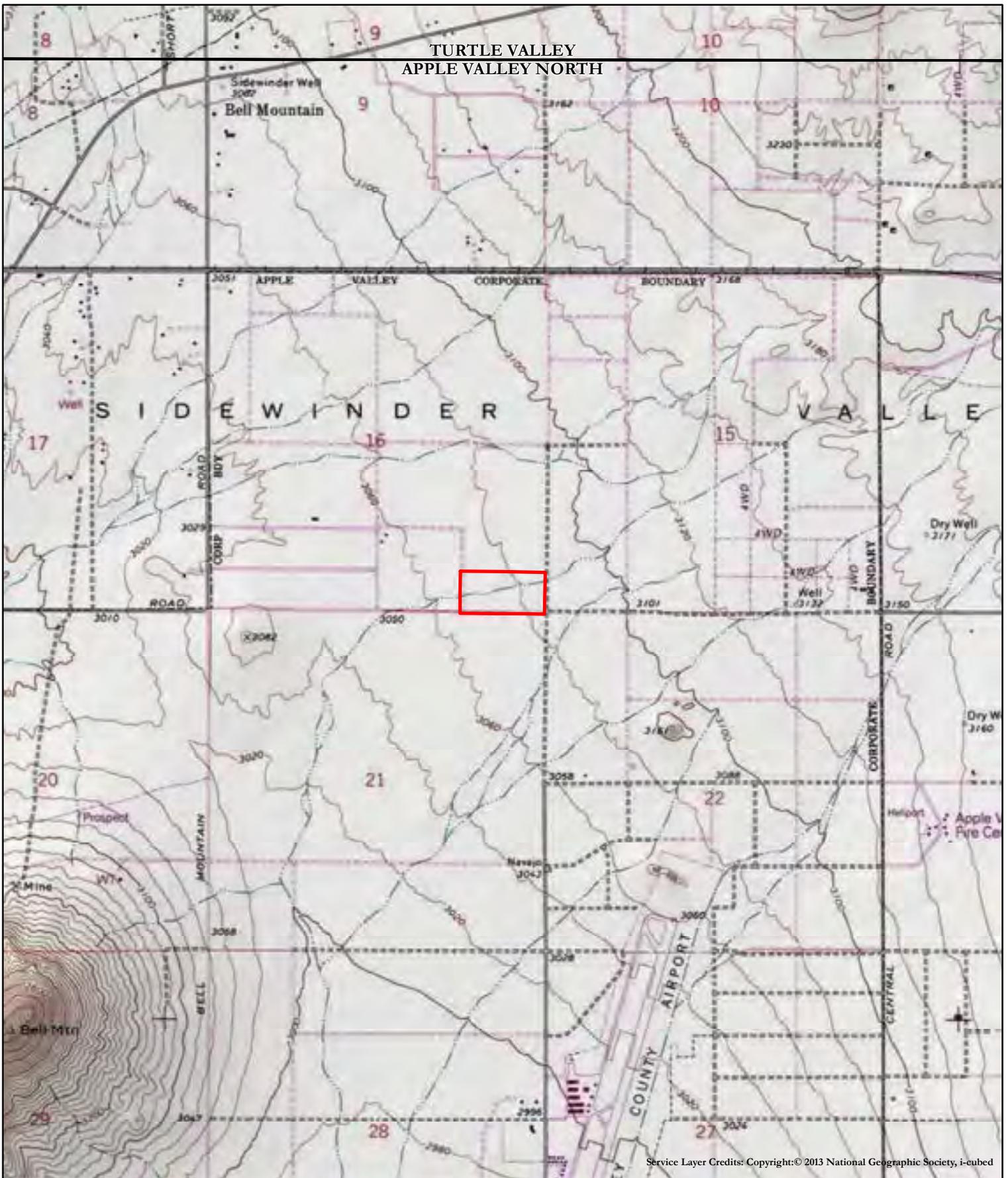
**Map 1. Project Vicinity**

Johnson Navajo Road, Apple Valley, C-0464



● Project Area

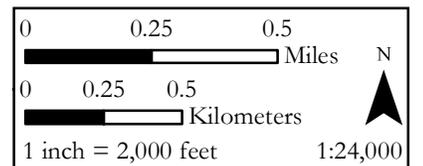




**Map 2. Project Location**  
Johnson Navajo Road, Apple Valley, C-0464

*Apple Valley North, Calif USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle*  
T6N, R3W, Section 16  
Date of Map: 1970 / Photorevised: 1993

- Project Area
- USGS 7.5' Quads



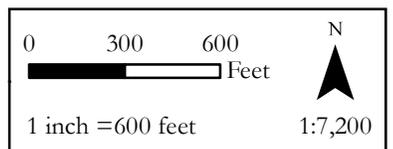


**Map 3. Project Aerial Photo**

Johnson Navajo Road, Apple Valley, C-0464



 Project Area



**ATTACHMENT 2**

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE  
COMMISSION LETTER**

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

January 15, 2023

Morgan Bender  
DUKE CRMVia Email to: [morganbender@dukecrm.com](mailto:morganbender@dukecrm.com)

Re: C-0464 Johnson Navajo, Apple Valley Project, San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Bender:

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 negative. 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: [Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Cameron Vela*Cameron Vela  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

CHAIRPERSON  
Laura Miranda  
LuiseñoVICE CHAIRPERSON  
Reginald Pagaling  
ChumashSECRETARY  
Sara Dutschke  
MiwokCOMMISSIONER  
Isaac Bojorquez  
Ohlone-CostanoanCOMMISSIONER  
Buffy McQuillen  
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,  
NomlakiCOMMISSIONER  
Wayne Nelson  
LuiseñoCOMMISSIONER  
Stanley Rodriguez  
KumeyaayCOMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
Raymond C.  
Hitchcock  
Miwok/NisenanNAHC HEADQUARTERS  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
West Sacramento,  
California 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
[NAHC.ca.gov](http://NAHC.ca.gov)

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
San Bernardino County  
1/15/2023**

**Kern Valley Indian Community**

Julie Turner, Secretary  
P.O. Box 1010  
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240  
Phone: (661) 340 - 0032

Kawaiisu  
Tubatulabal  
Koso

**Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma  
Reservation**

Jill McCormick, Historic  
Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 1899  
Yuma, AZ, 85366  
Phone: (760) 572 - 2423  
historicpreservation@quechantribe.com

Quechan

**Kern Valley Indian Community**

Brandy Kendricks,  
30741 Foxridge Court  
Tehachapi, CA, 93561  
Phone: (661) 821 - 1733  
krazykendricks@hotmail.com

Kawaiisu  
Tubatulabal  
Koso

**San Fernando Band of Mission  
Indians**

Donna Yocum, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 221838  
Newhall, CA, 91322  
Phone: (503) 539 - 0933  
Fax: (503) 574-3308  
ddyocum@comcast.net

Kitanemuk  
Vanyume  
Tataviam

**Kern Valley Indian Community**

Robert Robinson, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1010  
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240  
Phone: (760) 378 - 2915  
bbutterbredt@gmail.com

Kawaiisu  
Tubatulabal  
Koso

**San Manuel Band of Mission  
Indians**

Jessica Mauck, Director of  
Cultural Resources  
26569 Community Center Drive  
Highland, CA, 92346  
Phone: (909) 864 - 8933  
Jessica.Mauck@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Serrano

**Morongo Band of Mission  
Indians**

Ann Brierty, THPO  
12700 Pumarra Road  
Banning, CA, 92220  
Phone: (951) 755 - 5259  
Fax: (951) 572-6004  
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Cahuilla  
Serrano

**Serrano Nation of Mission  
Indians**

Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson  
P. O. Box 343  
Patton, CA, 92369  
Phone: (253) 370 - 0167  
serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano

**Morongo Band of Mission  
Indians**

Robert Martin, Chairperson  
12700 Pumarra Road  
Banning, CA, 92220  
Phone: (951) 755 - 5110  
Fax: (951) 755-5177  
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Cahuilla  
Serrano

**Serrano Nation of Mission  
Indians**

Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson  
P. O. Box 343  
Patton, CA, 92369  
Phone: (909) 528 - 9032  
serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano

**Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma  
Reservation**

Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman  
Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee  
P.O. Box 1899  
Yuma, AZ, 85366  
Phone: (928) 750 - 2516  
scottmanfred@yahoo.com

Quechan

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 C-0464 Johnson Navajo, Apple Valley Project, San Bernardino County.

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
San Bernardino County  
1/15/2023**

***Twenty-Nine Palms Band of  
Mission Indians***

Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Historic  
Preservation Officer  
46-200 Harrison Place Chemehuevi  
Coachella, CA, 92236  
Phone: (760) 775 - 3259  
amadrigal@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov

***Twenty-Nine Palms Band of  
Mission Indians***

Darrell Mike, Chairperson  
46-200 Harrison Place Chemehuevi  
Coachella, CA, 92236  
Phone: (760) 863 - 2444  
Fax: (760) 863-2449  
29chairman@29palmsbomi-  
nsn.gov

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 C-0464 Johnson Navajo, Apple Valley Project, San Bernardino County.

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
PRIMARY RECORD 523 FORM**

**Other Listings**  
**Review Code**

**Reviewer**

**Date: 1/24/2023**

**\*Resource Name or #:** (Assigned by recorder)

Page 1 of 1

**P1. Other Identifier:** One Gilmore Oil Can

**\*P2. Location:**  Not for Publication  Unrestricted

**\*a. County** San Bernardino

**\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Date **02/4/2022** T 1S; R 13W; ¼ of ¼ of Sec 27; B.M.

**c. Address:** Johnson Rd./Navajo Rd. City Apple Valley Zip 90012

**d. Zone** 11N 482596mE/ 3828991 mN NAD 83

**e. Other Locational Data** (e.g., parcel #, legal description, directions to resource, additional UTM's, etc., when appropriate): Can found approximately 360 feet north/northwest of Johnson Rd./Navajo Rd. Intersection.

**\*P3a. Description** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries):

The Gilmore Oil Can measured approximately 5 ½ in. (13 ½ cm) tall by 4 in. (10 cm) in diameter. The Gilmore Oil can was in good condition, with approximately 3-4 other cans in the surrounding area, however the cans did not have any visible diagnostic features. Gilmore Oil was founded in 1905 and became the largest independent oil company on the West Coast. Mobile Oil bought Gilmore Oil Company in 1943 and Gilmore Oil Company services ceased in 1945.

**\*P3b. Resource Attributes** (List all attributes and codes):

**\*P4. Resources Present:**  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  Other:

**P5a Photograph or Drawing** (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



**P5b. Description of Photo:** (view, date, accession #) 1/19/2023

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:**  
 Prehistoric  Historic  Both

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**

**\*P8. Recorded by** (Name, affiliation, address): Duke CRM, 18 Technology Drive, Suite 103, Irvine, 92618

**\*P9. Date Recorded:** January 24, 2023

**\*P10. Type of Survey:**  Intensive  Reconnaissance  Other

**Describe:**

**\*P11. Report Citation** (Provide full citation or enter "none"):

Cultural and Paleontological Resources Assessment for the Johnson/Navajo Road Project, Town of Apple Valley, San Bernardino County, California (Project Number C-0464) Bender, Morgan 2023

**\*Attachments:**  None  Location Map  Site Map  Continuation Sheet  Building, Structure, and Object Record  Archaeological Record  District Record  Linear Feature Record  Milling Station Record  Rock Art Record  Artifact Record  Photograph Record  Other:

## **ATTACHMENT 4**

### **PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS**



Site overview. View to north.



Site overview. View to south.



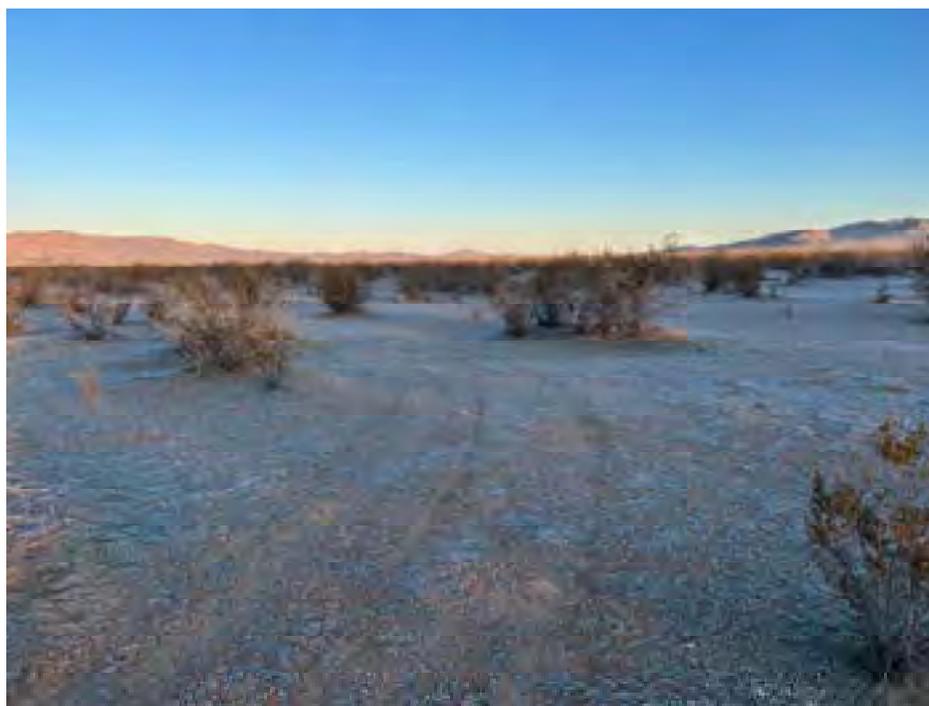
Site overview. View to east.



Site overview. View to west.



Site overview. View to northeast.



Tire marks running through site. View to northwest.



Modern debris. View to south.



Small wash running east to west through site. View to southwest.



Closeup of ground cover. Plan view.



Overview of vegetation. View to southwest.



Historic Gilmore Oil can. Plan view.



Histoic Gilmore Oil can. Plan view.