

# **CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

**Helendale Community Services District Park Project**

**Unincorporated San Bernardino County, California**

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Project No. COL2001

## **National Archaeological Data Base Information:**

*Type of Study:* Intensive Survey

*Resources Recorded:* None

*Keywords:* Helendale

*USGS Quadrangle:* 7.5-minute Helendale, California (1993)



**BCRCONSULTING LLC**

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## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Altec Land Planning to complete a Cultural Resources Assessment of the Helendale Community Services District Park Project (the project) located in unincorporated Helendale, San Bernardino County, California. A cultural resources records search, intensive pedestrian field survey, shovel test pits, Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and paleontological overview were conducted for the project in partial fulfillment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The cultural resources records search revealed that nine cultural resource studies have taken place resulting in the recording of one cultural resource (a historic-period railroad feature) within one mile of the project site. None of the previous studies have assessed the project site for cultural resources and no cultural resources have been identified within its boundaries. During the field survey and shovel tests, BCR Consulting archaeologists did not identify any cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic-period archaeological sites or historic-period buildings) within the project site. Based on these results BCR Consulting recommends that no additional cultural resource work or monitoring is necessary for any earthmoving proposed within the project site. However, if previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation if necessary.

Findings were negative during the Sacred Lands File search with the NAHC. The results of the Sacred Lands File search are provided in Appendix C. Since the County will initiate and carry out the required AB52 Native American Consultation, the results of the consultation are not provided in this report. However, this report may be used during the consultation process, and BCR Consulting staff is available to answer questions and address concerns as necessary.

According to CEQA Guidelines, projects subject to CEQA must determine whether the project would “directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource”. The appended Paleontological Overview provided in Appendix D has recommended that:

The geologic units underlying this project are mapped entirely as Mojave River channel sand deposits dating from the Holocene period (Dibblee, 2008). While Holocene alluvial units are considered to be of high preservation value, material found is unlikely to be fossil material due to the relatively modern associated dates of the deposits. However, if development requires any substantial depth of disturbance, the likelihood of reaching Pleistocene alluvial sediments would increase. The Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or within a 1 mile radius.

While the presence of any fossil material is unlikely, if excavation activity disturbs deeper sediment dating to the earliest parts of the Holocene or Late Pleistocene periods, the material would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area is unlikely to be paleontologically sensitive, but caution during development should be observed.

If human remains are encountered during any proposed project activities, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

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## INTRODUCTION

BCR Consulting LLC (BCR Consulting) is under contract to Altec Land Planning to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Helendale Community Services District Park Project (the project) located in unincorporated Helendale, San Bernardino County, California. The project site is located in Section 32 of Township 8 North, Range 4 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, in unincorporated San Bernardino County. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Helendale, California* (1993) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

### Regulatory Setting

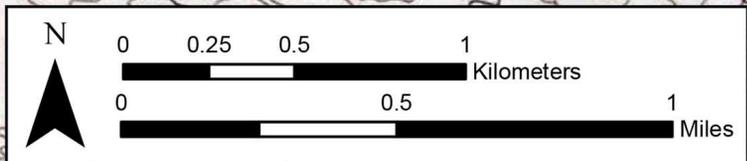
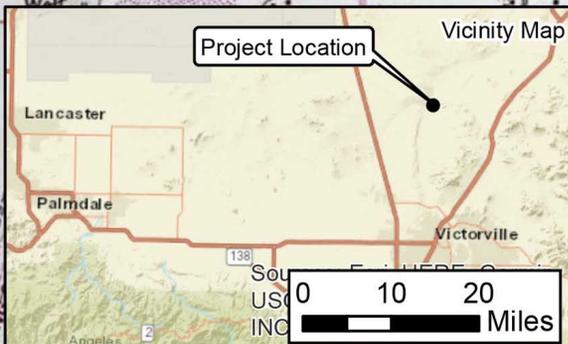
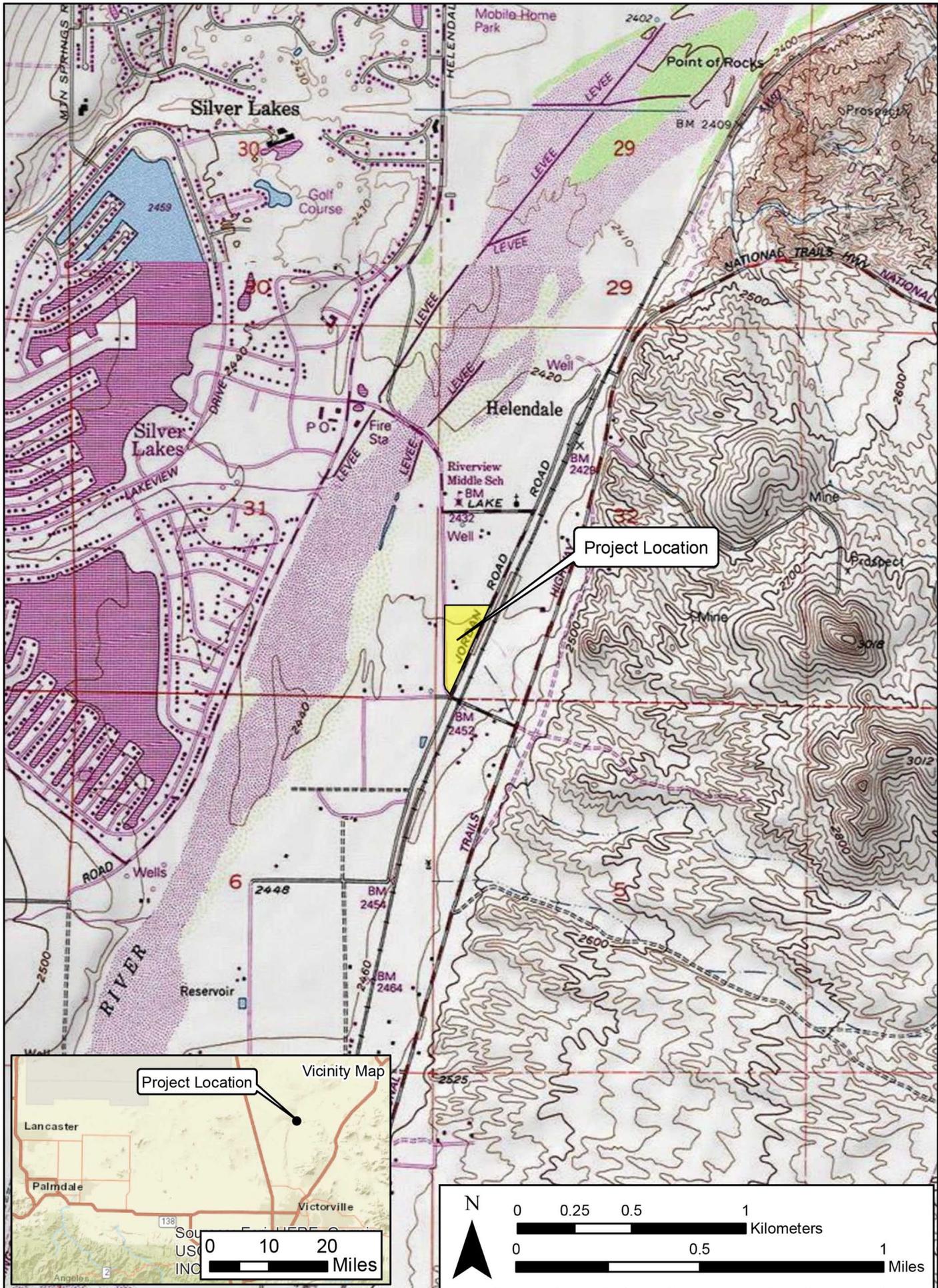
**The California Environmental Quality Act.** CEQA applies to all discretionary projects undertaken or subject to approval by the state's public agencies (California Code of Regulations 14(3), § 15002(i)). Under CEQA, "A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(b)). State CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(a) defines a "historical resource" as a resource that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register)
- Listed in a local register of historical resources (as defined at Cal. Public Res. Code § 5020.1(k))
- Identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of § 5024.1(g) of the Cal. Public Res. Code
- Determined to be a historical resource by a project's lead agency (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(a))

A historical resource consists of "Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California...Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be 'historically significant' if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources" (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(a)(3)).

The significance of a historical resource is impaired when a project demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for the California Register. If an impact on a historical or archaeological resource is significant, CEQA requires feasible measures to minimize the impact (State CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4 (a)(1)). Mitigation of significant impacts must lessen or eliminate the physical impact that the project will have on the resource.

Section 5024.1 of the Cal. Public Res. Code established the California Register. Generally, a resource is considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), §



15064.5(a)(3)). The eligibility criteria for the California Register are similar to those of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), and a resource that meets one of more of the eligibility criteria of the National Register will be eligible for the California Register.

The California Register program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural significance, identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes, determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding and affords certain protections under CEQA. Criteria for Designation:

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.
2. Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history.
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.
4. Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the California Register requires that sufficient time has passed since a resource's period of significance to "obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resources." (CCR 4852 [d][2]). Fifty years is normally considered sufficient time for a potential historical resource, and in order that the evaluation remain valid for a minimum of five years after the date of this report, all resources older than 45 years (i.e. resources from the "historic-period") will be evaluated for California Register listing eligibility, or CEQA significance. The California Register also requires that a resource possess integrity. This is defined as the ability for the resource to convey its significance through seven aspects: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

**Assembly Bill 52.** California Assembly Bill 52 was approved on September 25, 2014. As stated in Section 11 of AB 52, the act applies only to projects that have a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration filed on or after July 1, 2015.

AB 52 establishes "tribal cultural resources" (TCRs) as a new category of resources under CEQA. As defined under Public Resources Code Section 21074, TCRs are "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe" that are either: (1) included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR; included in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k); or (2) determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to the criteria for inclusion in the CRHR set forth in Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c), if supported by substantial evidence and taking into account the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. A "historical resource" as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21084.1, a "unique archaeological resource" as defined in

Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g), or a “nonunique archaeological resource” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(h) may also be TCRs.

AB 52 further establishes a new consultation process with California Native American tribes for proposed projects in geographic areas that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with that tribe. Per Public Resources Code Section 21073, “California Native American tribe” includes federally and non-federally recognized tribes on the NAHC contact list. Subject to certain prerequisites, AB 52 requires, among other things, that a lead agency consult with the geographically affiliated tribe before the release of an environmental review document for a proposed project regarding project alternatives, recommended mitigation measures, or potential significant effects, if the tribe so requests in writing. If the tribe and the lead agency agree upon mitigation measures during their consultation, these mitigation measures must be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document (Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21084.2, and 21084.3).

**Paleontological Resources.** CEQA provides guidance relative to significant impacts on paleontological resources, indicating that a project would have a significant impact on paleontological resources if it disturbs or destroys a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature. Section 5097.5 of the California Public Resources Code specifies that any unauthorized removal of paleontological remains is a misdemeanor. Further, California Penal Code Section 622.5 sets the penalties for damage or removal of paleontological resources. CEQA documentation prepared for projects would be required to analyze paleontological resources as a condition of the CEQA process to disclose potential impacts. Please note that as of January 2018 paleontological resources are considered in the geological rather than cultural category. Therefore, paleontological resources are not summarized in the body of this report. A paleontological overview completed by professional paleontologists from the Western Science Center is provided as Appendix B.

## NATURAL SETTING

### Geology

The subject property is located in the southwestern portion of the Mojave Desert. Sediments within the subject property boundaries include “unconsolidated stream-laid sand deposited in former flood plain of Mojave River” (Dibblee 1960). Field observations during the current study are basically consistent with these descriptions, although modern excavation and grading have resulted in severe disturbances throughout the project site.

### Hydrology

The subject property elevation ranges from approximately 2,449 to 2,459 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Sheetwashing occurs generally from southeast to northwest across the subject property, and local runoff eventually drains into the Mojave River, adjacent to the project site. To the south, the peaks of the San Bernardino Mountains rise above 10,000 feet and are often capped with snow until late spring or early summer. The area currently exhibits a relatively arid climate, with dry, hot summers and cool winters. Rainfall ranges from five to 15 inches annually (Jaeger and Smith 1971:36-37). Precipitation usually occurs in the form of winter and spring rain or snow at high elevations, with occasional warm monsoonal showers in late summer.

## Biology

The mild climate of the late Pleistocene allowed piñon-juniper woodland to thrive throughout most of the Mojave (Van Devender et al. 1987). The vegetation and climate during this epoch attracted significant numbers of Rancho labrean fauna, including dire wolf, saber-toothed cat, short-faced bear, horse, camel, antelope, mammoth, as well as birds which included pelican, goose, duck, cormorant, and eagle (Reynolds 1988). The drier climate of the middle Holocene resulted in the local development of complementary flora and fauna, which remain largely intact to this day. Common native plants include creosote, cacti, rabbit bush, interior golden bush, cheesebush, species of sage, buckwheat at higher elevations and near drainages, Joshua tree, and various grasses. Common native animals include coyotes, cottontail and jackrabbits, rats, mice, desert tortoises, roadrunners, raptors, turkey vultures, and other bird species (see Williams et al. 2008).

## CULTURAL SETTING

### Prehistory

The prehistoric cultural setting of the Mojave Desert has been organized into many chronological frameworks (see Warren and Crabtree 1986; Bettinger and Taylor 1974; Lanning 1963; Hunt 1960; Wallace 1958, 1962, 1977; Wallace and Taylor 1978; Campbell and Campbell 1935), although there is no definitive sequence for the region. The difficulties in establishing cultural chronologies for the Mojave are a function of its enormous size and the small amount of archaeological excavations conducted there. Moreover, throughout prehistory many groups have occupied the Mojave and their territories often overlap spatially and chronologically resulting in mixed artifact deposits. Due to dry climate and capricious geological processes, these artifacts rarely become integrated in-situ. Lacking a milieu hospitable to the preservation of cultural midden, Mojave chronologies have relied upon temporally diagnostic artifacts, such as projectile points, or upon the presence/absence of other temporal indicators, such as groundstone. Such methods are instructive, but can be limited by prehistoric occupants' concurrent use of different artifact styles, or by artifact re-use or re-sharpening, as well as researchers' mistaken diagnosis, and other factors (see Flenniken 1985; Flenniken and Raymond 1986; Flenniken and Wilke 1989). Recognizing the shortcomings of comparative temporal indicators, this study synthesizes Warren and Crabtree (1986), who have drawn upon this method to produce a commonly cited and relatively comprehensive chronology.

**Paleoindian (12,000 to 10,000 BP) and Lake Mojave (10,000 to 7,000 BP) Periods.** Climatic warming characterizes the transition from the Paleoindian Period to the Lake Mojave Period. This transition also marks the end of Pleistocene Epoch and ushers in the Holocene. The Paleoindian Period has been loosely defined by isolated fluted (such as Clovis) projectile points, dated by their association with similar artifacts discovered in-situ in the Great Plains (Sutton 1996:227-228). Some fluted bifaces have been associated with fossil remains of Rancho labrean mammals approximately dated to ca. 13,300-10,800 BP near China Lake in the northern Mojave Desert. The Lake Mojave Period has been associated with cultural adaptations to moist conditions, and resource allocation pointing to more lacustrine environments than previously (Bedwell 1973; Hester 1973). Artifacts that characterize this period include stemmed points, flake and core scrapers, choppers, hammerstones, and crescentics (Warren and Crabtree 1986:184). Projectile points

associated with the period include the Silver Lake and Lake Mojave styles. Lake Mojave sites commonly occur on shorelines of Pleistocene lakes and streams, where geological surfaces of that epoch have been identified (Basgall and Hall 1994:69).

**Pinto Period (7,000 to 4,000 BP).** The Pinto Period has been largely characterized by desiccation of the Mojave. As formerly rich lacustrine environments began to disappear, the artifact record reveals more sporadic occupation of the Mojave, indicating occupants' recession to the more hospitable fringes (Warren 1984). Pinto Period sites are rare, and are characterized by surface manifestations that usually lack significant in-situ remains. Artifacts from this era include Pinto projectile points and a flake industry similar to the Lake Mojave tool complex (Warren 1984), though use of Pinto projectile points as an index artifact for the era has been disputed (see Schroth 1994). Milling stones have also occasionally been associated with sites of this period (Warren 1984).

**Gypsum Period. (4,000 to 1,500 BP).** A temporary return to moister conditions during the Gypsum Period is postulated to have encouraged technological diversification afforded by the relative abundance of resources (Warren 1984:419-420; Warren and Crabtree 1986:189). Lacustrine environments reappear and begin to be exploited during this era (Shutler 1961, 1968). Concurrently a more diverse artifact assemblage reflects intensified reliance on plant resources. The new artifacts include milling stones, mortars, pestles, and a proliferation of Humboldt Concave Base, Gypsum Cave, Elko Eared, and Elko Corner-notched dart points (Warren 1984; Warren and Crabtree 1986). Other artifacts include leaf-shaped projectile points, rectangular-based knives, drills, large scraper planes, choppers, hammer stones, shaft straighteners, incised stone pendants, and drilled slate tubes. The bow and arrow appears around 2,000 BP, evidenced by the presence of a smaller type of projectile point, the Rose Spring point (Rogers 1939; Shutler 1961; Yohe 1992).

**Saratoga Springs Period (1,500 to 800 BP).** During the Saratoga Springs Period regional cultural diversifications of Gypsum Period developments are evident within the Mojave. Basketmaker III (Anasazi) pottery appears during this period, and has been associated with turquoise mining in the eastern Mojave Desert (Warren and Crabtree 1986:191). Influences from Patayan/Yuman assemblages are apparent in the southern Mojave, and include buff and brown wares often associated with Cottonwood and Desert Side-notched projectile points (Warren 1984:423). Obsidian becomes more commonly used throughout the Mojave and characteristic artifacts of the period include milling stones, mortars, pestles, ceramics, and ornamental and ritual objects. More structured settlement patterns are evidenced by the presence of large villages, and three types of identifiable archaeological sites (major habitation, temporary camps, and processing stations) emerge (McGuire and Hall 1988). Diversity of resource exploitation continues to expand, indicating a much more generalized, somewhat less mobile subsistence strategy.

**Shoshonean Period (800 BP to Contact).** The Shoshonean period is the first to benefit from contact-era ethnography –as well as be subject to its inherent biases. Interviews of living informants allowed anthropologists to match artifact assemblages and particular traditions with linguistic groups, and plot them geographically (see Kroeber 1925; Gifford 1918; Strong 1929). During the Shoshonean Period continued diversification of site assemblages, and reduced Anasazi influence both coincide with the expansion of Numic

(Uto-Aztecan language family) speakers across the Great Basin, Takic (Uto-Aztecan language family) speakers into southern California, and the Hopi across the Southwest (Sutton 1996). Hunting and gathering continued to diversify, and the diagnostic arrow points include desert side-notch and cottonwood triangular. Ceramics continue to proliferate, though are more common in the southern Mojave during this period (Warren and Crabtree 1986). Trade routes have become well established across the Mojave, particularly the Mojave Trail, which transported goods and news across the desert via the Mojave River, to the west of the subject property. Trade in the western Mojave was more closely related to coastal groups than others.

## Ethnography

The Uto-Aztecan “Serrano” people occupied the western Mojave Desert periphery. Kroeber (1925) applied the generic term “Serrano” to four groups, each with distinct territories: the Kitanemuk, Tataviam, Vanyume, and Serrano. Only one group, in the San Bernardino Mountains and West-Central Mojave Desert, ethnically claims the term Serrano. Bean and Smith (1978) indicate that the Vanyume, an obscure Takic population, was found along the Mojave River near Apple Valley at the time of Spanish contact. The Kitanemuk lived to the north and west, while the Tataviam lived to the west. The Serrano lived mainly to the south (Bean and Smith 1978). All may have used the western Mojave area seasonally. Historical records are unclear concerning precise Serrano territory, although archaeologists have recorded evidence of a number of prehistoric sites (including some villages), particularly along the Mojave River. It is doubtful that any group, except the Vanyume, actually lived in the region for several seasons yearly.

## History

Historic California is divided into three periods: the Spanish/Mission Period (1769 to 1821), the Mexican/Rancho Period (1821 to 1848), and the American Period (1848 to present).

**Spanish Period.** The first European to pass through the area is thought to be a Spaniard called Father Francisco Garces. Having become familiar with the area, Garces acted as a guide to Juan Bautista de Anza, who had been commissioned to lead a group across the desert from a Spanish outpost in Arizona to set up quarters at the Mission San Gabriel in 1771 near what today is Pasadena (Beck and Haase 1974). This is the first recorded group crossing of the Mojave Desert and, according to Father Garces’ journal, they camped at the headwaters of the Mojave River, one night less than a day’s march from the mountains. Today, this is estimated to have been approximately 11 miles southeast of Victorville (Marenczuk 1962). Garces was followed by Alta California Governor Pedro Fages, who briefly explored the western Mojave region in 1772. Searching for San Diego Presidio deserters, Fages had traveled north through Riverside to San Bernardino, crossed the mountains into the Mojave, then west to the San Joaquin Valley (Beck and Haase 1974).

**Mexican Period.** In 1821, Mexico overthrew Spanish rule and the missions began to decline. By 1833, the Mexican government passed the Secularization Act, and the missions, reorganized as parish churches, lost their vast land holdings, and released their neophytes (Beattie and Beattie 1974).

**American Period.** The American Period, 1848–Present, began with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In 1850, California was accepted into the Union of the United States primarily due to the population increase created by the Gold Rush of 1849. The cattle industry reached its greatest prosperity during the first years of the American Period. Mexican Period land grants had created large pastoral estates in California, and demand for beef during the Gold Rush led to a cattle boom that lasted from 1849–1855. However, beginning about 1855, the demand for beef began to decline due to imports of sheep from New Mexico and cattle from the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys. When the beef market collapsed, many California ranchers lost their ranchos through foreclosure. A series of disastrous floods in 1861–1862, followed by a significant drought diminished the economic impact of local ranching. This decline combined with ubiquitous agricultural and real estate developments of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, set the stage for diversified economic pursuits that have continued to proliferate to this day (Beattie and Beattie 1974; Cleland 1941).

**Local Sequence.** Prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, greater Victor Valley’s main industries included cattle ranching, and mining. In 1893, Ursula M. Poates named the community of Apple Valley in an effort to convince settlers that fruit could be grown in the desert. The charismatic Poates had resided in the Mojave most of her life, and attempted to substantiate the claim by planting three apple trees in her wind-blown, greasewood-covered yard (Bright 1998). By 1910, locals had followed suit and soon 17 apple orchards occupied 1,000 acres within the valley. The success of Apple Valley prompted Arthur E. Hull, founder of Beaumont, California, to invest in the agricultural potential of the area. Hull was instrumental in publicizing Victor Valley’s development, and successfully lobbied for the construction of the first paved Cajon Pass road. He also procured water rights to accommodate the area’s growing agricultural endeavors (O’Rourke 2004).

Contemporaneous with the agricultural boom, large federal grants were made available and the government encouraged homesteaders to occupy and improve thousands of additional acres. The homestead and agricultural era was locally short-lived, however, and as a result of the United States’ 1917 entry into World War I, mining (specifically limestone) and cattle ranching became the region’s driving economic force. During the decades after World War I, the few remaining apple orchards became increasingly unprofitable and died out due to fungus, bad weather, and stiff competition from fruit growers in Central California and the American Northwest. The limestone mining industry continued to grow, and was primarily concentrated in the Victorville-Oro Grand district (Wright et al. 1953). By the 1950s more than half the mineral production (by value) in San Bernardino County came from limestone operations, the bulk of which was used by Portland cement plants.

In spite of limited diversification of local industries during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, improvements to local infrastructure allowed more varied economic growth. In 1926, U.S. Route 66 was constructed to connect the American Midwest with California. The route commenced in Chicago, winding south through the Midwest and Southwest, through the Mojave Desert and the Cajon Pass to the Los Angeles Basin, before terminating at the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica. Within Victor Valley, the route promoted some economic growth as an artery used to transport limestone, which fed the growing demand for concrete throughout southern California’s growing municipalities. It would also promote businesses along its corridor and eventually provide a commuter route for the burgeoning bedroom

communities that sprang up across the Victor Valley during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (O'Rourke 2004). By 1949, petroleum magnate Newton T. Bass saw potential for significant land speculation in the area based upon the discovery deep aquifers in Apple Valley. During the ensuing decades, Bass and his partner Bernard Westlund acquired approximately 25,000 acres of land in Apple Valley. Through a series of promotional campaigns, the partners proceeded transform the sparsely-populated strip of desert into the thriving residential and commercial community that continues to expand to this day (O'Rourke 2004:41-43).

## PERSONNEL

David Brunzell, M.A., RPA acted as the Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the current study. BCR Consulting Archaeological Field Director Joseph Orozco, M.A., RPA and BCR Consulting Staff Archaeologist Nicholas Shepetuk, B.A. completed the field assessment and shovel test pit excavation. Additional research was performed by BCR Consulting Staff Historian Dylan Williams. Mr. Brunzell compiled the technical report with contributions from Mr. Orozco.

## METHODS

This work was completed pursuant to the CEQA, Public Resources Code (PRC) Chapter 2.6, Section 21083.2, and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15064.5. The pedestrian cultural resources survey is intended to locate and document previously recorded or new cultural resources, including archaeological sites, features, isolates, and historic buildings, that exceed 45 years in age within defined project boundaries. The subject property was examined using 10 to 15 meter transect intervals. Shovel test pits were also excavated to assess the potential for any buried resources or geoarchaeological context immediately below the surface. This testing was not warranted by research or field conditions, but was completed based on informal consultation between Altec Land Planning and local tribal entities. This study is intended to determine whether cultural resources are located within the subject property boundaries, whether any cultural resources are significant pursuant to the above-referenced regulations and standards, and to develop specific mitigation measures that will address potential impacts to existing or potential resources. Tasks pursued to achieve that end include:

- Sacred Lands File Search through the Native American Heritage Commission
- Vertebrate paleontology resources report through the Western Science Center
- Cultural resources records search to review any studies conducted and the resulting cultural resources recorded within a one-mile radius of the subject property
- Additional land-use history research through local archives and repositories
- Systematic pedestrian survey of the entire subject property
- Shovel test pit excavation to assess potential for buried resources or geoarchaeological context
- Development of recommendations for any cultural resources documented within the subject property, following CEQA guidelines

## Research

Prior to fieldwork, a cultural resources records search was conducted by the SCCIC. This included a review of all prerecorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, as well as a review of known cultural resource surveys and excavation reports generated from projects located within one mile of the subject property. In addition, a review was conducted of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register, and documents and inventories from the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) including the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures.

## Field Survey

An intensive-level cultural resources field survey of the subject property was conducted on December 30, 2020. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 10-15 meters apart across 100 percent of the subject property. Digital photographs were taken at various points within the subject property boundaries, including overviews as well as detail photographs of field conditions. Hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) were available for mapping purposes.

## Subsurface Test Excavations

After completing the field survey, BCR Consulting completed subsurface test excavations in the subject property to assess the potential for any buried resources or geoarchaeological context. A total of 27 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated to apprehend data from immediately below the surface. STPs were approximately 35 centimeters in diameter and were excavated at 10-centimeter intervals. During STP excavation, each discrete interval was screened to identify the presence/absence of cultural remains. Sediment was screened through 1/8-inch hardware mesh, and the screens were carefully inspected for evidence of cultural remains.

## RESULTS

### Research

The records search revealed that nine cultural resources studies have taken place resulting in the recording of one cultural resource within one mile of the subject property. The project site has not been subject to previous cultural resources assessment and no cultural resources have been previously recorded within its boundaries. A summary of the records search is included below.

**Table A. Cultural Resources Located Within One Mile of the Project Site**

USGS 7.5 Min Quad	Cultural Resources Within One Mile	Reports Within One Mile
<i>Helendale, California</i> (1993)	P-26-6793 Historic Railroad (3/4 Mile South)	SB-106-1327, 3766, 5043, 5433, 5435, 5470, 6504, 7283, 8014

## Field Survey

The project site exhibited approximately 90 percent surface visibility. Artificial disturbances were severe and have resulted from recent landscaping, grading, off-road vehicle activity and modern refuse dumping. The project site exhibits a westerly aspect and runoff flows towards the Mojave River which is located immediately to the west. Soils include sandy silt, and vegetation includes creosote scrub and mixed seasonal grasses. No prehistoric or historic-period archaeological resources or architectural historical resources were identified.

## Subsurface Test Excavations

Per the scope of work, STPs were considered negative and were terminated after three sterile 10-centimeter intervals are complete. However, four STPs were excavated to a depth of 60 centimeters to determine soil composition. If intact cultural remains had been identified during the field survey or test excavations, an archaeological site would have been considered present in the area of the STP. STP locations were recorded on a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and coordinates are provided in Table A. Findings were negative for each STP.

**Table B. Shovel Test Pit Locations**

STP No.	Zone and Easting	Northing	Elevation
001	11S 469982mE	3843875mN	2448'
002	11S 469949mE	3843878mN	2448'
003	11S 469922mE	3843875mN	2448'
004	11S 469893mE	3843878mN	2448'
005	11S 469856mE	3843883mN	2449'
006	11S 469826mE	3843879mN	2449'
007	11S 469826mE	3843881mN	2449'
008	11S 469852mE	3843850mN	2449'
009	11S 469884mE	3843848mN	2449'
010	11S 469914mE	3843848mN	2449'
011	11S 469949mE	3843848mN	2449'
012	11S 469938mE	3843815mN	2449'
013	11S 469909mE	3843820mN	2449'
014	11S 469878mE	3843822mN	2449'
015	11S 469825mE	3843581mN	2455'
016	11S 469826mE	3843611mN	2455'
017	11S 469849mE	3843610mN	2455'
018	11S 469848mE	3843818mN	2449'
019	11S 469820mE	3843813mN	2449'
020	11S 469822mE	3843783mN	2449'
021	11S 469852mE	3843783mN	2449'
022	11S 469883mE	3843783mN	2449'
023	11S 469913mE	3843784mN	2449'
024	11S 469905mE	3843752mN	2449'
025	11S 469873mE	3843752mN	2449'
026	11S 469900mE	3843723mN	2449'
027	11S 469816mE	3843539mN	2455'

## RECOMMENDATIONS

BCR Consulting did not identify any historical resources during the research, field survey, and subsurface test excavation. Therefore, no significant impacts related to archaeological or historical resources is anticipated and no further investigations are recommended for the proposed project unless:

- the proposed project is changed to include areas not subject to this study.
- the proposed project is changed to include the construction of additional facilities.
- cultural materials are encountered during project activities.

Although the current study has not indicated sensitivity for cultural resources within the project boundaries, ground disturbing activities always have the potential to reveal buried deposits not observed on the surface during previous surveys. Prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, field personnel should be alerted to the possibility of buried prehistoric or historic cultural deposits. In the event that field personnel encounter buried cultural materials, work in the immediate vicinity of the find should cease and a qualified archaeologist should be retained to assess the significance of the find. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop or divert construction excavation as necessary. If the qualified archaeologist finds that any cultural resources present meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register, plans for the treatment, evaluation, and mitigation of impacts to the find will need to be developed. Prehistoric or historic cultural materials that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities include:

- historic artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;
- historic structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements;
- prehistoric flaked-stone artifacts and debitage (waste material), consisting of obsidian, basalt, and or cryptocrystalline silicates;
- groundstone artifacts, including mortars, pestles, and grinding slabs;
- dark, greasy soil that may be associated with charcoal, ash, bone, shell, flaked stone, groundstone, and fire affected rocks.

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH**

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

December 1, 2020

Joseph Orozco  
BCR Consulting LLCVia Email to: [josephorozco513@gmail.com](mailto:josephorozco513@gmail.com)**Re: Helendale Community Services District Park Project, San Bernardino County**

Dear Mr. Orozco:

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](mailto:Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Andrew Green  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

CHAIRPERSON  
**Laura Miranda**  
LuiseñoVICE CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
ChumashSECRETARY  
**Merri Lopez-Keifer**  
LuiseñoPARLIAMENTARIAN  
**Russell Attebery**  
KarukCOMMISSIONER  
**Marshall McKay**  
WintunCOMMISSIONER  
**William Mungary**  
Paiute/White Mountain  
ApacheCOMMISSIONER  
**Julie Tumamait-  
Stenslie**  
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**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
San Bernardino County  
12/1/2020**

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Kawaiisu  
Tubatulabal  
Koso

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Kawaiisu  
Tubatulabal  
Koso

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Kitanemuk  
Vanyume  
Tataviam

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Serrano

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Cahuilla  
Serrano

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Serrano

**Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma  
Reservation**

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Quechan

**Tubatulabals of Kern Valley**

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Fax: (760) 379-4592

Tubatulabal

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Helendale Community Services District Park Project, San Bernardino County.

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
San Bernardino County  
12/1/2020**

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

Darrell Mike, Chairperson  
46-200 Harrison Place Chemehuevi  
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Fax: (760) 863-2449  
29chairman@29palmsbomi-  
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***Twenty-Nine Palms Band of  
Mission Indians***

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This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Helendale Community Services District Park Project, San Bernardino County.

**APPENDIX B**  
**PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**



BCR Consulting LLC  
Joseph Orozco  
505 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Claremont, CA 91711

December 1, 2020

Dear Mr. Orozco,

This letter presents the results of a record search conducted for the Helendale Community Services District Park Project in San Bernardino County, California. The project site is located south of Riverview Road, east of Vista Road, and west of Jordan Road in Township 8 North, Range 4 West in Section 32 of the Helendale CA USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle.

The geologic units underlying this project are mapped entirely as Mojave River channel sand deposits dating from the Holocene period (Dibblee, 2008). While Holocene alluvial units are considered to be of high preservation value, material found is unlikely to be fossil material due to the relatively modern associated dates of the deposits. However, if development requires any substantial depth of disturbance, the likelihood of reaching Pleistocene alluvial sediments would increase. The Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or within a 1 mile radius.

While the presence of any fossil material is unlikely, if excavation activity disturbs deeper sediment dating to the earliest parts of the Holocene or Late Pleistocene periods, the material would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the development of the project area is unlikely to be paleontologically sensitive, but caution during development should be observed.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact me at [dradford@westerncentermuseum.org](mailto:dradford@westerncentermuseum.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darla Radford', written in a cursive style.

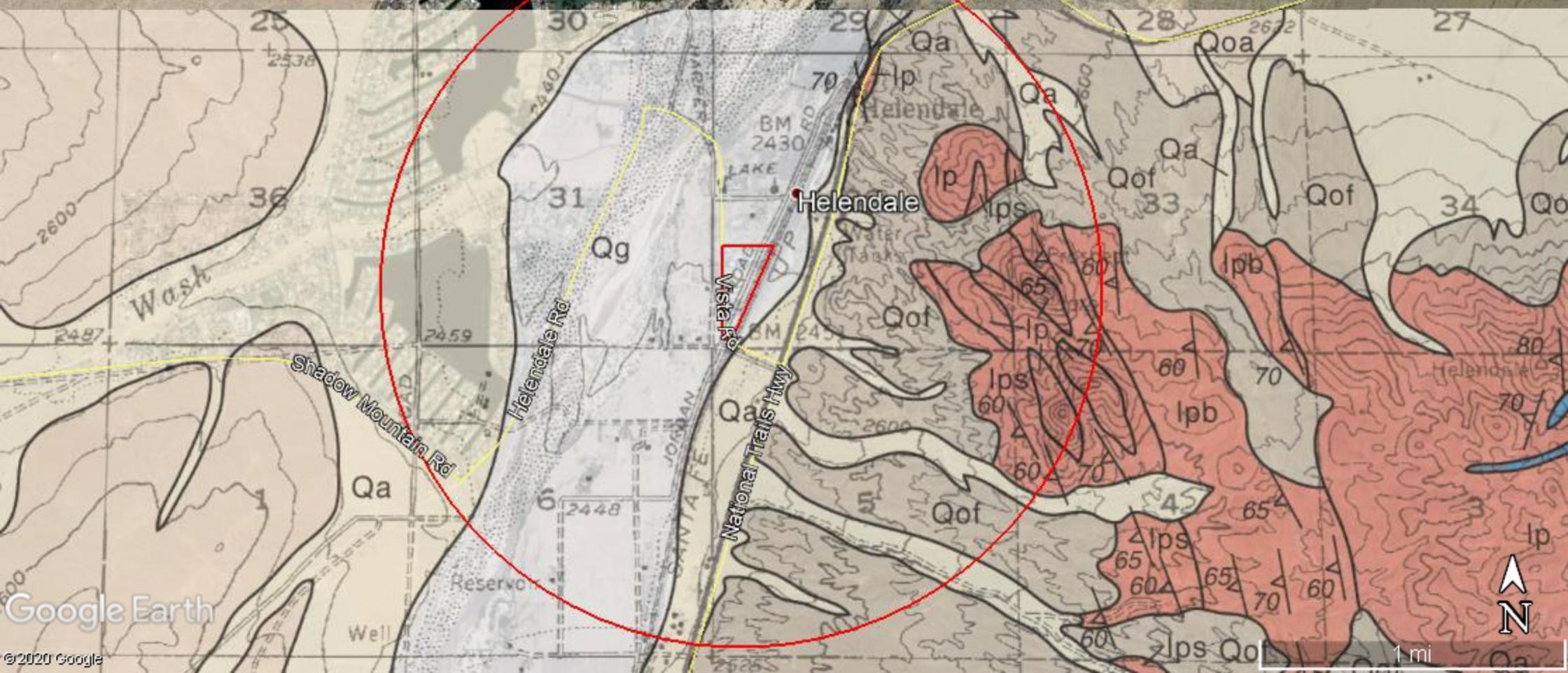
Darla Radford  
Collections Manager

# Helendale Community Services District Park Project

Project area, one mile radius, geologic mapping, and any WSC fossil localities.

## Legend

-  Project area and one mile radius
-  Qg: sand of the Mojave River channel (Holocene)



## APPENDIX C

### PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Project Overview (View North)



Photo 2: Project Overview (View SE)

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Photo 3: Project Overview (View SW)



Photo 4: Project Overview (View NW)

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