

Cultural Resource Investigation for the Avenue 50 Improvements Project City of Indio, Riverside County, California

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draft

USGS La Quinta and Indio 7.5' topographic quadrangles,
Sec. 33, 34, and 35 T5S R7E SBBM & Sec. 4, 3, and 2 T6S R7E SBBM
Level of Investigation: CEQA Phase I Historic Resource Evaluation
~45 acres surveyed
Keywords: City of La Quinta, City of Indio

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The City of Indio proposes improvements to Avenue 50 in the cities of Indio and La Quinta in Riverside County, California. Avenue 50 Improvements (Project) involve widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, raised median, and drainage improvements along Avenue 50 in La Quinta. The maximum depth of ground disturbance during Project construction will be approximately 15 feet. Under contract to Albert A. Webb Associates, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) conducted a cultural resource assessment of the Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City of Indio is the lead agency for compliance with CEQA.

This report summarizes the methods and results of the cultural resource investigation, including a records search and literature review, communication with Native American tribal representatives, an archaeological and built environment survey of the Project area, and documentation and significance evaluation of one built environment resource. The purpose of the investigation was to determine the potential for the proposed Project to impact historical resources eligible for or listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).

The literature and records search at the Eastern Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System indicated that 54 cultural resources have been documented within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project area. One of these previously identified cultural resources, a segment of the Coachella Canal (33-005705), is within the Project area.

Results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search was negative for Native American cultural resources within the Project area. Per the NAHC's request, Æ contacted 12 Native American individuals and organizations to elicit information on Native American resources within the Project area and received responses from representatives of one tribe—the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Æ Senior Archaeologist Andrew DeLeon completed an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the Project area on March 14, 2024. During the survey, DeLeon revisited the location of the Coachella Canal mapped within the Project area and identified one previously unrecorded built environment resource, an approximately 2.5-mile-long segment of Avenue 50. Æ confirmed that the Coachella Canal is outside the Project area's vertical limits and, therefore, will not be impacted by construction of the Project. Avenue 50 was documented and evaluated according to CRHR significance criteria and is recommended ineligible for listing.

The Project area is predominantly developed and landscaped. Ground visibility was generally poor due to the presence of the existing paved roadway and sidewalks. Given these conditions, there is a low likelihood that archaeological deposits or features will be found during construction; therefore, Æ recommends no further cultural resource management within the Project area.

Field notes documenting the current investigation are on file at Æ's Hemet office. A copy of this report will also be submitted to the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Indio (City) proposes improvements to Avenue 50 in the cities of Indio and La Quinta in Riverside County, California. The Avenue 50 Improvements (Project) involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the city of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, raised median, and drainage improvements along Avenue 50 in the city of La Quinta. The maximum depth of ground disturbance during Project construction will be approximately 15 feet. Under contract to Albert A. Webb Associates, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) conducted a cultural resource assessment of the Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City is the lead agency for compliance with CEQA.

Æ Principal Investigator Joan George (B.S., Registered Archaeologist 28093) was responsible for overall quality control for the Project and served as project manager. Principal Architectural Historian Carlos van Onna, M.A., oversaw preparation of the built environment sections of the report. The report was compiled and written by Æ Staff Archaeologist Jessica Cochrane (B.A.) and Associate Architectural Historian Cheyenne Good-Peery (B.A.). Æ Senior Archaeologist Andrew DeLeon (M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist 17087) completed the field survey.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project is within the southwestern portion of the city of Indio and the northeastern portion of the city of La Quinta in Riverside County (Figure 1-1). Specifically, the 45-acre Project area is mapped in Sections 33, 34, and 35, Township 5 South, Range 7 East of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, and Sections 4, 3, and 2, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as depicted on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) La Quinta and Indio 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps (Figure 1-2). Elevation in the Project area is approximately 33 feet above mean sea level (amsl).

The Project area includes approximately 42.5 acres along Ave 50 between Jefferson Street to the west and Jackson Street to the east. The Project area includes all proposed right of ways and temporary construction easements. Project improvements involve widening the existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised median (Figure 1-3). The Project will include pavement reconstruction and/or rehabilitation; installation of new curb, gutter, and sidewalks; installation of retaining walls; and underground utility improvements. This portion of Avenue 50 will be widened from the existing 30–55 feet to approximately 71–78 feet in some areas with parkway and utility improvements within the ultimate street right-of-way of approximately 100-110 feet. The majority of work will be conducted within the existing right-of-way; some areas will require right-of-way acquisition, drainage easements, and temporary construction easements. The maximum depth of ground disturbance during Project construction is not expected to exceed 15 feet.

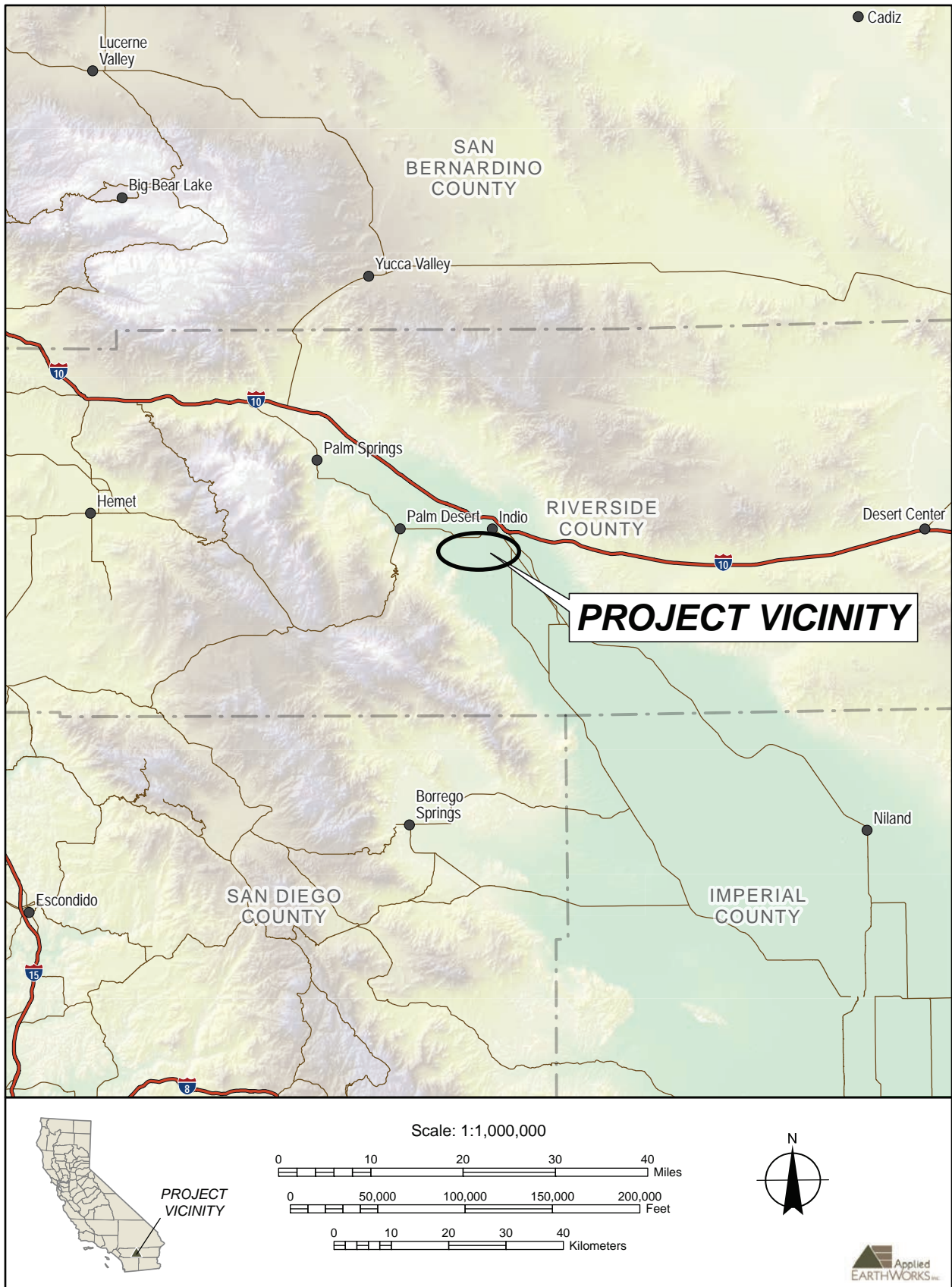


Figure 1-1 Project vicinity in Riverside County, California.

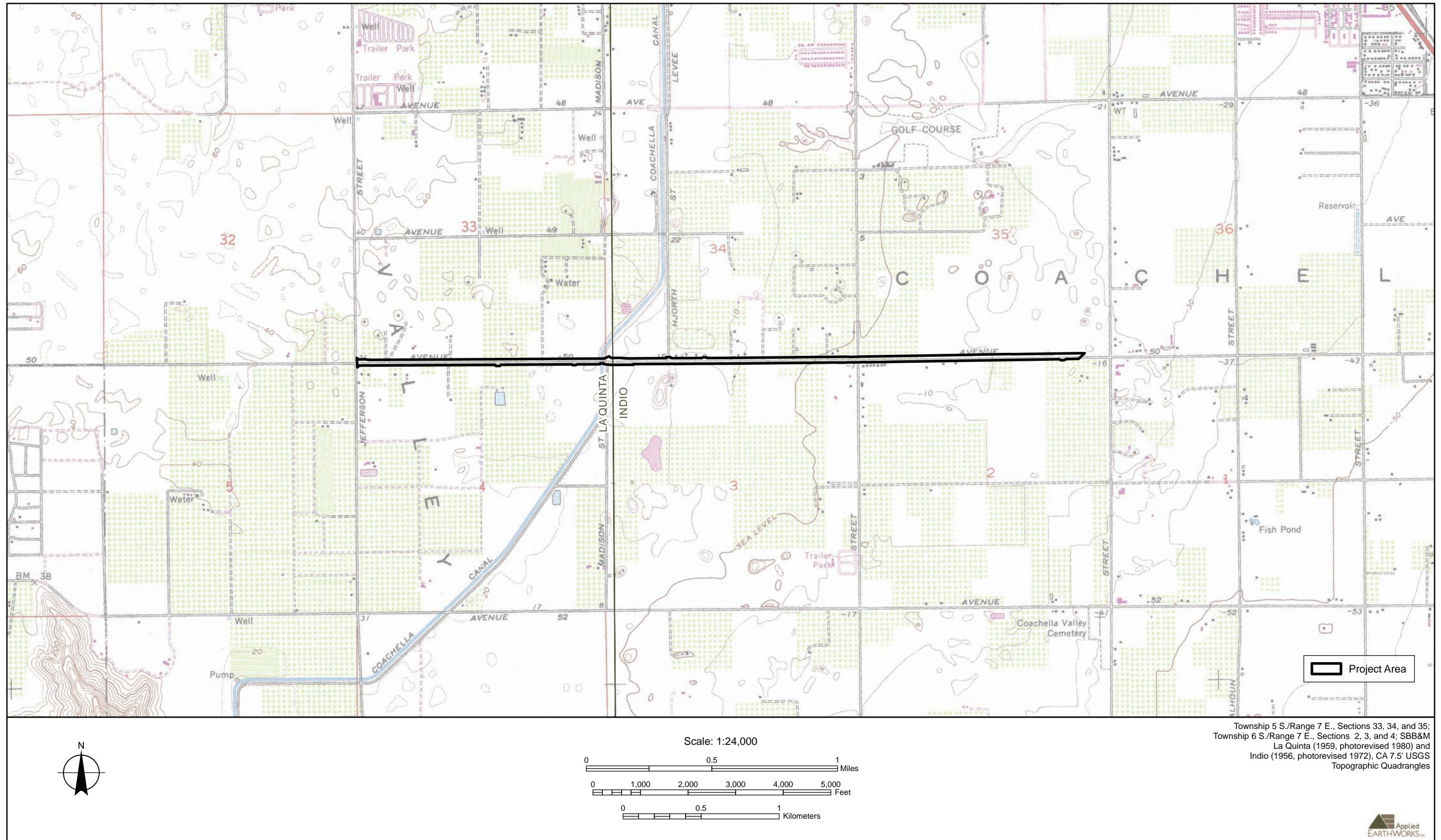
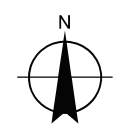


Figure 1-2 Project location on USGS La Quinta and Indio 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles.



Esri Community Maps Contributors, Loma Linda University, County of Riverside, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar



Scale: 1:15,000

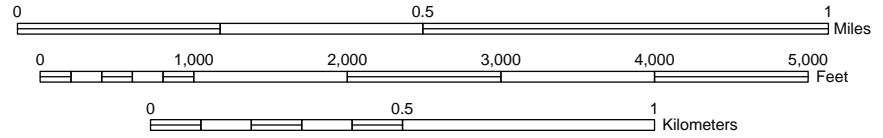


Figure 1-3 Project area detail on aerial photograph.

1.2 REGULATORY CONTEXT

1.2.1 California Environmental Quality Act

The Project requires discretionary approval from the City and is therefore subject to the requirements of CEQA. The CEQA Statute and Guidelines directs lead agencies to determine whether a project will have a significant impact on historical resources.

A cultural resource considered “historically significant” is considered a “historical resource” if it is over 45 years of age, is included in a local register of historical resources, or is listed in or determined eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) under any one of the following criteria (Title 14, California Code of Regulations [CCR], Section 15064.5):

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

Compliance with CEQA’s cultural resource provisions typically involves several steps. Briefly, archival research and field surveys are needed, and identified cultural resources are inventoried and evaluated in prescribed ways. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites as well as standing structures, buildings, and objects deemed historically significant and sufficiently intact (i.e., historical resources) must be considered in project planning and development.

A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant impact on the environment (14 CCR 15064.5[b]), and the lead agency is responsible for identifying potentially feasible measures to mitigate significant adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource (14 CCR 15064.5[b]4).

1.3 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This report documents the results of a cultural resource investigation of the proposed Project area. Chapter 1 has described the Project and its location, defined the scope of the cultural resource investigation, and stated the regulatory context. Chapter 2 summarizes the natural and cultural setting of the Project area and surrounding region. Chapter 3 presents the results of the archaeological literature and records search. Chapter 4 summarizes the Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and Native American communications. The field survey methods and results are discussed in Chapter 5. An eligibility evaluation of the built environment resource is presented in Chapter 6. Cultural resource management recommendations are provided in Chapter 7, and Chapter 8 is a bibliography of references cited throughout the report. Results of the Sacred Lands File search and correspondence with Native American groups are included as Appendix A and California

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523-series recording forms for the resource identified in the Project area are provided in Appendix B. An expanded map view of the Project survey coverage is provided in Appendix C.

2 SETTING

This chapter describes the precontact, ethnographic, and historic cultural setting of the Project area to provide a context for understanding the nature and significance of cultural resources identified within the region. The nature and distribution of human activities in the region have been affected by such factors as topography and the availability of water and natural resources. Therefore, prior to a discussion of the cultural setting, the environmental setting of the area is summarized below.

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project is east of the Peninsular Ranges in the southern portion of the Coachella Valley at the western edge of the Colorado Desert. The Coachella Valley is bordered to the southwest by the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains (part of the Peninsular Ranges) and to the northeast by the low, rolling Indio and Mecca hills. From the steep slopes of the San Jacintos surmounted by San Jacinto Peak at 10,804 feet amsl, the desert floor descends sharply to sea level approximately 2 miles eastward in the city of Indio and surrounding communities where the Project is located.

To the southeast, elevations gradually drop to 300 feet below mean sea level at the Salton Sea Basin. This basin has filled periodically throughout the Pleistocene and Holocene, when the Colorado River shifted its course near its mouth at the Gulf of California, flowing north into the basin, forming a large freshwater lake commonly known as Lake Cahuilla. A major water source flowing through the central valley is the Whitewater River, which prior to the development of the Coachella Valley, drained the southern slope of the San Bernardino Mountains for thousands of years (Lafin 1998), flowing in a generally south-southeast direction 50 miles toward the Salton Sea. The Whitewater River was likely the largest perennial stream that entered the Salton Basin prior to European contact, replenishing the underground aquifer during nonlacustrine intervals. A few small streams, such as Snow, Chino, Tahquitz, and Andreas creeks, form high in the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains, descending into the northern end of the Coachella Valley. Several minor drainages of ephemeral streams coming off the Mecca Hills are also evident across the landscape east of the Project area. Additionally, there are numerous springs along the San Andreas fault zone at the southwestern base of the Indio Hills. These are usually marked by native fan palm oases.

Prior to the mid-1900s, the climate of the Project region was characterized by low relative humidity, very low rainfall, high summer temperatures of up to 125° Fahrenheit, and mild winters. During the spring and late fall, high winds are common and are accompanied by blowing sand and dust. Precipitation occurs primarily during the winter months and varies radically from one area to another. Within the desert areas, the average annual rainfall is as sparse as 2.5 inches per year; however, at the higher elevations in the San Jacinto Mountains, the average annual precipitation may range from 10 inches to as much as 30 inches per year.

As the climate of the region is largely determined by topographic features, climate, in turn, largely dictates the character of the biotic environment exploited by native populations. Bean and

Saubel (1972) describe three primary life zones that were exploited by the Cahuilla, known ethnographically to have occupied the Coachella Valley: Lower Sonoran, Upper Sonoran, and Transitional. Characteristic plants and animals found in these life zones are listed below.

The Lower Sonoran life zone, which extends from the desert floor to approximately 3,500 feet amsl, is characterized by low rainfall (about 4 inches per year), fine-textured alluvial to sandy soils, and xerophytic plant communities. Creosote bush and bur-sage are the dominant plants, replaced by saltbush in areas of more saline or alkaline soils. Adjacent to washes and ephemeral streams, desert willow, smoke tree, palo verde, desert ironwood, and catclaw are found. California fan palm, mesquite, screwbean, and arrowweed occur adjacent to more permanent water sources and in areas with a very shallow groundwater table. Frost-sensitive plants such as ocotillo, barrel cactus, cholla, century plant, creosote bush, and Mojave yucca exist on the well-drained slopes adjacent to the desert floor. Approximately 40 percent of the plant species exploited by the Cahuilla are found in this biotic region; the fruits of the fan palm and the flowers and pods of mesquite and screw bean were highly favored (Bean and Saubel 1972:13). Economically important animals found in this life zone include kangaroo rats, ground squirrels, wood rats, desert cottontail, and black-tailed jackrabbit; desert bighorn sheep are found at the upper reaches of this life zone.

The Upper Sonoran life zone, extending from 3,500 to 5,000 feet amsl, is characterized by warm summers and cold winters with rainfall averaging 15 inches annually. Pinyon pine and California juniper are the dominant plant species of this zone. Other species include red shank or ribbon wood, chamise, ironwood, antelope bush, scrub oak, ocotillo, manzanita, buckthorn, and barrel cactus. Approximately 45 percent of the food plant species used by the Cahuilla are found in this life zone, and pinyon pine nuts, manzanita, and elderberry were highly favored. Important animal resources found in this life zone include wood rats, kangaroo rats, black-tailed jackrabbit, ground squirrel, desert bighorn sheep, and mule deer.

The Transitional life zone, ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 feet amsl, is characterized by relatively cool summers and cold winters with an annual precipitation of 20–30 inches. This zone is composed primarily of coniferous forests containing scattered oak groves; willows and cottonwoods occur along stream courses. Common species include ponderosa pine, Jeffrey pine, incense cedar, bigcone spruce, manzanita, mountain mahogany, and elderberry. Probably the most important plant food species from this life zone are the black oak, manzanita, and elderberry. Approximately 15 percent of the plants utilized by the Cahuilla are found in this life zone. Important animal resources found in this life zone include mule deer and ground squirrel.

Environmental conditions in the Colorado Desert area have changed greatly during the past 10,000 years of human occupation. Probably the most important environmental change in the Colorado Desert in the past 2,000 years was the formation of Lake Cahuilla, also known geologically as Lake Le Conte and historically as Blake's Lake. Lake Cahuilla formed numerous times throughout the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs in response to the western diversion of the Colorado River into the Salton Trough. During each filling of Lake Cahuilla, freshwater was impounded north of the barrier created by the Colorado River Delta. The lake continued to fill until the water reached an altitude of 40 feet, the minimum crest of the delta at Cerro Prieto, where excess discharge would overflow into the Gulf of California (Waters 1983).

The most recent documented shorelines of Lake Cahuilla extend from about 20 miles south of the international border with Mexico to just northwest of Indio (and northwest of the Project area). Inundating the entire lower portion of the Coachella Valley, Lake Cahuilla was approximately 115 miles long, about 34 miles wide, and nearly 320 feet deep. During these periods of high water, the maximum elevation of the lake was 40 feet amsl (Wilke 1976:53). Lake Cahuilla offered an especially productive environment for Indigenous populations of the western Colorado Desert. When inflow from the Colorado River was sufficient to maintain a relatively stable lake level, extensive marshes would have formed around its margins and freshwater fish and freshwater shellfish populations would have flourished. Furthermore, Lake Cahuilla also was on the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds; hence, ducks, geese, and other migratory birds would have been available. It is likely that 30 years of progressive recession lowering the surface of the lake by approximately 60 feet, would have sufficiently altered the chemical and ecological balance of the lake to all but eliminate its economically important plant and animal resources. However, as Lake Cahuilla gradually desiccated, mesquite thickets expanded to follow the retreating shoreline, allowing for different resource exploitation patterns by the precontact inhabitants of the region (Smith and Brock 1998).

2.2 PRECONTACT HISTORY

Excluding various controversial claims of human activity in the California deserts 20,000 to more than 100,000 years ago, as critically assessed by Moratto (1984:39–49) and Taylor et al. (1985), scholars have not yet determined when people actually first entered the Colorado Desert. Based on the facts that (1) fluted Clovis points and “Clovis-like” bifaces have been found throughout much of North America, including at dozens of sites in California (Dillon 2002; Moratto 1984; Rondeau 2015), (2) such artifacts evidently were produced as early as approximately 13,250–12,800 calibrated years before present (B.P.) (Waters and Stafford 2007:1123), and (3) evidence for pre-Clovis occupation has been found widely in South and North America (Adovasio and Pedler 2013; Collins et al. 2013; Graff et al. 2013; Jenkins et al. 2013; Waters et al. 2011), it seems quite probable that humans first arrived in southeastern California more than 130 centuries ago.

People who lived in this area witnessed great environmental changes. During the Pleistocene-to-Holocene transition, temperatures became warmer, precipitation declined, evapotranspiration increased, and desert conditions spread northward from Mexico into the American Southwest. Preceding or coincident with these changes, the great Rancholabrean animals (megafauna) vanished, and a host of smaller desert-adapted creatures came to occupy the emerging arid environments (Grayson 2016; Kurten and Anderson 1980; Martin 2005). By middle Holocene times, the earlier steppe and woodland landscapes featuring numerous pluvial lakes had given way to xerophytic vegetation, dry lakebeds (playas), and sere desert landscapes.

The environmental changes were neither permanent nor unidirectional. Rather, they fluctuated throughout the Holocene epoch. As a result of variable climatic regimes and geomorphic conditions, droughts came and went; lakes appeared, filled, and receded; the species composition, density, and distribution of vegetation were dynamic; and the availability of faunal resources varied concomitantly. These environmental changes significantly affected human adaptive strategies and demographic patterns.

Many attempts have been made over the years to relate, classify, and determine the age of archaeological cultures in the California deserts (see Altschul 1993; Hall 2000; Laylander 2010; McDonald 1992; Rogers 1966; Schaefer 1994, 1995; Schaefer and Laylander 2007; Sutton 1996, 2011; Sutton et al. 2007; Warren 1984; Weide and Barker 1974). The following broad “periods” are generally accepted by most scholars:

- **Historic Period** (A.D. 1540–1850). The initial date for this period varies from one locality to another, depending on when contacts between Native Americans and outsiders actually began.
- **Late Prehistoric Period** (circa A.D. 700–1800). Various local cultural manifestations are recognized. In the Coachella Valley, Patayan I–III phases (previously called Yuman I–III) are assigned to this period. Recently, Sutton (2011) has defined Peninsular I, II, and III phases of the Palomar Tradition within what was previously called Patayan III.
- **Late Archaic Period** (circa 2500 B.C.–A.D. 700). This interval coincides more or less with the Gypsum, Newberry, and Amargosa periods (Sutton 2011:Figure 2).
- **Early Archaic Period** (circa 6500–2500 B.C.). This is largely synonymous with the Pinto Period as used elsewhere in the deserts of southeastern California (see Schroth 1994).
- **Late Paleoindian Period** (circa 10,800–6500 B.C.). This period coincides with the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition in interior Southern California (and in the Great Basin) and the related, perhaps consequential, San Dieguito Complex.
- **Middle Paleoindian Period** (circa 11,300–10,800 B.C.). The Clovis cultural tradition was widespread in North America during this period. Early manifestations of the Western Stemmed Point Tradition also appeared during this interval.
- **Early Paleoindian Period** (pre-11,300 B.C.). This is a yet undefined pre-Clovis period as indicated by the discovery of pre-Clovis cultural remains elsewhere in North (as well as South) America (cf. Graff et al. 2013; Waters et al. 2011).

2.2.1 Late Prehistory

The Late Prehistoric Period in the Colorado Desert and far western Arizona is marked by certain kinds of artifacts and technological innovations, and is defined as the Patayan Pattern (Cleland 1998; Cordell 1997; Cultural Systems Research 1986; Reid and Whittlesey 1997:111–130; Schaefer 1994, 1995) or the Palomar Tradition, including Patayan I, II, and III, and Peninsular I, II, and III phases of the Palomar Tradition within what was previously referred to as Patayan III (cf. Sutton 2011).

The Patayan Pattern or Palomar Tradition (Sutton 2011) is typified by several different settlement and economic systems (Schaefer 1995). Three phases of Patayan are generally recognized in addition to the preceramic phase (Schaefer 1995). These are defined by changes in pottery frequencies and by the cultural and demographic effects of the filling and desiccation of ancient Lake Cahuilla. The Patayan I phase appears to have been confined to the Colorado River

vicinity and began approximately 1,200 years ago with the introduction of pottery. The artifacts typical of this phase bear the closest similarity to those of the Hohokam (cf. Cordell 1997; Haury 1976; Schaefer 1995; Waters 1983). The Patayan II phase, beginning about 950 years ago, is contemporary with Lacustrine Interval 5 of Lake Cahuilla. Attracted to highly productive microenvironments along the Lake Cahuilla shoreline, people on both its eastern and western shores were making pottery by the time the lake was full.

The final phase, Patayan III, began approximately 500 years ago, coinciding with Lake Cahuilla Lacustrine Interval 2. This phase, encompassing Sutton's (2011) Peninsular I–III phases, is characterized by new pottery types that reflect changes in settlement patterns as well as intensified communication among tribes of the Colorado River and Peninsular Range. Long distance travel increased as people living around the former Lake Cahuilla shore dispersed to their base territories, and the Imperial and Coachella valleys became increasingly xeric (Schaefer 1995). The Patayan III phase continued into the early Historic Period, ending in the late nineteenth century when Euro American incursions disrupted the traditional culture. The Patayan III peoples include the Cahuilla who occupied the western Colorado Desert region as well as the Quechan, Mojave, and Cocopah of the Colorado River region.

Recently, Sutton (2011) proposed that the proto-Cahuilla cultures occupying the Peninsular Range and northern Coachella Valley during the Late Prehistoric Period resulted from an eastward movement of people of Yuman ethnicity speaking Takic (a branch of Uto-Aztecan) languages from the inland valley areas of coastal Orange County and northern San Diego County. Sutton (2011:6) proposed that the impetus for this migration was the filling of Lake Cahuilla after circa 1070 B.P. Sutton identifies this eastward movement of people, and the concomitant introduction of new technologies and ideas into the region, as Peninsular I, II, and III phases of the Palomar Tradition (Sutton 2011:1–74).

The Peninsular I phase, dating from circa 900 to 750 B.P., reflects the initial movement of people into the northern Coachella Valley from the interior valleys as Lake Cahuilla filled, the establishment of major villages along the Lake Cahuilla shoreline, and the adoption of a lacustrine-based subsistence system. The arriving Peninsular I groups would have encountered existing Yuman (Patayan I) groups and either “absorbed or replaced them” (Sutton 2011:21). Groups associated with the Peninsular II phase in the northern Coachella Valley, dating from circa 750 to 300 B.P., are thought to have been the proto-Cahuilla (Sutton 2011:5). Peninsular II is “proposed to reflect the changes in settlement and subsistence that were instituted to adapt to the fluctuations of Lake Cahuilla, prior to its ‘final’ desiccation” (Sutton 2011:42).

The Peninsular III phase, dating from circa 300 to 150 B.P., represents the historic Cahuilla who were encountered by the first European explorers to visit the region. With the final desiccation of Lake Cahuilla, lacustrine-based subsistence strategies were abandoned, and terrestrial-based subsistence systems adopted. Critical economic resources (e.g., cultigens) may also have been obtained from Yuman groups along the Colorado River and from Euro-Americans.

2.3 ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING

At the time of Spanish contact, the Project area was likely utilized by the Cahuilla. The Cahuilla have been studied extensively by Dr. Lowell Bean and much of the following discussion is

derived from Bean's description of the Cahuilla in Volume 8 of the Handbook of North American Indians (Bean 1978:575–587).

The Cahuilla belong to the nonpolitical cultural nationalities speaking a language belonging to the Takic branch of the Shoshonean family, part of the larger Uto-Aztecan language stock. The Cahuilla in precontact times had nonpolitical, nonterritorial patrimoieties that governed marriage patterns as well as patrilineal clans and lineages. The Cahuilla were, for the most part, hunting, collecting, harvesting, and protoagricultural peoples. Clans were apt to own land in valleys, foothill, and mountain areas, providing them with the resources of many different ecological niches. Individual lineages or families owned specific resource areas within the clan territory. Although any given village had access to a wide array of necessary resources, briskly flourishing systems of trade and exchange gave them access to the resources of their neighboring villages and of distant peoples.

As in most of California, acorns were a major staple, but the roots, leaves, seeds, and fruit of many other plants also were used. Fish, birds, insects, and large and small mammals were available. Bighorn sheep, mule deer, and antelope are some of the large mammals hunted. Mountain lions, black bear, grizzly bear, and wild boar also were hunted in historic times.

2.4 HISTORICAL SETTING

The historic development of the Coachella Valley prior to 1820 is not well documented. However, in 1821, a party of Cocomaricopa Indians arrived at the San Gabriel Mission, announcing they had traveled from the Colorado River in only 6 days using the Cocomaricopa Trail (Warren et al. 1981:85). This trail began east of Blythe and approximated the present route of Interstate 10 (I-10) across the Chuckwalla Valley, traversing the Mecca-Indio area and Coachella Valley to the San Gorgonio Pass (northwest of the Project area). In the early 1850s, the Maricopa-Bradshaw route, paralleling the old Cocomaricopa Trail, was established to serve the mining camps developing near La Paz, Arizona (Figure 2-1; Warren et al. 1981:85). Also in the 1850s, the U.S. government strongly promoted the establishment of railroad route to connect the east and west coasts. Because of competing economic and a political considerations, however, it was not until 1877 that the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) transected the western Colorado Desert (Warren et al. 1981:89). This route connected the San Gorgonio Pass to the town of Yuma via the eastern shore of the Salton Sea.

The process of surveying and mapping the Colorado Desert began in 1852, when Henry Washington and a small party of surveyors ascended the San Bernardino Mountains and established the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. From 1854 to 1857, Washington extended this line to the Colorado River, working his way through uncharted territory (Warren et al. 1981:94).

The U.S. government also sent Indian Commissioners into the deserts of Southern California in the 1850s. Although not authorized to make any commitments to the Native Americans, the commissioners set aside large tracts of land for reservations (Warren et al. 1981:94). Most of these areas were never fully developed as reservations, although the Torres-Martinez and Agua Caliente (Palm Springs) reservations were eventually set aside from the larger reserves delineated by the Indian Commission. After the Native American population was confined to the reservations, the remaining land was made available for mining, ranching, and other uses.

Management of the desert lands was largely the responsibility of the General Land Office (GLO), and later the Department of Agriculture Grazing Administration. Until the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, however, no control was exercised over the California desert lands. Because of the extremely arid nature of the California deserts, this act had virtually no impact on the region. The Bureau of Land Management made the first attempts at range management in the California desert when they assumed responsibility for these lands in 1946. Since that time, the Bureau of Land Management also has been engaged in evaluating lands for their “uses” and classifying them for different types of management (Warren et al. 1981:95).

The paucity of water in many areas of the Colorado Desert discouraged farming, and agricultural development only flourished when water could be imported in significant quantities. The relatively high water table in the Coachella Valley allowed the agricultural industry to develop prior to the importation of water by means of drilling artesian wells. Beginning in the first decade of the twentieth century, Coachella Valley farmers planted extensive date, fig, and grape acreage. Towns that developed with the agricultural growth include Thermal, Mecca, Indio, and Coachella. The extensive farming efforts seriously depleted the water table in the Coachella Valley, stimulating the formation of the Coachella Valley County Water District (CVCWD) in 1918 to replenish and to promote the conservation of the groundwater basin. Following passage of the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928, the waters of the Colorado River were harnessed for the development of agriculture in Imperial and Coachella valleys. The CVCWD cooperated with the Imperial Irrigation District to develop the All-American Canal and the Coachella Valley extension. Branching off the All-American Canal, the Old Coachella Canal extends 123.5 miles northeast, crossing the Project area, to the northern Coachella Valley and brought the first imported irrigation water to the valley in 1949 (Nordland 1978).

2.5 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF INDIO

The city of Indio came about because the SPRR was in need of a station between Yuma, Arizona, and Los Angeles, California, the last link of the southern transcontinental railroad. An oasis near a Cahuilla village site, called Indian Wells, halfway between the two cities, was the ideal spot to refuel and hydrate in the desert. The United States awarded the SPRR a generous land grant, which forced the Native Americans to live on reservations and work manual labor jobs. It was discovered that the name “Indian Wells” was already being used on maps for an area a few miles away, so the SPRR decided on the name “Indio” for the new depot site. The railroad arrived in Indio in 1876. For water, the SPRR drilled into the ground to access the plentiful underground aquifer. The SPRR depot and hotel completed in 1879 became the social hub of the new town for homesteaders, travelers, and railroad workers (Laflin 2008).

Homesteader A. G. Tingman was a key player in the development of Indio. He was the SPRR station agent and telegrapher in 1883. He built Indio’s first store in 1885 and was the town’s postmaster in 1888. The Indio post office was the first in Coachella Valley. Tingman also developed Indio’s original townsite (Laflin 2008).

Indio was a small desert town with few luxuries. Many early homesteaders lived in tents shaded by palm frond structures. In 1896, Indio had a population of 50 people, mostly men. Supplies were transported along the Bradshaw Trail through the western mountains. In 1897, the SPRR

built an infirmary called the Southern Pacific Hospital which attracted more homesteaders to this small desert town (Laflin 2008).

Although Indio began as a railroad town, it soon turned into an agricultural center. The Coachella branch of the All-American Canal brought more water for irrigation, allowing many crops to thrive. Onions, cotton, grapes, and dates were grown in Indio with great success. Exotic date palms from the Middle East and North Africa thrived and became a cultural icon for the town. The annual National Date Festival started in 1947 and Indio was advertised as the Date Capital of the World (Laflin 2008).

The City of Indio was incorporated in 1930, making it the first city in the Coachella Valley. In the 1930s the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California constructed the Colorado River Aqueduct as part of the Boulder Dam project to provide water from the Colorado River to the Los Angeles basin via the Los Angeles Aqueduct. This was the largest construction project in the United States during the Great Depression (Laflin 2008).

During World War II, General George Patton's Desert Training Center was nearby, and soldiers came into town for rest and relaxation. The completion of the Coachella Branch of the All-American Canal brought Colorado River water to the desert in the late 1940s, and a land boom ensued. Today, Indio is currently the largest and fastest growing city in Riverside County's Coachella Valley with over 90,000 residents (Laflin 2008).

2.6 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF LA QUINTA

Incorporated on May 1, 1982, La Quinta is one of the newer municipalities in the Coachella Valley (City of La Quinta 2023). Twentieth-century development of La Quinta was centered around ranching and agriculture, particularly dates, sweet corn, Bermuda onions, and Thompson seedless grapes. By the 1950s, La Quinta experienced a citrus boom as farmers began producing grapefruits and tangerines with great success. Beginning in the 1920s, leisure and recreation became a driving force for development in La Quinta, which was seen as an ideal vacation destination. Developers built numerous hotels and country clubs during this resort period, including the La Quinta Hotel (1926), the Desert Club (1937), and the La Quinta Country Club (1958). The resort and leisure era came to define twentieth-century La Quinta and still influences the city's identity today (Urbana Preservation & Planning 2023).

3

CULTURAL LITERATURE AND RECORDS SEARCH

On February 27, 2024, prior to the field survey of the Project area, Æ Staff Archaeologist Renee Elder Gonzalez conducted a literature and records search at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) of the California Historical Resource Information System housed at the University of California, Riverside. The objective of this records search was to identify previous studies and determine whether any prehistoric or historical cultural resources had been recorded previously within the Project area and a 0.5-mile search radius of the proposed Project.

3.1 RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

Results of the records search indicated that 63 cultural resource studies have been conducted previously within the 0.5-mile search radius (Table 3-1). Seven of the previous studies involved a portion of the Project area. As a result, approximately 90 percent of the Project area has been investigated previously.

**Table 3-1
Previous Cultural Resource Studies in the 0.5-Mile Search Radius**

EIC Reference	Author(s)	Date	Title
RI-00333	Bowles, Larry L.	1978	Environmental Assessment-Near La Quinta, Coachella Valley
RI-00334	Hall, M. C., and Steve A. Moffitt	1995	Cultural Resources Survey of the Easter Portion of Parcel 20469 Adjacent to Rancho La Quinta Country Club, Central Coachella Valley, Riverside County, California
RI-00335	Love, Bruce	1998	Interim Report: Archaeological Clearance for Grading Permit, Rancho La Quinta Project, City of La Quinta, Riverside County, California
RI-00981	Love, Bruce	2000	Archaeological Monitoring Report, Desert Shores Motor Coach Resort, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-00997	Swenson, James D.	1980	An Environmental Impact Evaluation: An Archaeological Assessment of Silver Sands, Coachella Valley, Riverside County, California (Change of Zone #3218)
RI-01010	Love, Bruce, Harry M. Quinn, Thomas A. Wake, Leslie Quintero, and David Largo	1999	Final Report: Archaeological Testing and Mitigation Rancho La Quinta Project, City of La Quinta, Riverside County, California
RI-01100	Berryman, Stanley	1980	Results of Archaeological Tests of Four Sites on the Indian Palms Country Club, Indio, California
RI-01101	Berryman, Stanley	1980	Results of an Archaeological Survey of the Indian Palms Country Club, Indio, California
RI-01102 ^a	Love, Bruce	1998	Cultural Resources Report: Indian Palms Country Club, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-01110	Parker, Patricia	1980	One Hundred Years of History in the California Desert: An Overview of Historical Archaeological Resources at Joshua Tree National Monument
RI-01881	Padon, Beth	1984	Archaeological Resource Assessment - La Quinta Hotel and Golf Club, Riverside County, California

Table 3-1 (continued)
Previous Cultural Resource Studies in the 0.5-Mile Search Radius

EIC Reference	Author(s)	Date	Title
RI-01882	Yohe, Robert M. II	1984	An Archaeological Assessment of TT 19836, La Quinta, Riverside County, California
RI-01883	Drover, Christopher E.	1990	Letter Report: The Grove Project, La Quinta, California.
RI-01936	Parr, Robert E.	1985	An Archaeological Assessment of a Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Site and Pipeline Alignment, La Quinta Area of Riverside County, California
RI-01951	Padon, Beth	1985	Letter Report: Additional Archaeological Survey Within the La Quinta Hotel and Golf Club.
RI-01952	Padon, Beth	1985	Letter Report: Additional Archaeological Survey Within the Ridgeway/ Ahmanson (Xochimilcan) and La Quinta Hotel and Golf Course.
RI-02016	Keller, Jean Salpas	1985	An Archaeological Assessment of Tract 21176, Riverside County, California
RI-02024 ^a	Drover, Christopher E.	1986	An Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Orchard Hotel Complex, La Quinta, Riverside County, California
RI-02025	Love, Bruce, and Bai “Tom” Tang	1999	Historical/Archaeological Resources Report: Promus Vacation Resort, Jefferson Street and Avenue 50, City of La Quinta, Riverside County, California.
RI-02674	Van Horn, David, and Robert S. White	1989	Archaeological Test-Level Investigations on the Citrus Course II-The Grove Property Near La Quinta, Riverside County, California.
RI-02675	White, Robert S.	1989	An Archaeological Assessment of the 306-Acre Citrus Course II-The Grove in the City of La Quinta, Riverside County.
RI-03489	Love, Bruce, Joan S. Schneider, Gwyn Alcock, Dawn Reid, Kevin Hallaran, and Tom Tang	1992	Cultural Resources: La Quinta General Plan EIR
RI-04069	Love, Bruce, and Bai “Tom” Tang	1998	Cultural Resources Report Tentative Tract Maps No. 26855 and No. 26718 City of La Quinta Riverside County, California
RI-04179	Love, Bruce, and Bai “Tom” Tang	1998	Cultural Resources Report: Tentative Parcel Map No. 29052 and Tentative Tract Map No. 29053
RI-04324	Chace, Paul G.	1998	Phase I Archaeological Resources Survey for the Revised TTM 26855 (Brookfield Tract), City of La Quinta.
RI-04325	Smith, David M.	1999	A Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory for the Desert Shores Motor Coach Resort, City of Indio, Riverside County, California.
RI-04396	Brock, James	2001	Cultural Resources Assessment for APN 649-040-013, La Quinta, California
RI-04464	Love, Bruce, Bai “Tom” Tang, Adrian Sanchez Moreno, And Mariam Duhdul	2002	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: West Indio Estates, Tracts #30066 and #30477, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-04559	Brock, James	2002	Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for Tentative Tract Map No. 30729, City of Coachella, Riverside County, California

Table 3-1 (continued)
Previous Cultural Resource Studies in the 0.5-Mile Search Radius

EIC Reference	Author(s)	Date	Title
RI-04565	Brock, James	2001	Cultural Resource Assessment for Tentative Tract 30331, Avenue 50 West of Jefferson Street, La Quinta, California (APNs 649-520-010 And -012)
RI-04566	Brock, James	2001	Phase II Archaeological Test Program for Tentative Tract Map No. 30331, La Quinta, California (APNs 649-520-010, -012, And -013)
RI-04684	O’Neil, Stephen	2002	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of the Indio Ranchos Polo Estates, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-04723	Goodwin, Riordan L.	2001	Cultural Resource Assessment: The Grove/Mountain View Country Club in Central Riverside County, California
RI-05412	Love, Bruce, Bai “Tom” Tang, Daniel Ballester, and Adrian Sanchez Moreno	2001	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report, Five-Acre Addition to Rancho La Quinta, City of La Quinta, Riverside County, Ca
RI-05788	Love, Bruce, Harry Quinn, Robert Porter, Adrian Sanchez-Moreno, And Mariam Dahdul	2002	Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Monitoring Report: Palmilla Project, Southwest Corner of Avenue 50 and Jefferson Street, City of La Quinta, Riverside County, California
RI-05886	Hogan, Michael, Harry M. Quinn, And Mariam Dahdul	2002	Archaeological Mitigation and Data Recovery Report, Indian Palms Country Club, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-05941	Hogan, Michael, Bai Tang, Josh Smallwood, and Harry Quinn	2003	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report, Sun West Homes: APN 649-280-012, in the City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-06201	Hogan, Michael, Bai Tang, Josh Smallwood, and Harry M. Quinn	2004	Archaeological Monitoring Report, Indian Palms Tracts 3075-3, 501-1, -2, -3, and 30019-2, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-06225	Hogan, Michael	2004	Letter Report: Archaeological/Paleontological Monitoring of Earth-Moving Activities, the Orchard Project, TTM 31684, APN 649-280-012, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-06313 ^a	Tang, Bai, Michael Hogan, Matthew Wetherbee, and Casey Tibbet	2004	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Las Bougainvillea’s Project, in the City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-06388 ^a	Tang, Bai, Michael Hogan, Matthew Wetherbee, and Daniel Ballester	2005	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Stallion Project, in the City Indio, Riverside County, Ca
RI-06416	Hogan, Michael, Bai Tang, Harry Quinn, and Mariam Dahdul	2005	Archaeological Monitoring Report, Tentative Tract No. 28964, Talent Property, City of La Quinta, Riverside County, California
RI-06620	Hogan, Michael, Bai “Tom” Tang, Ayse Taskiran-Johnson, Harry M. Quinn, and Adrian Sanchez Moreno	2005	Archaeological Monitoring Report: Tentative Tract No. 30956 in the City of Indio, Riverside, County, California
RI-06805	Goodman II, John D., and Leslie J. Mouriquand	2004	Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of 100 Acres Located North of Avenue 50 at the Southern Terminus of Madison Street Within Sections 33 and 34, City of Indio, Riverside County, California

**Table 3-1 (continued)
Previous Cultural Resource Studies in the 0.5-Mile Search Radius**

EIC Reference	Author(s)	Date	Title
RI-06806 ^a	Nixon, Rachael A.	2006	Archaeological and Paleontological Resource Monitoring Report for Stonefield Development Project Located in the City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-08105	Tang, Bai “Tom,” and Michael Hogan	2006	Summary of Findings, Citywide Historic Resources Survey Update, City of La Quinta, Riverside County, California
RI-08114	Love, Bruce	2001	Letter Report: Archaeological Monitoring of Earth-Moving Activities Five-Acre Addition to Rancho La Quinta Project City of La Quinta, Riverside County, California
RI-08496 ^a	Mirro, Michael	2010	Letter Report: Cultural Resources Records Search for Shot Points Located on Private Lands for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Salton Seismic Imaging Project Addendum
RI-08540 ^a	Tang, Bai “Tom,” and Michael Hogan	2010	Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties Indio Water Authority Wastewater Treatment Project Cities of Indio and La Quinta Riverside County, California
RI-08542	Tang, Bai “Tom”	2010	Letter Report: Addendum to Historical/ Archaeological Resources Survey Report Tentative Tract Map No. 36279 (Formerly TTM 30378, Parcels 1 and 2) Assessor’s Parcel Nos. 777-030-001 and -002 City of La Quinta, Riverside County, California CRM TECH Contract Nos. 812/2448A
RI-08586	Wlodarski, Robert J., and Sarah Williams	2010	Record Search and Field Reconnaissance phase for the proposed AT&T Wireless Telecommunications Site LA8093 (Empire Polo Club) located at 81800 Avenue 51, Indio, California
RI-09434	Thomas, Robert	2015	Cultural Resource Monitoring Report for the Cypress at Madison Development Project (Tentative Tract No. 36679), City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-09563	Clark, Tiffany	2015	Cultural Resource Monitoring Report for the Las Plumas West Project, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-09622	Horne, Melinda, Molly Valasik, and Sherri Gust	2012	82266 Avenue 50 Cultural Resources Assessment City of Coachella, Riverside County, California
RI-09768	Love, Bruce, and Bai “Tom” Tang	2000	Cultural Resource Element, City of La Quinta General Plan
RI-09879	Olson, John	2017	Re: Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Monitoring Program Tower Market/Revella Project
RI-10229	Lewis, Don	2002	Cultural Resource Assessment Cingular Wireless SB-200-01
RI-10342	Tang, Bai “Tom,” and Deirdre Encarnacion	2010	Cultural Resources Technical Report, City of La Quinta General Plan (2010 Update)
RI-10352	Ballester, Daniel	2014	Addendum to Historical/Archaeological Resources Report the Orchard Project; Tentative Tract Map No. 36279 Formerly TTM 30378) Assessor’s Parcel Nos. 777-030-001 and -002 City of La Quinta, Riverside County, California CRM TECH Contract Nos. 812/2448A/2856 A
RI-10797	Williams, Sarah	2018	Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Visit Results for anthem Telecom, LLC Candidate ‘Empire Polo Club-DAS Phase II’

**Table 3-1 (continued)
Previous Cultural Resource Studies in the 0.5-Mile Search Radius**

EIC Reference	Author(s)	Date	Title
RI-11041	Tang, Bai “Tom,” Deirde Encarnacion, Daniel Ballester, and Nina Gallardo	2019	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Citrus Plaza Expansion Project, Assessor’s Parcel No. 602-090-006, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-11107	Tang, Bai “Tom,” Terri Jacquemain, and Daniel Ballester	2020	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Church at the Red Door Project, Assessor’s Parcel No. 602-060-001 and -002, City of Indio, Riverside County, California
RI-11313	Tang, Bai “Tom”	2020	Update to Historical/ Archaeological Resources Survey Report “The Crossings” Project, Tentative Tract Map No. 37899 City of Indio, Riverside County, California CRM TECH Contract No. 3624

a - Study overlaps the Project area.

The records search resulted in the identification of 54 previously recorded cultural resources within the 0.5-mile search radius. Of these, 51 are archaeological resources: 13 isolated artifacts, 34 prehistoric sites, 3 historic sites, and 1 site with both prehistoric and historic components. In addition, three built environment resources were identified within the 0.5-mile search radius (Table 3-2). One of the cultural resources, the Coachella Canal (33-005705), is documented within the Project area. This resource is described in further detail below.

**Table 3-2
Previously Recorded Cultural Resources in the 0.5-Mile Search Radius**

Primary No.	Trinomial	Description
Isolated Prehistoric Artifacts		
33-006872	—	Two ceramic sherds
33-008751	—	Bulbar ground stone
33-011182	—	One ceramic sherd
33-011211	—	Four ceramic sherds
33-012510	—	One ceramic sherd
33-012672	—	One ceramic sherd
33-012775	—	One ceramic sherd
33-015451	—	Projectile point
33-015452	—	One ceramic sherd
33-022299	—	One ceramic sherd
Prehistoric Resources		
33-001176	CA-RIV-1176	Habitation site
33-002082	CA-RIV-208	Ceramic scatter
33-002083	CA-RIV-2083	Lithic and ceramic scatter
33-002084	CA-RIV-2084	Lithic and ceramic scatter
33-002085	CA-RIV-2085	Lithic and ceramic scatter
33-002976	CA-RIV-2976	Habitation site, lithic scatter, and fire-affected rock
33-003013	CA-RIV-3013	Ceramic scatter
33-003131	CA-RIV-3131	Habitation site, lithic scatter, and ceramic scatter

Table 3-2 (continued)
Previously Recorded Cultural Resources in the 0.5-Mile Search Radius

Primary No.	Trinomial	Description
33-006866	CA-RIV-05773	Habitation site, faunal, lithic scatter, ceramic scatter, and fire-affected rock
33-008270	CA-RIV-6087	Lithic scatter, ceramic scatter, and ground stone
33-008271	CA-RIV-6088	Ceramic scatter
33-008272	CA-RIV-6089	Ceramic scatter and ground stone
33-008291	CA-RIV-8291	Ceramic scatter
33-008421	CA-RIV-06140	Ceramic scatter, and fire-affected rock
33-008425	CA-RIV-06144	Habitation site, lithic scatter, and ceramic scatter
33-008429	CA-RIV-06148	Lithic scatter, ceramic scatter, and fire-affected rock
33-008430	CA-RIV-06149	Faunal, lithic scatter, ceramic scatter, and fire-affected rock
33-008431	CA-RIV-06150	Faunal, and ceramic scatter
33-008432	CA-RIV-06151	Ceramic scatter and fire-affected rock
33-008748	CA-RIV-06234	Faunal, lithic scatter, ceramic scatter, and fire-affected rock
33-008749	CA-RIV-6235	Ceramic and shell scatter
33-008750	CA-RIV-06236	Shell, and ceramic scatter
33-009008	CA-RIV-6352	Ceramic scatter
33-009009	CA-RIV-06353	Faunal, lithic scatter, ceramic scatter, and fire-affected rock
33-009010	CA-RIV-06354	Lithic scatter and ceramic scatter
33-009011	CA-RIV-06355	Ceramic scatter
33-009013	CA-RIV-06357	Faunal, lithic scatter, ceramic scatter, and fire-affected rock
33-011212	—	Ceramic scatter
33-011214	—	Ceramic scatter
33-011377	CA-RIV-06783	Ceramic Scatter
33-012283	CA-RIV-07014	Lithic scatter and ceramic scatter
33-013130	CA-RIV-7309	Lithic scatter, ceramic scatter, and fire-affected rock
33-013636	CA-RIV-7505	Ceramic scatter
33-015993	CA-RIV-8291	Faunal, lithic scatter, and ceramic scatter
Isolated Historic Resources		
33-011380	—	One amethyst glass fragment
33-011381	—	One amethyst glass fragment
33-011584	—	One amethyst glass fragment
Historic Resources		
33-013064	CA-RIV-7505	Agricultural complex, foundation slab, and refuse scatter
33-013131	CA-RIV-7310	Refuse scatter
33-013926	CA-RIV-7623	Refuse scatter
Archaeological Sites with Historic and Prehistoric Components		
33-009012	CA-RIV-06356	Can scatter, faunal, and ceramic scatter
Built Environment Resources		
33-005705 ^a	CA-RIV-12999	Coachella Canal
33-008301	—	Mediterranean/Spanish style adobe house
33-029893	—	Concrete slab foundation

a - Resource within the Project area.

3.1.1 33-005705—Coachella Canal

Originally recorded by the Riverside County Historical Commission as part of a historical resources inventory (Foulkes 1983), 33-005705 consists of the Coachella Canal and its various segments, constructed from 1938 to 1948 (Ghabhlain 2003:1). The Coachella Canal receives water from the Colorado River through the All-American Canal. The head of the Coachella Canal is on the All-American Canal approximately 16 miles west of Pilot Knob peak in Imperial County and extends approximately 123 miles northwest to its terminus in Coachella Valley in Riverside County (Ghabhlain 2003). The Coachella Canal has been recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C (Ghabhlain and Stringer-Bowsher 2009:2; Smallwood 2013:4–5). In 2013, Historic American Engineering Record photographic documentation was prepared for a proposed realignment project, including a 4,840-foot segment toward the southern end of the canal (Smallwood and Schafer 2013).

3.2 HISTORIC MAP AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH REVIEW

A series of historic maps and aerial photographs from various sources were consulted to assess land use and development in the study area. The following USGS topographic quadrangle maps were accessed online (<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>): Indio 1:125,000 (1904), Coachella 1:62,500 (1941), Toro Peak 1:62,500 (1941), Santa Ana 1:250,000 (1947), Indio 1:24,000 (1956), Santa Ana 1:250,000 (1959), 1:250,000 (1965), and Palm Springs 1:100,000 (1984). Aerial photographs of the area included images in the University of California, Santa Barbara, Geospatial Collection (<https://www.library.ucsb.edu/geospatial>): 1936 (Flight C-3961), 1939 (Flight C-6060), 1953 (Flight ACM-1953B), 1959 (Flight AXM-1959), 1965 (Flight Universe-Special), and 1968 (Flight WAS-G04). Additional aerial photographs from 1972 to 1984 were also available online (historicaerials.com/viewer).

Avenue 50 and the several major crossroads are present in the earliest available historic aerial photograph of the Project area from 1939. On most historic topographic maps, Avenue 50 is depicted as part of a secondary highway that includes segments of present-day Jefferson Street and Avenue 52. The road is displayed as such on the 1941 Coachella and Toro Peak maps as well as the 1947 and 1965 Santa Ana maps. Avenue 50 was not the only route designated as a secondary highway to the larger State Routes 86 and 111 at this time; other secondary highways included Avenue 46, Avenue 56, Jackson Street, and segments of Monroe Street. The 1956 Indio and 1959 Santa Ana maps included more details than other maps and showed Avenue 50 and surrounding roads in their present-day alignments. Several homes and agricultural fields are shown along the road on the 1950s maps as well as in the 1953 and 1959 aerial photographs. The buildings and structures also appear in 1965 and 1968 aerial photographs as well as images from 1972 to 1984. According to historic aerial photographs, Avenue 50 appears to have been widened between 1959 and 1972.

A 1953 aerial photograph and the 1956 Indio map shows a segment of the Coachella Canal passing under Avenue 50 toward the western end of the Project area, immediately west of Madison Street. All the maps after 1956 depict the Coachella Canal in this alignment. No other buildings, structures, or features of interest are shown in the Project area on any of the historic maps or photographs examined.

Prior to the survey, Æ architectural historians examined county assessor online road maps, available copies of GLO historic land ownership records from the Bureau of Land Management, and historical maps and aerial photographs to determine what built environment features occurred on the property prior to 1974. Additional online sources of information include:

- City and area directories, accessed through the Ancestry.com database (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/dircity/>);
- Palm Springs Historical Society online collections database (<https://palmspringshs.pastperfectonline.com/>); and
- Newspaper articles, accessed through the Newspapers.com database (<https://www.newspapers.com>) and the California Digital Newspaper Collection maintained by the University of California, Riverside (<https://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc>) to confirm findings from the topographic maps and aerial photos.

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNICATION

Æ contacted the NAHC on February 12, 2024, for a review of their Sacred Lands File to determine if any known Native American cultural properties (e.g., traditional use or gathering areas, places of religious or sacred activity) are present within or adjacent to the Project area. The NAHC responded on February 28, 2024, stating the Sacred Lands File search was completed with negative results. The NAHC requested Æ contact Native American individuals and organizations to elicit information regarding cultural resource issues related to the proposed Project.

Upon review of the Native American contact list and after removing redundancies, Æ narrowed the list to 12 individuals and organizations traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic region of the Project area. Æ sent out Project scoping letters via email and U.S. Postal Service on March 21, 2024, describing the Project and asking these individuals and organizations for their input. Copies of the letters, the list of contacts, and received responses are summarized in Appendix A. Æ sent follow-up email correspondence on April 4, 2024, to the organizations who had not responded to the initial request of March 21, 2024.

Individuals and organizations contacted include:

- Lacy Padilla, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Operations Manager for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Amanda Augustine, Chairwoman for the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Doug Welmas, Chairperson for the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- Erica Schenk, Chairwoman for the Cahuilla Band of Indians
- Ray Chapparosa, Chairperson for the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians
- Robert Martin, Chairperson for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Jordan Joaquin, Chairperson for the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
- Danae Hamilton Vega, Chairwoman for the Ramona Band of Cahuilla
- Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair for the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson for the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
- Thomas Tortez, Chairperson for the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Christopher Nicosia, Cultural Resources Manager/Tribal Historic Preservation officer for the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

As of April 18, 2024, Æ has received one response.

- Because the Project falls within the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians' Traditional Use Area, the Tribe requested a copy of the records search, survey reports, and site records from the EIC, copies of any cultural resource documentation

generated from the current Project, and shapefiles of the Project area. The Tribe requests notification of Project start, government-to-government consultation with the lead agency, and monitoring by an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of Interior's standards and an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor.

Complete responses from each Tribe are attached in Appendix A.

5

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

This chapter details the methods and results of the intensive pedestrian survey of the Project area. The entire Project area was accessible during the survey completed by Æ Senior Archaeologist Andrew DeLeon on March 14, 2024.

5.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY METHODS

Prior to conducting a pedestrian archaeological and built environment survey, Æ's staff conducted background research to identify areas within the Project where archaeological deposits might exist or extant historic-aged buildings, structures, or objects might be present. Archival results relating to the history of activity within and near the Project are presented in Chapter 2. Results relating specifically to the development of Avenue 50 within the Project are included in Chapter 6.

DeLeon began surveying the western portion of the Project area and proceeded east. The survey was conducted in 10-meter transects oriented east–west, moving northward through the Project area. The survey coverage was approximately 10 meters wide at each shoulder of Avenue 50 beginning on the southern shoulder and moving to the northern shoulder (20 meters total). The pedestrian survey covered the entirety of the Project footprint, which included Avenue 50, and extended off the pavement into the public right of way (Figure 5-1 and Appendix C). In some instances, the Project footprint encroached beyond fenced private property. In these cases, the ground surface which had been previously developed and disturbed, was visually inspected up to and beyond the fence lines. While surveying, DeLeon photographed the Project area at various locations to document current conditions. Any newly identified resources were to be photographed and mapped with an Arrow 100 Global Navigation Satellite System receiving unit and iPad.

The built environment survey consisted of locating the structures and features identified in the historic research as old enough to require evaluation (45 years or older), visual verification of age, and inspection of the structures and features to assess their current condition and document any evidence of improvements or alterations. All the structures and features were photo-documented for evaluation and for preparation of the DPR recording forms (Appendix B).

5.2 SURVEY RESULTS

The Project area is predominantly developed and landscaped (Figure 5-1). DeLeon surveyed the Project area on foot, making two passes from east to west and west to east. This approach was necessary as the Project area includes the roadway and northern and southern shoulders.

East of Clinton Street, the Project area along Avenue 50 is developed and consists of a paved travel lanes and landscaped and graded shoulders. DeLeon focused on the shoulders of the road,

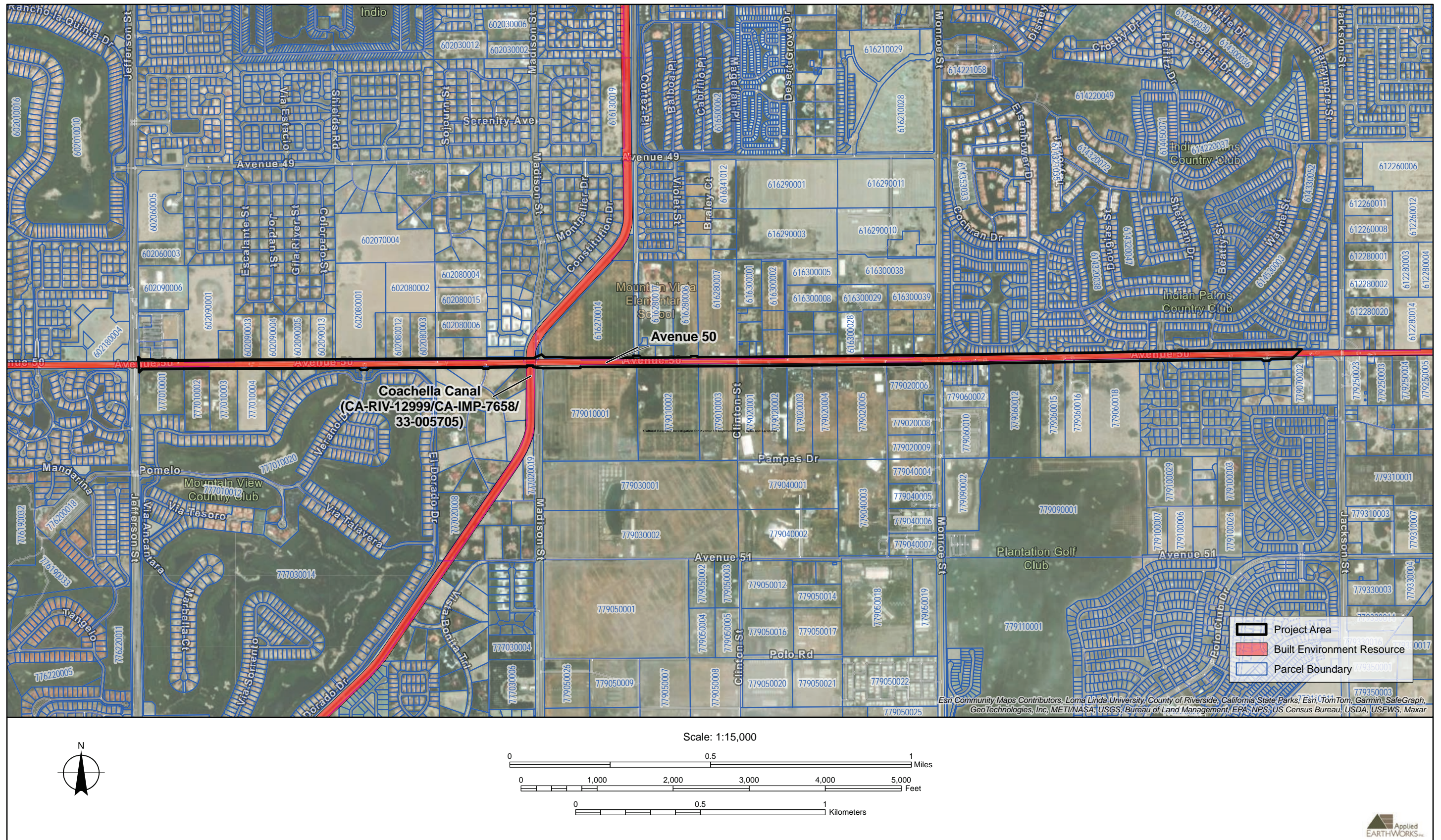


Figure 5-1 Survey coverage of Project area showing recorded resources.



Figure 5-2 Overview of Avenue 50 from the west end at Jefferson Street, facing east.



Figure 5-3 Overview of Avenue 50 opposite Verano Drive, facing west.

and nearly all of this area was either developed or landscaped. Ground visibility in this section was approximately 5 percent due to the presence of pavement and sidewalks (Figure 5 1).

West of Clinton Street Avenue 50 remains in good condition and appears to be continuously maintained due to active use. Several areas along this portion of the Project area remain undeveloped (Figure 5 2). DeLeon encountered irrigation standpipes but was uncertain if the standpipes were modern or associated with Avenue 50. These structures are approximately 25 feet tall and 20 feet in diameter. No other structures or cultural resources were encountered within the Project area.

5.3 PREVIOUSLY DOCUMENTED RESOURCES

Upon completion of the survey, Æ confirmed that the Coachella Canal (33-005705) crosses under the Project area at one location (Figure 5-1). This resource is outside the Project area's vertical limits and, therefore, will not be impacted by construction of the Project.

5.4 NEWLY DOCUMENTED RESOURCES

Æ recorded an approximately 2.5-mile-long segment of Avenue 50 within the Project area bounded by Jefferson Street on the west and Botella Place on the east (Figure 5-1). A description of the road in its entirety and conditions specific to the recorded segment are included below.

Avenue 50 is a modern asphalt-paved road that follows a historic road alignment crossing through the cities of La Quinta, Indio, and Coachella in Riverside County, California (Figure 5-4). The far east end of the road transitions into a single-lane dirt agricultural road that is not maintained by the County of Riverside and is not considered as part of the full length of Avenue 50. The full road is approximately 45 miles long. Over the course of its alignment, the road's width varies between approximately 39 and 90 feet. Avenue 50 today consists of one-, two-, three-, and four-lane segments. Only the one- and two-lane segments are not separated by a central median. Some wider sections of the road include sidewalks and landscaped medians.



Figure 5-4 Avenue 50 segment from Madison Street, facing northeast.

The 2.5-mile recorded road segment is oriented east–west and is fully paved. The asphalt varies in condition; the west end has been improved recently and the other areas display cracking and pitting (Figures 5-4 and 5-5). The width of the road varies from approximately 30 to 55 feet within the segment. Between Jefferson and Madison streets, the median is a simple concrete structure; in other locations, it is an open striped turn lane. At the east end of the segment, between Monroe and Jackson streets, residential developments are present on both sides of the road. Between Madison and Monroe streets, in the center of the segment, public and commercial development is present on both sides of the road. At the west end of the segment, between Jefferson and Madison streets, residential and commercial development is present on both sides of the road. The Coachella Canal (33-005705) passes under Avenue 50, running southwest to northeast, at the Madison Street intersection. Three utilitarian concrete monitoring structures for the undergrounded section of the Coachella Canal were observed along the sidewalk on both sides of the road. These structures were noted by Æ staff, but as commonplace irrigation

infrastructure features they did not warrant formal recordation.



Figure 5-5 Avenue 50 segment with cracking in asphalt from Verano Drive, facing northeast.

6

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

The proposed Project is subject to compliance with CEQA. Therefore, cultural resource management work conducted as part of the proposed Project complies with the CEQA Statute and Guidelines (14 CCR 15064.5), which directs lead agencies to first determine whether cultural resources are present and historically significant. This chapter provides an assessment of the significance of the historic-age Avenue 50 in order to evaluate its eligibility for listing in the CRHR.

6.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

To determine whether the Project will have a significant impact on a potential historical resource, cultural resources within the Project area must be evaluated for eligibility to be listed in the CRHR. If a resource qualifies as a historical resource, the potential for the Project to cause a significant adverse change to the qualities of the resource that make it eligible will require assessment, and the impacts may be subject to mitigation to reduce the impacts to less than significant. Cultural resources that are not eligible for the CRHR do not require such consideration. The National Park Service has established a process for identifying, evaluating, and assessing effects to historic properties (i.e., cultural resources eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places). Practically speaking, determinations made within a federal regulatory context are almost always universally accepted for purposes of identifying, evaluating, and assessing impacts under CEQA. Thus, the National Park Service (1997) guidelines are applicable herein.

The first threshold in this process is to ascertain whether a site or built environment resource within the Project area is old enough to be considered a historical resource and, accordingly, eligible for listing in the CRHR. To be eligible for listing in the CRHR, an archaeological or built environment resource must be 45 years old or older. Documentation of resources less than 45 years old also may be filed if those resources have been formally evaluated, regardless of the outcome of the evaluation (Office of Historic Preservation 1995:2). If a resource is found to meet this age criterion, the following sequential steps apply:

- Classifying the resource as a district, archaeological site, building, structure, or object;
- Determining the theme, context, and relevant thematic period of significance with which the resource is associated;
- Determining whether the resource is historically important under a set of significance criteria; and
- If significant, determining whether the resource retains integrity.

In California, historical resources are usually classified according to *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources*, published by the California Office of Historic Preservation in 1995. This handbook contains listings of resource categories for historical and precontact sites as well as

standing structures. For built environment resources, it is additionally helpful to define a property's type (e.g., commercial vs. residential, urban vs. rural, agricultural vs. industrial).

The significance of a historical resource is best understood and judged in relation to a historic context (Office of Historic Preservation 1995). The evaluation process essentially weighs the relative importance of events, people, and places against the larger backdrop of history. Within this process, the context provides the comparative standards and/or examples as well as the theme(s) necessary for this assessment. According to the National Park Service (1997:9), a theme is a pattern or trend that has influenced the history of an area over time. A theme is typically couched in geographic (i.e., local, state, or national) and temporal terms to focus and facilitate the evaluation process.

Significance is based on how well a subject resource represents one or more themes through its associations with important events or people and/or through its inherent qualities. A resource must demonstrate more than just association with a theme; it must be a good representative of the theme, capable of illustrating the various thematic elements of a time and place in history.

According to the CEQA Guidelines, for a historical resource to be eligible for the CRHR, it must meet at least one of the criteria defined in California Public Resources Code 5024.1(c):

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

To be included in the CRHR, a resource must not only possess historical significance but also the physical means to convey such significance—that is, it must possess integrity. Integrity refers to the degree to which a resource retains its original character. If a resource does not possess historical significance, a discussion of integrity is not required.

6.2 CRHR EVALUATION

Æ evaluated Avenue 50 for CRHR eligibility against the following local historical themes to ascertain whether it played a significant role in the development of the region.

Limited archival information is available regarding road systems within Coachella Valley outside major transportation routes, such as State Routes 86 and 111. The earliest aerial photo located during archival research dates to 1936 and shows Avenue 50 and connecting road system in place. The Project area followed the general pattern of late-nineteenth-century development in Coachella Valley and greater Riverside County. During the land boom of the 1880s, land companies sought large tracts with reliable sources of water to survey and plant irrigated plots from 5 to 40 acres. According to online land records and historical aerial photographs, the region

has been cultivated since approximately 1891 when the SPRR purchased parcels through the Indio and Coachella center. Likewise, the area surrounding the immediate Project area was largely undeveloped, although some land was divided into plots for agricultural uses. A historic aerial photograph from 1953 first shows the Coachella Canal (33-005705), completed in 1948, passing under the Project area. Historic aerial photos indicate that the area surrounding the property experienced rapid development beginning in the early 2000s.

In evaluating this resource for CRHR eligibility, Æ also consulted *A Historical Context and Methodology for Evaluating Trails, Roads, and Highways in California* prepared by the California Department of Transportation. Avenue 50 is a transportation corridor initially developed in the early twentieth century to provide access to farming tracts in the agricultural communities of the Coachella Valley. The road was paved in the mid-twentieth century to accommodate motorized vehicles but remains a medium-duty corridor for local traffic. Its initial use and improvement fall into one of the five broad periods that capture the history of California road development as established by the California Department of Transportation (2016:155): Early-day Automobile Roads and Highways (1900–1940). As part of a local transportation system, its property type is a county road (California Department of Transportation 2016:21).

6.2.1 Significance

Criterion 1. Avenue 50 does not appear to meet CRHR Criterion 1 for association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history. Avenue 50 is one of many roads constructed in the Coachella Valley during the early to mid-twentieth century. It was visible on maps as early as 1939 as a secondary transportation route. While important to local development research yielded no evidence to suggest that the road was crucial to the development of La Quinta, Indio, Coachella, the region, or the United States. Other roads such as State Routes 86 and 111 played a greater role in local development. Further, Avenue 50 has been altered and widened at least twice—once in 1959 and again in 1972. It has been modified to accommodate local communities’ needs and was not consistently altered along its entire route. Therefore, Avenue 50 does not appear significant under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2. Avenue 50 does not appear to meet CRHR Criterion 2 for any direct associations with the productive lives of persons important in local, state, or national history. Research has yielded no information to suggest that the road was constructed by, or is specifically associated with, a person or group of importance to local, state, or national history. Therefore, Avenue 50 does not appear significant under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3. Avenue 50 does not appear to meet CRHR Criterion 3 for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, or as the work of an important builder or engineer, or as having high artistic value. Following available California Department of Transportation guidance, the construction of roads and highways in California occurred in phases subject to rapidly developing technologies over time; therefore, it is uncommon for individual technological innovations to rise to the required level of significance unless the road in its entirety represents a novel construction method or design. Like most roads, Avenue 50 has been continuously modified through time due to use and maintenance and is in its current form largely similar to most modern roads. It does not appear to be a major departure from road

construction or an impressive or unique feat of engineering. Therefore, Avenue 50 does not appear significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4. Avenue 50 does not appear to meet CRHR Criterion 4 because it is a commonplace example of a ubiquitous resource in California and, in its current form, largely has a contemporary appearance. Æ has exhausted available sources and no additional information could be gleaned from the subsequent field visit. It is unlikely to yield information important to prehistory or history. Æ does not anticipate that any additional information can be identified that would prove the resource to be significant. Therefore, Avenue 50 does not appear significant under CRHR Criterion 4.

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historical significance. Because the subject resource is not considered historically significant under any of the four criteria, formal assessment of integrity is not necessary.

Based on the information and evaluation presented above, Avenue 50 is not significant under any of the CRHR eligibility criteria. Therefore, Æ recommends that the segment of the Avenue 50 is not eligible for listing in the CRHR and is not considered a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Avenue 50 is a previously unrecorded historic-era built environment resource within the Project area. Æ evaluated this resource according to CRHR significance criteria and recommends it ineligible for listing because it does not appear to rise to the required level of historical significance. Æ also revisited a segment of the Coachella Canal (33-005705), which crosses under the Project area, and confirmed this resource is outside the Project's vertical limits and, therefore, will not be impacted by Project construction. The Project area is predominantly developed and landscaped. Ground visibility was generally poor due to the presence of pavement and sidewalks. The Sacred Lands File search also returned negative results. As a result, there is a low likelihood that archaeological deposits or features will be found during construction. Therefore, Æ recommends no further cultural resource management within the Project area.

It should be noted that the Project falls within the traditional land use area of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. The Tribe requested a copy of the records search, survey reports, and site records from the EIC, copies of any cultural resource documentation generated from the current Project, and shapefiles of the Project area. The Tribe requests notification of Project start, government-to-government consultation with the lead agency, and monitoring by an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of Interior's standards and an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor. No further comments were received from the tribes after follow-up communication.

Finally, if the Project area is expanded to include areas not covered by this survey or other recent cultural resource studies, additional cultural resource studies may be required.

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APPENDIX A

Native American Communication

LIST OF NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS AND RECORD OF RESPONSES

Name	Date & Time of Calls	Responses
<p>Lacy Padilla Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Operations Manager Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians</p>	<p align="center">March 21, 2024</p>	<p>Scoping letter sent via email. Æ received a response from Cultural Resources Analyst Claritsa Duarte on 3/25/2024. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) has acknowledged that the Project area is not situated within the boundaries of the ACBCI Reservation. However, it is still within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. According to records check of the ACBCI registry, this area has been surveyed previously for cultural resources, but cultural resources have yet to be identified. In consultation, the ACBCI THPO requests copies of any cultural resource documentation (report and site records) created in connection with this project. An archaeologist who meets the Secretary of Interior's standards should be present during any ground-disturbing activities. Additionally, an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor(s) should be present during ground-disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). If buried cultural deposits are discovered, the Monitor may request that destructive construction halt, and they shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The Project area is located within the Lake Cahuilla Shoreline, and it is a very sensitive area.</p>
<p>Amanda Augustine Chairwoman Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians</p>	<p align="center">March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024</p>	<p>Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received</p>
<p>Doug Welmas Chairperson Cabazon Band of Mission Indians</p>	<p align="center">March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024</p>	<p>Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received.</p>
<p>Erica Schenk Chairwoman Cahuilla Band of Indians</p>	<p align="center">March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024</p>	<p>Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received.</p>

Name	Date & Time of Calls	Responses
Ray Chapparosa Chairperson Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians	March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024	Scoping letter sent via post. Follow-up phone call made to the contact number listed for Ray Chapparosa on the NAHC contact list. A voicemail was left briefly describing the Project and contact number, should the Tribe have any comments.
Robert Martin Chairperson Morongo Band of Mission Indians	March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024	Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received.
Jordan Joaquin President Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024	Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received.
Danae Hamilton Vega Chairwoman Ramona Band of Cahuilla	March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024	Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received
Lovina Redner Tribal Chair Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024	Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received
Isaiah Vivanco Chairperson Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024	Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received
Thomas Torte Chairperson Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024	Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received
Christopher Nicosia Cultural Resources Manager/Tribal Historic Preservation officer Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	March 21, 2024 April 4, 2024	Scoping letter sent via email. Follow-up sent via email. No response received

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100

West Sacramento, CA 95691

916-373-3710

916-657-5390 – Fax

nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search

Date: 02/12/2024

Project: Avenue 50 Improvements Project

County: Riverside County

USGS Quadrangle Name: La Quinta and Indio

Township: 5S

Range: 7East

Section(s): 33, 34, and 35

Township: 6S

Range: 7East

Section(s): 2, 3, and 4

Company/Firm/Agency: Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

Contact Person: Jessica Cochrane

Street Address: 3550 East Florida Avenue, Suite H

City: Hemet

Zip: 92544

Phone: (951) 766-2000

Fax: (951) 766-0020

Email: jcochrane@appliedearthworks.com

Project Description: The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the two road segments' existing rights-of-ways. Ground disturbance is expected as a result of construction activities.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

February 28, 2024

Jessica Cochrane
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

Via Email to: jcochrane@appliedearthworks.com

Re: Avenue 50 Improvements Project, Riverside County

To Whom It May Concern:

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: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Laurena Bolden
Serrano

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
Miwok, Nisenan

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



3550 E. Florida Ave., Suite H
Hemet, CA 92544-4937
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www.appliedearthworks.com

March 21, 2024

Lacy Padilla
THPO Operations Manager
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA, 92264

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Lacy Padilla:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

Æ conducted a literature and records search review with Eastern Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System Record Search (EIC). The EIC indicated twenty-eight previously recorded cultural resources within the 0.5-mile search radius of the Project area, no previously recorded cultural resources land within the project area. Æ was contracted to perform an archaeological survey of the Project area, which was completed on March 14, 2024. The project area is developed and has landscaped and graded shoulders of the road. No cultural resources were identified within the Project area.

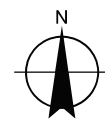
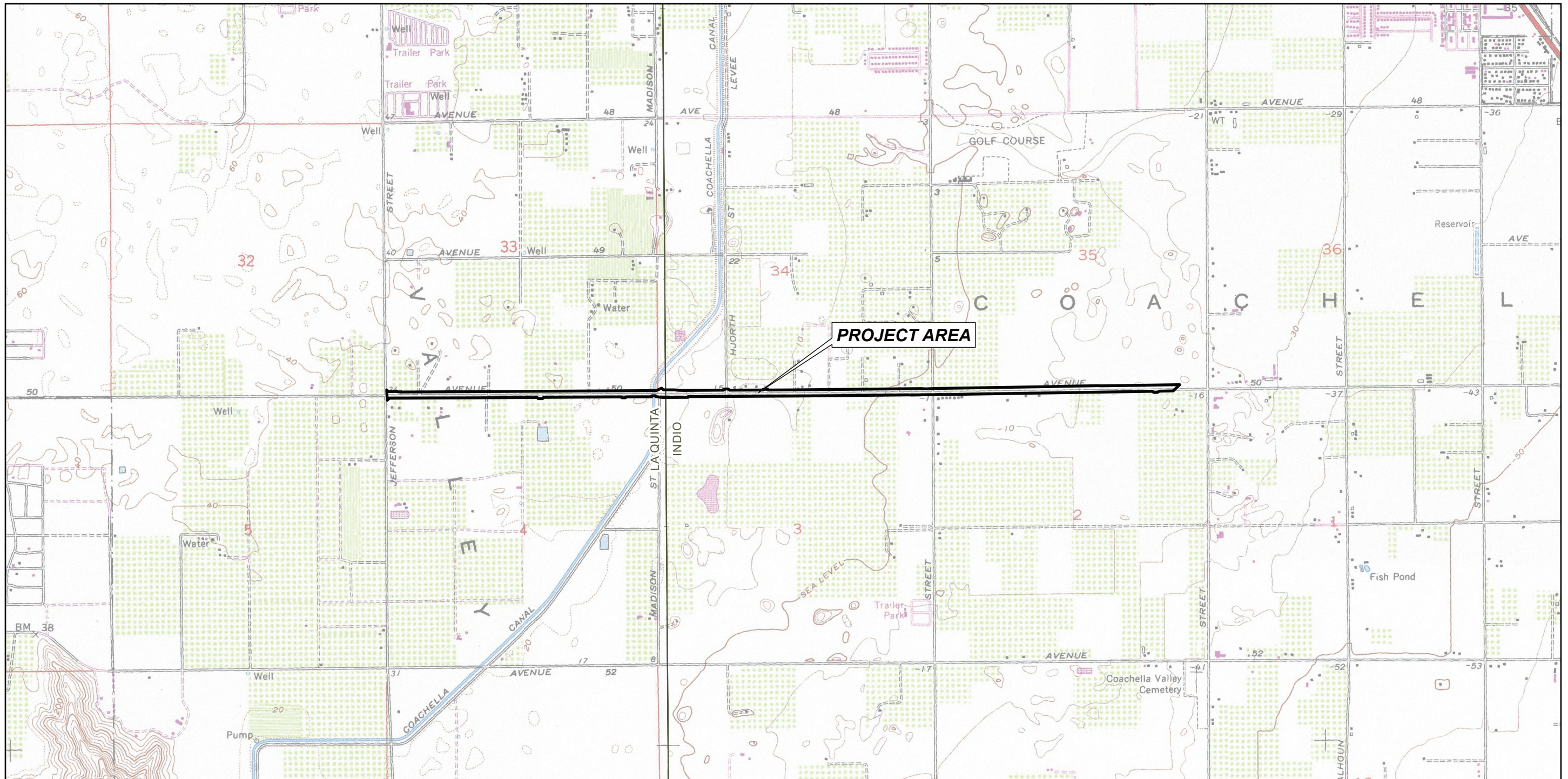
As part of the cultural resource assessment of the Project area, Æ requested a search of the *Sacred Lands File* by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on February 12, 2024. The NAHC responded on February 28, 2024, noting that *Sacred Lands File* search was completed with negative results. Should your records show that cultural properties exist within or near the Project area shown on the enclosed map, or if you have any concerns regarding Native American issues related to the overall Project, please contact me at (951) 766-2000 or via letter expressing your concerns. You may also email me at jcochrane@appliedearthworks.com. If I do not hear from you within the next two weeks, I will contact you with a follow-up email or phone call.

Please be aware that your comments and concerns are very important to us, as well as to the successful completion of this Project. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to review this request.

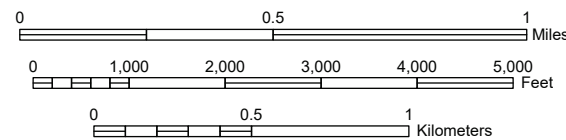
Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Cochrane", written in a cursive style.

Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



Scale: 1:24,000



Township 5 S./Range 7 E., Sections 33, 34, and 35;
 Township 6 S./Range 7 E., Sections 2, 3, and 4; SBB&M
 La Quinta (1959, photorevised 1980) and
 Indio (1956, photorevised 1972), CA 7.5' USGS
 Topographic Quadrangles



Project location on USGS La Quinta and Indio 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles.



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March 21, 2024

Amanda Augustine
Chairwoman
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
84-001 Avenue 54
Coachella, CA, 92236

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Amanda Augustine:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Please be aware that your comments and concerns are very important to us, as well as to the successful completion of this Project. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to review this request.

Respectfully yours,

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Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



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www.appliedearthworks.com

March 21, 2024

Doug Welmas
Chairperson
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA, 92203

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Doug Welmas:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Respectfully yours,

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Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



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www.appliedearthworks.com

March 21, 2024

Erica Schenk
Chairwoman
Cahuilla Band of Indians
52701 CA Highway 371
Anza, CA, 92539

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Erica Schenk:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised median for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Respectfully yours,

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Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



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www.appliedearthworks.com

March 21, 2024

Ray Chapparosa
Chairperson
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians
P.O. Box 189
Warner Springs, CA, 92086-0189

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Ray Chapparosa, Chairperson:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



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March 21, 2024

Robert Martin
Chairperson
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA, 92220

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Robert Martin:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



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www.appliedearthworks.com

March 21, 2024

Jordan Joaquin
President
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
P.O.Box 1899
Yuma, AZ, 85366

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Jordan Joaquin:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Respectfully yours,

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Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



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March 21, 2024

Danae Hamilton Vega
Chairwoman
Ramona Band of Cahuilla
P.O. Box 391670
Anza, CA, 92539

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Danae Hamilton Vega:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



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www.appliedearthworks.com

March 21, 2024

Lovina Redner
Tribal Chair
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 391820
Anza, CA, 92539

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Lovina Redner:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



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March 21, 2024

Isaiah Vivanco
Chairperson
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
P.O. Box 487
San Jacinto, CA, 92581

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Isaiah Vivanco:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised median for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

Æ conducted a literature and records search review with Eastern Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System Record Search (EIC). The EIC indicated twenty-eight previously recorded cultural resources within the 0.5-mile search radius of the Project area, no previously recorded cultural resources land within the project area. Æ was contracted to perform an archaeological survey of the Project area, which was completed on March 14, 2024. The project area is developed and has landscaped and graded shoulders of the road. No cultural resources were identified within the Project area.

As part of the cultural resource assessment of the Project area, Æ requested a search of the *Sacred Lands File* by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on February 12, 2024. The NAHC responded on February 28, 2024, noting that *Sacred Lands File* search was completed with negative results. Should your records show that cultural properties exist within or near the Project area shown on the enclosed map, or if you have any concerns regarding Native American issues related to the overall Project, please contact me at (951) 766-2000 or via letter expressing your concerns. You may also email me at jcochrane@appliedearthworks.com. If I do not hear from you within the next two weeks, I will contact you with a follow-up email or phone call.

Please be aware that your comments and concerns are very important to us, as well as to the successful completion of this Project. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to review this request.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica", written in a cursive style.

Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



3550 E. Florida Ave., Suite H
Hemet, CA 92544-4937
O: (951) 766-2000 | F: (951) 766-0020
www.appliedearthworks.com

March 21, 2024

Thomas Tortez
Chairperson
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA, 92274

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Thomas Tortez:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Respectfully yours,

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Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



3550 E. Florida Ave., Suite H
Hemet, CA 92544-4937
O: (951) 766-2000 | F: (951) 766-0020
www.appliedearthworks.com

March 21, 2024

Christopher Nicosia
Cultural Resources Manager/THPO Manager
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA, 92236

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Christopher Nicosia:

On behalf of Albert A. Webb Associates., Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) is conducting a cultural resource study for proposes widening two and a half miles of existing roadway, adding an 11-foot-wide parkway, and constructing a raised medium for the Avenue 50 Improvements, Cities of Indio and La Quinta Project (Project). The Project involves widening approximately 2.5 miles of Avenue 50 between Jefferson Street and Botella Place in the City of Indio and adding an 11-foot-wide parkway and raised median along Avenue 50 in the City of La Quinta. All work will be conducted within the existing rights-of-way of the two road segments. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City of Indio as the lead CEQA agency. The Project is located within Sections 33, 34, and 35 Township 5 South, Range 7 East, and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, the Project area is located west of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 50.

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Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Cochrane", written in a cursive style.

Jessica Cochrane
Staff Archaeologist
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.



Jessica Cochrane <jcochrane@appliedearthworks.com>

Avenue 50 Improvements

1 message

THPO Consulting <ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 9:44 AM

To: "jcochrane@appliedearthworks.com" <jcochrane@appliedearthworks.com>

Hello Jessica,

If you have any questions about the attached letter please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Claritsa Duarte
Cultural Resources Analyst
cduarte@aguacaliente.net
C: (760) 985-7538 | D: (760) 883-1134
5401 Dinah Shore Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264



03-002-2024-002ACBCI3_25_2024.pdf

82K



03-002-2024-002

March 25, 2024

[VIA EMAIL TO:jcochrane@appliedearthworks.com]
Applied Earthworks
Jessica Cochrane
3550 E. Florida Ave
Hemet, CA 92544

Re: Avenue 50 Improvements

Dear Jessica Cochrane,

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Avenue 50 Improvements project. The project area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI Reservation. However, it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. A records check of the ACBCI registry indicates this area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources but no cultural resources were identified. In consultation, the ACBCI THPO requests the following:

*Copies of any cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with this project.

*The presence of an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of Interior's standards during any ground disturbing activities.

*The presence of an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

* Project area lies within the Lake Cahuilla Shoreline and is a very sensitive area.

Again, the Agua Caliente appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information, please call me at (760) 883-1134. You may also email me at ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net.

Cordially,

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS



Claritsa Duarte
Cultural Resources Analyst
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

APPENDIX B

Department of Parks and Recreation Recording Forms

State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
 HRI #
 Trinomial
 NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
 Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 7

Resource Name or # Avenue 50

P1. Other Identifier: 50th Avenue; Fiftieth Avenue

***P2. Location: a. County:** Riverside

Not for Publication Unrestricted

b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Indio, La Quinta

Date: 1956, 1959

T 5S, R 8E; Sec. 34, 33, 32 and 31

S.B. **B.M.**

T 5S, R 7E; Sec. 36, 35, 34, 33, 32, and 31

S.B. **B.M.**

T 5S, R 6E; Sec. 36

S.B. **B.M.**

T 6S, R 6E; Sec. 1

S.B. **B.M.**

T 6S, R 7E; Sec. 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1

S.B. **B.M.**

T 6S, R 8E; Sec. 6, 5, 4, and 3

S.B. **B.M.**

c. Address: n/a

d. UTM: NAD 83, Zone 11N; West end 564142 mE / 3727428 mN

East end 580707 mE / 3727547 mN

e. Other Locational Data: The road passes through Coachella, Indio, and La Quinta in Riverside County.

***P3a. Description:** Avenue 50 is a modern asphalt-paved road that follows a historic road alignment crossing through the cities of La Quinta, Indio, and Coachella in Riverside County, California. The far east end of the road transitions into a single-lane dirt agricultural road that is not maintained by the County of Riverside and is not considered as part of the full length of Avenue 50. The full road is approximately 45 miles long. Over the course of its alignment, the road's width varies between approximately 39 and 90 feet wide. Avenue 50 today consists of one-, two-, three-, and four-lane segments. Only the one- and two-lane segments are not separated by a central median. Some wider sections of the road include sidewalks and landscaped medians.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP37. Highway/road/trail; HP19. Bridge

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

***P5a. Photograph or Drawing:**



P5b. Description of Photo: Avenue 50 from Madison Street, facing northeast.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
 Prehistoric Historic Both
 Between 1904 and 1936

***P7. Owner and Address:**
 County of Riverside,
 Transportation Department
 4080 Lemon St.
 Riverside, CA 92501

***P8. Recorded By:** Cheyenne Good-Peery
 Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
 3550 E. Florida Ave., Suite H,
 Hemet, CA 92544

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 14, 2024

P10. Survey Type: Intensive
 Reconnaissance Other
Describe: Pedestrian survey

***P11. Report Citation:** Jessica Cochrane and Cheyenne Good-Peery
 2024 *Cultural Resource Investigation for the Avenue 50 Improvements Project, City of Indio, Riverside County, California.* Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Hemet, California. Prepared for the City of Indio, California.

***Attachments:** NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet
 Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record
 Photograph Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record
 Other (list):

Page 2 of 7

Resource Name or #: Avenue 50

B1. Historic Name: 50th Avenue; Fiftieth Avenue

B2. Common Name: None

B3. Original Use: Transportation

B4. Present Use: Transportation

***B5. Architectural Style:** None (utilitarian)

***B6. Construction History (construction date, alterations, and dates of alterations):** Review of historical aerial photographs and USGS topographic maps reveal that Avenue 50 was constructed between 1904 and 1936 (Rosecrans 1936; U.S. Geological Survey 1904).

***B7. Moved?:** No Yes Unknown Date: Original Location:

***B8. Related Features:** None

B9. a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

***B10. Significance:** Theme: None
 Period of Significance: None

Area: Riverside County
 Property Type: Road

Applicable Criteria: None

Limited archival information is available regarding road systems within Coachella Valley outside major transportation routes such as State Routes 86 and 111. The earliest aerial photo located during archival research dates to 1936 and shows Avenue 50 and connecting road system in place. The area around the recorded segment followed the general pattern of late-nineteenth-century development in Coachella Valley and greater Riverside County. During the land boom of the 1880s, land companies sought large tracts with reliable sources of water to develop as irrigated plots of 5 to 40 acres. According to online land records and historical aerial photographs, the region has been cultivated since approximately 1891 when the Southern Pacific Railroad purchased parcels through the Indio and Coachella center. Likewise, the area surrounding this segment of Avenue 50 was largely undeveloped, although some land was divided into plots for agricultural uses. A historic aerial photograph from 1953 first shows the Coachella Canal (33-005705), completed in 1948, passing under Avenue 50. Historic aerial photos indicate that the area experienced rapid development beginning in the early 2000s.

In evaluating this resource for CRHR-eligibility, Æ also consulted *A Historical Context and Methodology for Evaluating Trails, Roads, and Highways in California*, prepared by the California Department of Transportation. Avenue 50 is a transportation corridor initially developed in the early twentieth century to provide access to farming tracts in the agricultural communities of the Coachella Valley. The road was paved in the mid-twentieth century to accommodate motorized vehicles but remains a medium-duty corridor for local traffic. Its initial use and improvement fall into one of the five broad periods that capture the history of California road development as established by the California Department of Transportation (2016:155): Early-day Automobile Roads and Highways (1900–1940). As part of a local transportation system, its property type is a county road (California Department of Transportation 2016:21).

This space reserved for official comments.

Sketch Map

CRHR Evaluation

Criterion 1: *Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.* Avenue 50 does not appear to meet CRHR Criterion 1 for association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history. Avenue 50 is one of many roads constructed in the Coachella Valley during the early to mid-twentieth century. It was visible on maps as early as 1939 as a secondary transportation route. While important to local development research yielded no evidence to suggest that the road was crucial to the development of La Quinta, Indio, Coachella, the region, or the United States. Other roads such as State Routes 86 and 111 played a greater role in local development. Further, Avenue 50 has been altered and widened at least twice—once in 1959 and again in 1972. It has been modified to accommodate local communities' needs and was not consistently altered along its entire route. Therefore, Avenue 50 does not appear significant under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2: *Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.* Avenue 50 does not appear to meet CRHR Criterion 2 for any direct associations with the productive lives of persons important in local, state, or national history. Research has yielded no information to suggest that the road was constructed by, or is specifically associated with, a person or group of importance to local, state, or national history. Therefore, Avenue 50 does not appear significant under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3: *Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values.* Avenue 50 does not appear to meet CRHR Criterion 3 for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, or as the work of an important builder or engineer, or as having high artistic value. Following available California Department of Transportation guidance, the construction of roads and highways in California occurred in phases subject to rapidly developing technologies over time; therefore, it is uncommon for individual technological innovations to rise to the required level of significance unless the road in its entirety represents a novel construction method or design. Like most roads, Avenue 50 has been continuously modified through time due to use and maintenance and is in its current form largely similar to most modern roads. It does not appear to be a major departure from road construction or an impressive or unique feat of engineering. Therefore, Avenue 50 does not appear significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4. *Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.* Avenue 50 does not appear to meet CRHR Criterion 4 because it is a commonplace example of a ubiquitous resource in California and, in its current form, largely has a contemporary appearance. \bar{A} has exhausted available sources and no additional information could be gleaned from the subsequent field visit. It is unlikely to yield information important to prehistory or history. \bar{A} does not anticipate that any additional information can be identified that would prove the resource to be significant. Therefore, Avenue 50 does not appear significant under CRHR Criterion 4.

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historical significance. Because the subject resource is not considered historically significant under any of the four criteria, formal assessment of integrity is not necessary.

Based on the information and evaluation presented above, Avenue 50 is not significant under any of the CRHR eligibility criteria. Therefore, \bar{A} recommends that Avenue 50 is not eligible for listing in the CRHR and is not considered a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes (list attributes and codes): None.

***B12. References:**

California Department of Transportation

2016 *A Historical Context and Methodology for Evaluating Trails, Roads, and Highways in California.*
California Department of Transportation, Sacramento.

Rosecrans, W. S.

1936 Aerial Photograph, Vicinity of La Quinta and Indian Wells. C-3961, Scale 1:15,000. Fairchild Aerial Surveys. Davidson Library, Geospatial Collection, University of California, Santa Barbara.

U.S. Geological Survey

1904 *Indio, Calif.* 30-minute series. U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

B13. Remarks: None.

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheyenne Good-Peery

Date of Evaluation: March 29, 2024

Page 4 of 7

Resource Name or #: Avenue 50

L1. **Historic and/or Common Name:** 50th Avenue; Fiftieth Avenue

L2a. **Portion Described:** Entire Resource Segment Point Observation **Designation:**

- b. Location of point or segment: NAD 83, Zone 11N; Ave. 50 segment west end: 567794 mE / 3727513 mN
Ave. 50 segment east end: 571888 mE / 3727546 mN

L3. **Description:** Æ recorded an approximately 2.5-mile-long segment of Avenue 50 bounded by Jefferson Street on the west and Botella Place to the east. The 2.5-mile recorded road segment is oriented east–west and is fully paved. The asphalt varies in condition; the west end has been improved recently and the other areas display cracking and pitting. The width of the road varies from approximately 30 to 55 feet within the segment. Between Jefferson and Madison streets, the median is a simple concrete structure; in other locations, it is an open striped turn lane.

L4. **Dimensions:**

- a. **Top Width:** Varies from 30 to 55 feet
b. **Bottom Width:** N/A
c. **Height or Depth:** N/A
d. **Length of Segment:** 2.5 miles

L4e. **Sketch or Cross Section** attached **Facing:**

none

L5. **Associated Resources:** None.

L6. **Setting:** At the east end of the segment, between Monroe and Jackson streets, residential developments are present on both sides of the road. Between Madison and Monroe streets, in the center of the segment, public and commercial development is present on both sides of the road. At the west end of the segment, between Jefferson and Madison streets, residential and commercial development is present on both sides of the road. The Coachella Canal (33-005705), running southwest to northeast, passes under Avenue 50 at the Madison Street intersection. Three utilitarian concrete monitoring structures for the undergrounded section of the Coachella Canal were observed along the sidewalk on both sides of the road. These structures were noted by Æ staff, but as commonplace irrigation infrastructure features, they did not warrant formal recordation.

L7. **Integrity Considerations:** The asphalt road varies in condition; the west end is recently improved and the other areas are cracked and pitted.

L8a. **Photo, Map, or Drawing:**

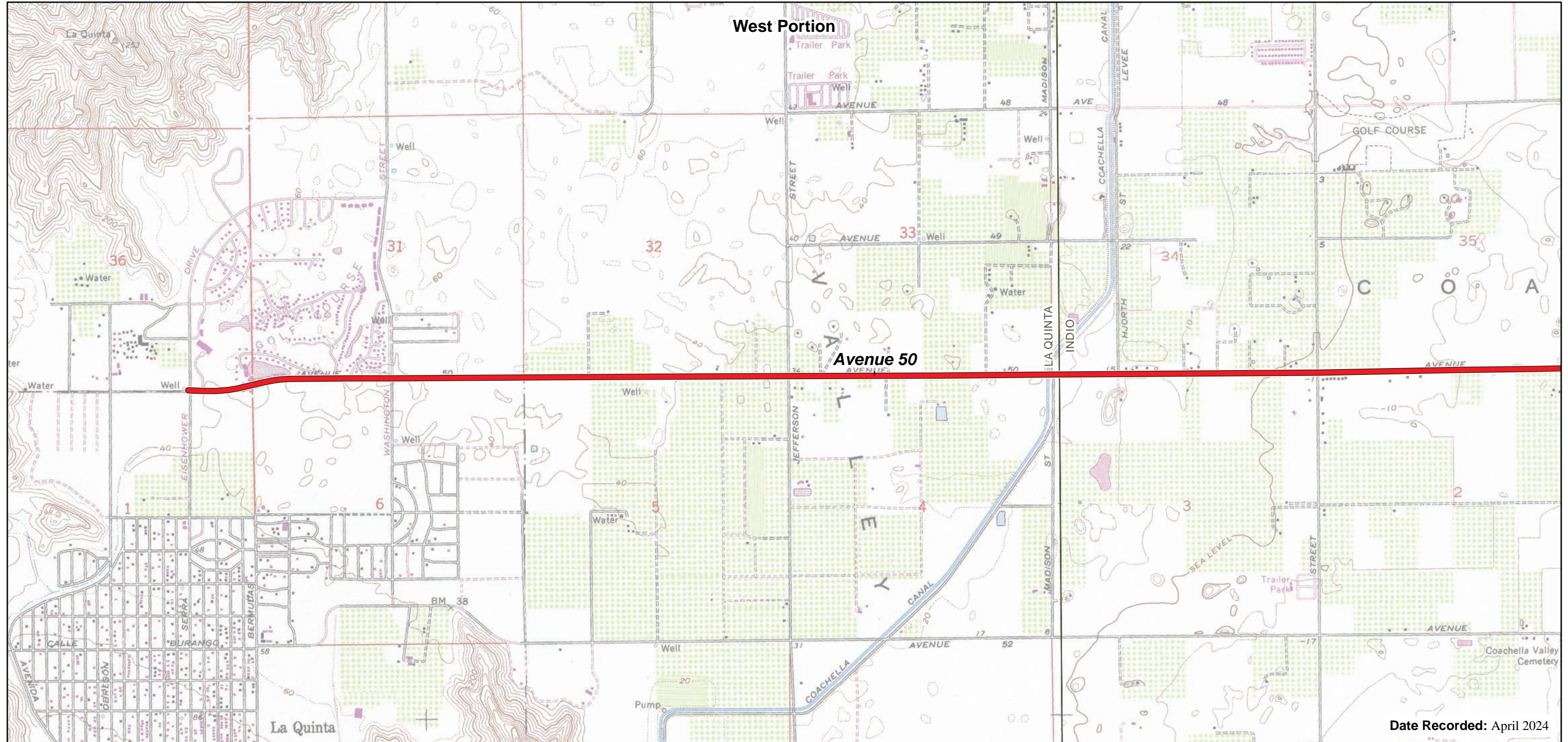


L8b. **Description of Photo, Map, or Drawing:** Overview of Avenue 50, standing opposite of Verano Drive, facing west.

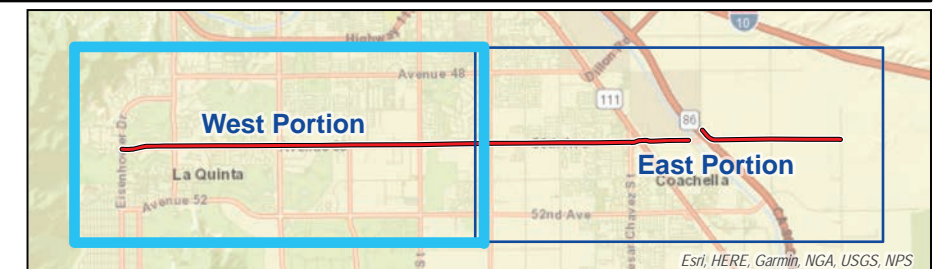
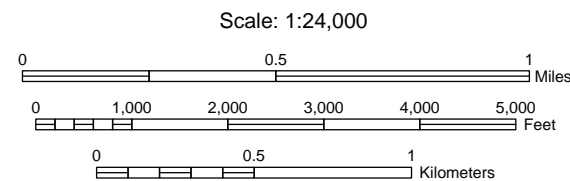
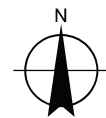
L9. **Remarks:** None.

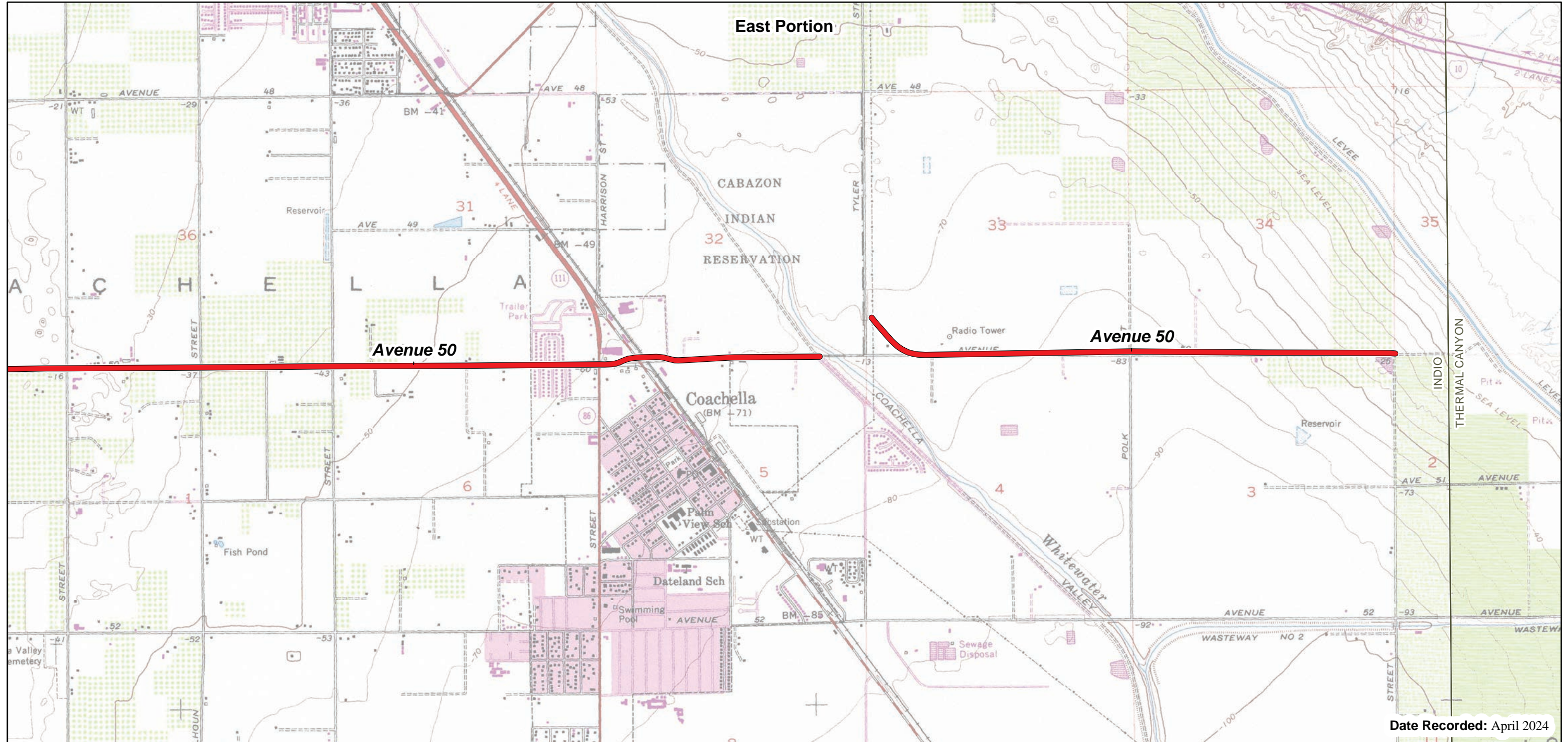
L10. **Form Prepared By:** Cheyenne Good-Peery

L11. **Date:** March 29, 2024

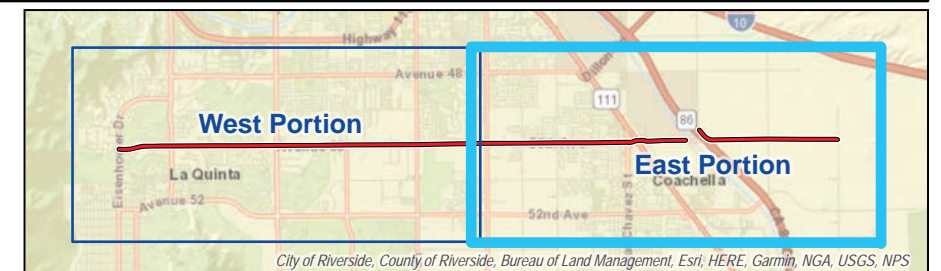
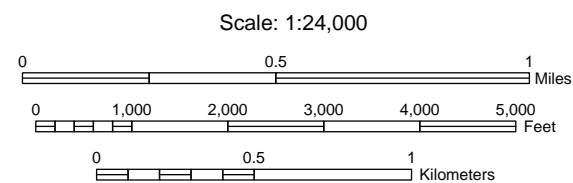
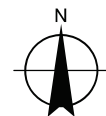


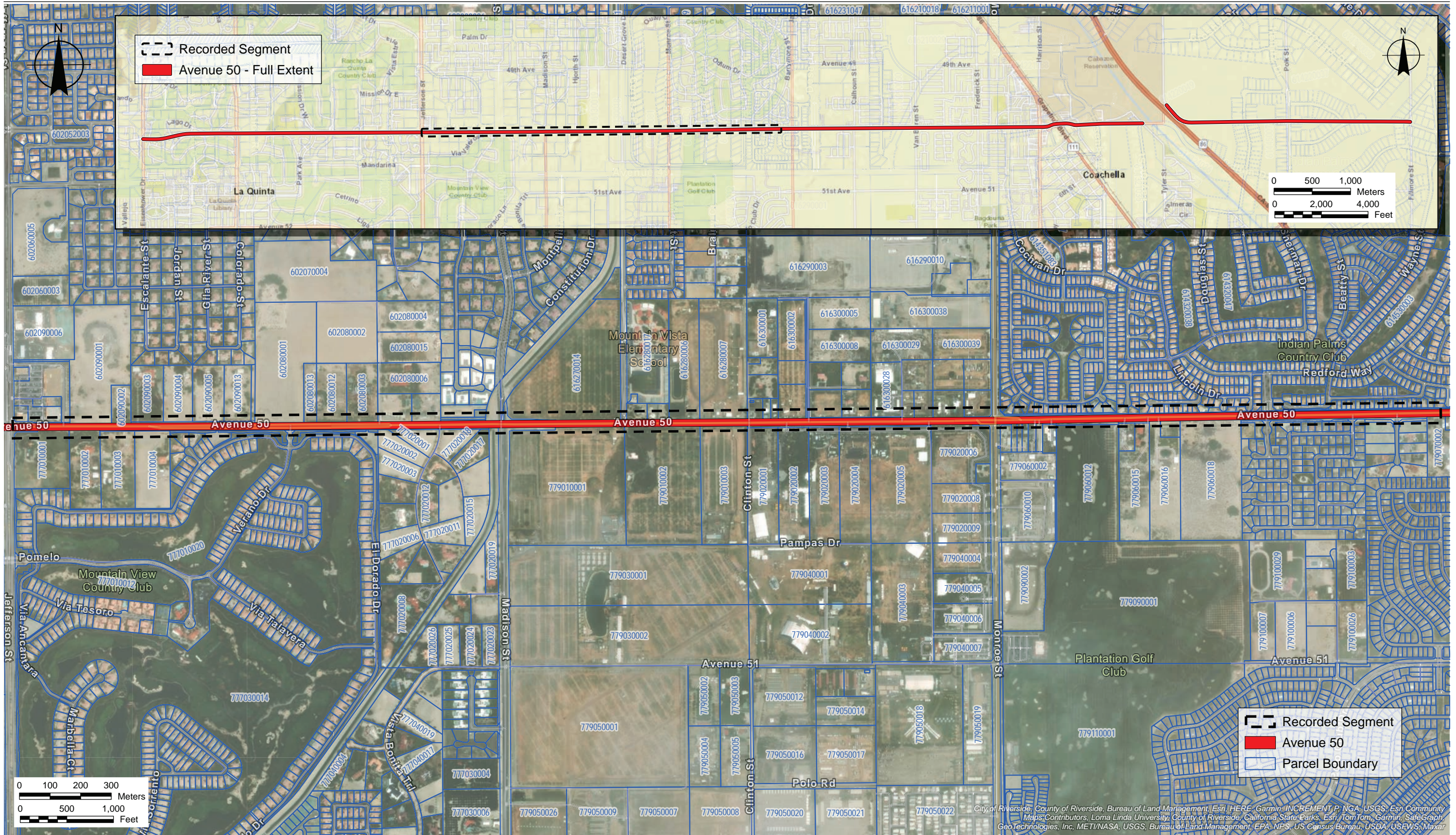
Date Recorded: April 2024





Date Recorded: April 2024





APPENDIX C

Survey Coverage Map Expanded

\\chapan01\webb\lan\WO4\2023\23-0058\GIS\PRO\Aerial Map\Aerial Map.aprx: Map created 30 Jun 2025



LEGEND

- Project Footprint
- Survey Coverage
- Jurisdictional Boundaries

Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2020;
USDA NAIP, 2016.



0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

Figure 2a - Aerial Map (View 1)
Avenue 50 Improvement Project from Jefferson Street to Botella Place



\\chrispan01_webb\lan\WO4\2023\23-0058\GIS\PRO\AerialMap\AerialMap.aprx: Map created 30 Jun 2025

Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2020;
USDA NAIP, 2016.

Figure 2b - Aerial Map (View 2)

Avenue 50 Improvement Project from Jefferson Street to Botella Place



I:\chappan01_webb\lan\WO4\2023\23-0058\CIS\PRO\Aerial Map\Aerial Map.aprx: Map created 30 Jun 2025 10:50:58 AM

Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2020;
USDA NAIP, 2016.

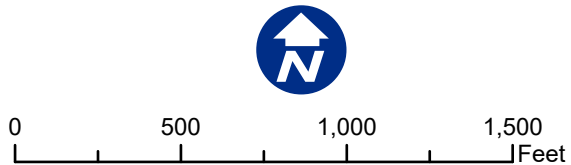


Figure 2c - Aerial Map (View 3)
Avenue 50 Improvement Project from Jefferson Street to Botella Place