

## **APPENDIX N: TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

SWCA Environmental Consultants,  
Technical Memorandum Re: Tribal Cultural Resources Assessment for the  
5600 Franklin Avenue Mixed-Use Development Project,  
City of Los Angeles, California,  
January 30, 2023

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## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

**To:** Ilan Gorodezki  
I&L Investment and Management, Inc.  
9201 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 202  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**From:** Chris Millington, Senior Archaeologist

**Date:** January 30, 2023

**Re:** **Tribal Cultural Resources Assessment for the 5600 Franklin Avenue Mixed-Use Development Project, City of Los Angeles, California**

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### INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

I&L Investment and Management, Inc. (Project applicant) retained SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to prepare a tribal cultural resources assessment for the proposed 5600 Franklin Avenue Mixed-Use Development Project (Project), located in the Hollywood neighborhood within the City of Los Angeles, California. The proposed Project consists of the removal of an existing auto service center and four-unit multi-family residential building and the construction of a new 41-unit multi-family residential building with subterranean parking. The proposed Project would require excavating to a depth of approximately 8 feet below existing grade requiring the export of approximately 8,500 cubic yards (cy) of soil in order to build the proposed subterranean level and building foundations. The Project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the City of Los Angeles (City) Department of City Planning (City Planning) is the lead CEQA agency.

The Project is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Garfield Place (Figure A-1 and Figure A-2).<sup>1</sup> The Project site comprises one parcel designated as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 5544-003-021. The Project is in Section 11 of Township 1 South, Range 14 West, and is plotted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Hollywood, California, quadrangle (Figure A-3).

This technical memorandum provides a review of available evidence for known tribal cultural resources within the Project site and analyzes the likelihood (i.e., sensitivity) for as-yet unknown tribal cultural resources that could be present in the Project site as buried archaeological deposits. The results of this study are intended to provide a basis on which the potential for impacts to tribal cultural resources can be determined in accordance with the significance thresholds in Appendix G of CEQA Guidelines. This study includes a summary of resources identified in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) through the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), the results of a sacred lands file (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and background research used to assess the potential for a buried resource that has not been previously identified. The CHRIS and SLF results letters are included in Attachments B and C, respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> All figures are presented in Attachment A.

Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21082.3.1, as amended by Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), requires the lead agency to begin consultation with culturally and geographically affiliated California Native American tribes prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project. The environmental review process for the proposed Project is being undertaken through a Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessment (SCEA) tiering off of SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Connect SoCal Program EIR. As such, tribal consultation pursuant to AB 52 was conducted as part of the Connect SoCal Program EIR.

The evaluation of a tribal cultural resource must consider the cultural values to a California Native American tribe, in addition to scientific and archaeological considerations. Although not all tribal cultural resources are archaeological in nature, those preserved below the surface would likely fit the definition of a both an archaeological and tribal cultural resource. Accordingly, SWCA's assessment of the buried resource potential focuses exclusively on the scientific and archaeological sources of evidence, consistent with standard industry practices, and the analysis of the sensitivity for buried tribal cultural resources considered only those that are archaeological in nature.

The CHRIS and SLF searches both returned negative results for the presence of a known tribal cultural resource within the Project site. SWCA's archival research identified several former Native American village sites that were once located in the general vicinity, these include sites such as Maawnga, Yaanga, and Kaweenga, all of which are believed to have been more than 4 miles away. Site CA-LAN-1096 (hereafter LAN-1096) was identified in the CHRIS records search and is mapped approximately 0.25 miles northeast of the Project site. LAN-1096 is designated by the City's Office of Historic Resources (OHR) as Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) No. 112, and is described as a "Gabrielino Indian Site," within the canyon referred to as "Mocohuenga," and was reportedly associated with a former spring therein. No specific details on the contents of the site or the circumstances of its identification were identified beyond those described in the HCM designation and signage originally created for the site. Historical maps confirm the location of several springs and seasonal streams once present along the south-facing foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains and in the vicinity of the Project site.

Based strictly on geographic proximity of the Project site to LAN-1096 and the location at the base of the foothills along a spring-fed stream, there is an overall increase in the sensitivity for a tribal cultural resource. While there have clearly been impacts from developments beginning at least in the 1920s, the potential for a deeply buried and intact Native American site within the Project site cannot be ruled out, especially below and outside of areas previously subject to grading. Such sites could include tools or the debris from their creation, plant and animal remains, hearths, and items of adornment or sacred objects. SWCA did not identify any specific evidence to suggest an increased potential for Native American human remains or funerary objects directly within the Project site, nor was there any description of these being identified within LAN-1096; however, this is always a possibility and because of the proximity to the site, this potential should be considered to ensure existing regulations address an inadvertent discovery. Based on these findings, SWCA considers the Project site to have **moderate sensitivity for a buried and as-yet unidentified tribal cultural resources**. Consulting tribal parties and the lead CEQA agency will be made aware of these findings, specifically the Project site's proximity to the Los Angeles HCM (LAN-1096). Management recommendations and appropriate measures will be developed with the lead agency consistent with the applicable mitigation measures identified in SCAG's Connect SoCal Plan Program EIR..

This report was prepared by David K. Sayre, B.A., and Chris Millington, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist. Mr. Millington meets the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualification Standards in archaeology and the Society for California Archaeology's standards for a principal investigator. Copies of

this report are on file with the Project applicant, City Planning, and the SCCIC at California State University, Fullerton. All background materials are on file with SWCA's office in Pasadena, California.

## **REGULATORY SETTING**

### **State Regulations**

#### ***Assembly Bill 52***

##### **Tribal Cultural Resources**

AB 52 of 2014 amended PRC Section 5097.94 and added PRC Sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 21084.3. Section 4 of AB 52 adds Sections 21074(a) and (b) to the PRC, which address tribal cultural resources and cultural landscapes. Section 21074(a) defines tribal cultural resources as one of the following:

- (1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
  - (A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
  - (B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
- (2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Section 1(a)(9) of AB 52 establishes that “a substantial adverse change to a tribal cultural resource has a significant effect on the environment.” Effects on tribal cultural resources should be considered under CEQA. Section 6 of AB 52 adds Section 21080.3.2 to the PRC, which states that parties may propose mitigation measures “capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource.” Further, if a California Native American tribe requests consultation regarding project alternatives, mitigation measures, or significant effects to tribal cultural resources, the consultation shall include those topics (PRC Section 21080.3.2[a]). The environmental document and the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (where applicable) shall include any mitigation measures that are adopted (PRC Section 21082.3[a]).

##### ***California Register of Historical Resources***

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

the State Historical Resources Commission determines that it meets one or more of the following criteria, which are modeled on NRHP criteria:

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

Resources nominated to the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to convey the reasons for their significance. Resources whose historic integrity does not meet NRHP criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project site is in the north-central portion of the Los Angeles Basin—a broad, level plain defined by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Santa Monica Mountains and Puente Hills to the north, and the Santa Ana Mountains and San Joaquin Hills to the south. This extensive alluvial wash basin is filled with Quaternary alluvial sediments—sediments deposited by water over the last 1.8 million years—and overlaid by more recent Holocene age sediments—those deposited in the last 500 years. The Project site is situated on an alluvial plain formed along the southern toeslope of the Santa Monica Mountains. The elevation is approximately 418 feet above mean sea level. The Santa Monica Mountains are in the northern portion of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province and the Project site is directly south of the Santa Monica Fault Zone. The local topography has a gradual south/southwest slope but is punctuated with small hills including Olive Hill, which is situated approximately 1.6 km (1.0 mile) to the southwest.

Surficial geology in the Project vicinity is characterized by old fan deposits (Qof4) formed in the late Pleistocene (approximately 12,000 years ago), the fourth and most recently formed in a group of fan deposits that began developing in the middle Pleistocene (Yerkes and Campbell 2005). A more detailed analysis of the geophysical setting and soils was conducted as part of the geotechnical assessment prepared for the Project by Byer Geotechnical, Inc. (Byer). Byer drilled a total of four bores to a depth of up to 84.5 feet below grade using 8-inch-diameter hollow-stem augers. Sediment profiles from one of the geotechnical bores showed up to 2 feet of artificial fill in the Project site beneath the paved surfaces. Byer notes that the fill may be present in other locations and may be present at greater depths (Babayan 2020:6). The remaining bores identified recent alluvium across the Project site measuring 3 to 4.5 meters (10 to 15 feet) thick and consisting of silty sand and clayey sand (Babayan 2020:6). Older alluvial sediments underly the recent alluvium and are composed of debris flow deposits of sandy clay with minor stream flow deposits mostly consisting of sand (Babayan 2020:6). Byer correlates the more recent alluvium with Holocene-age deposits—those formed in the last 12,000 years—and the older alluvium with the Pleistocene age deposits consistent with the broader scale surficial geology defined for the region (cf. Campbell et al. 2014).

The Los Angeles basin is drained by several major watercourses, including the Los Angeles, Rio Hondo, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers. The Los Angeles River is currently located approximately 4.2 km (2.6 miles) northeast of the Project site, where it flows southeast along the contour cut along the eastern margin of the Santa Monica Mountains near what is now Griffith Park. Several springs and seasonal streams were once present in the vicinity of the Project site. William Hall's (1888) study of California

irrigation systems in the 1880s included local surveys that mapped natural and artificial drainage systems. His detailed map of the Los Angeles area identified a series of natural springs located along the base of foothills. Several of the springs and streams are plotted in foothills and canyons near the Project site, including several directly north between approximately 80 and 500 meters (262 and 1,640 feet) (Figure A-4). Historically, runoff in the foothills would have flowed into streams that formed tributaries of the Los Angeles River or Ballona Creek. Prior to 1825, the Los Angeles River flowed west across the Los Angeles Basin and along the course that is now Ballona Creek, which discharged into a wetland, located near the present-day community of Marina del Rey. Even before the 1825 shift of the Los Angeles River channel south to its current course, water from the neighboring mountains would flow into the marshy area named Las Cienegas—the Spanish word given for this type of inundated and swampy setting—and is the source of the name for the modern-day neighborhood.

The Santa Monica Mountains maintain a diverse community of wildlife, including coyotes, mountain lions, and foxes, as well as birds, smaller mammals, insects, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians. Local vegetation communities include species associated with chaparral, oak woodland, and (more recently) freshwater marsh. Many of the ridgelines and basins in the surrounding foothill areas have been developed into low-density residential properties. The Project site is situated within an urbanized area at the northern edge of the Los Angeles Basin.

## **CULTURAL SETTING**

### **Prehistoric Overview**

Numerous chronological sequences have been devised to aid in understanding cultural changes within southern California. Building on early studies and focusing on data synthesis, Wallace (1955, 1978) developed a prehistoric chronology for the southern California coastal region that is still widely used today and is applicable to near-coastal and many inland areas. Four periods are presented in Wallace's prehistoric sequence: Early Man, Milling Stone, Intermediate, and Late Prehistoric. Although Wallace's (1955) synthesis initially lacked chronological precision due to a paucity of absolute dates (Moratto 1984:159), this situation has been alleviated by the availability of thousands of radiocarbon dates that have been obtained by southern California researchers in the past three decades (Byrd and Raab 2007:217). Several revisions have been made to Wallace's (1955) synthesis using radiocarbon dates and projectile point assemblages (e.g., Koerper and Drover 1983; Koerper et al. 2002; Mason and Peterson 1994). The regional prehistoric cultural chronology is summarized in Table 1 (adapted from Wallace 1955, 1978).

**Table 1. Prehistoric Cultural Chronology**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Key Characteristics</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
Early Man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diverse mixture of hunting and gathering</li> <li>• Greater emphasis on hunting</li> </ul>	ca. 10,000–6000 B.C.
Milling Stone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsistence strategies centered on collecting plant foods and small animals</li> <li>• Extended and loosely flexed burials</li> </ul>	6000–3000 B.C.
Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift toward a hunting and maritime subsistence strategy, along with a wider use of plant foods</li> <li>• Trend toward greater adaptation to regional or local resources</li> <li>• Fully flexed burials, placed facedown or faceup, and oriented toward the north or west</li> </ul>	3000 B.C.–A.D. 500

Period	Key Characteristics	Date Range
Late Prehistoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the use of plant food resources, as well as an increase in land and sea mammal hunting</li> <li>• Increase in the diversity and complexity of material culture</li> <li>• Increased usage of the bow and arrow</li> <li>• Increase in population size, accompanied by the advent of larger, more permanent villages</li> </ul>	A.D. 500–ca. 1769

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## Ethnographic Overview

The Project site is in an area historically occupied by the Gabrielino (Bean and Smith 1978:538; Kroeber 1925:Plate 57). Surrounding Native American groups included the Chumash to the northwest, the Tataviam/Alliklik to the north who traditionally occupied the San Fernando Valley and some of the surrounding areas, the Serrano to the east, and the Luiseño/Juaneño to the south (Figure A-5). There was well-documented interaction between the Gabrielino and many of their neighbors in the form of intermarriage and trade.

The name “Gabrielino” (sometimes spelled Gabrieleno or Gabrieleño) is a term designated through Spanish custom, which named local tribes according to the nearest mission. Native Americans near Mission San Gabriel Arcángel were therefore named “Gabrielino.” By the same token, Native Americans near Mission San Fernando were historically referred to as Fernandeño (Kroeber 1925:Plate 57). There is little evidence that the people we call Gabrielino had a broad term for their group (Dakin 1978:222). Instead, they reportedly identified themselves as inhabitants of a specific community with locational suffixes; for example, a resident of Yaanga was referred to as a Yabit, much the same way that a resident of New York is called a New Yorker (Johnston 1962:10).

Native words that have been suggested for the broader group of Native Americans indigenous to the Los Angeles region also include Tongva and Kizh, although there is evidence that these terms originally referred to local places or smaller groups of people within the larger group that we now call Gabrielino. Tongva, or Tong-vā (Merriam 1955:77–86), was a term for the people living near Tejon, but the similar sounding Tōṇwe was the name for a village near San Gabriel. Tobikhar may have been used to denote the people living near San Gabriel; it means “settlers,” and it may be derived from tobohar or tovaar, meaning “earth” (McCawley 1996:9). Kizh, Kij, or Kichereño (Kroeber 1907:141; Sugranes 1909:29) may be derived from the word meaning “houses.” The term was first recorded by Horatio Hale between 1838 and 1842 as the name of the language spoken at San Gabriel Mission (Barrows 1900:12). One of Harrington’s native advisors specifically attached the name to people living in the Whittier Narrows area, near San Gabriel Mission’s original location, stating that “Kichereño is not a placename, but a tribename, the name of a kind of people” (McCawley 1996:43).

Many present-day descendants of these people have taken on Tongva and Kizh as a preferred group name, in part because of the Native American rather than Spanish origin (King 1994:12). Because there is no agreement over the most appropriate indigenous term for this group, the term Gabrielino is used in the remainder of this report to designate Native people of the Los Angeles Basin and southern Channel Islands and their descendants.

Gabrielino lands encompassed the greater Los Angeles Basin and three Channel Islands: San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Catalina. Their mainland territory was bounded on the northwest by the Chumash at Topanga Creek, the Serrano at the San Gabriel Mountains in the east, and the Juaneño on the south at Aliso Creek (Bean and Smith 1978:538; Kroeber 1925:636). The mainland area occupied by the Gabrielino included four macro-environmental zones (Interior Mountains/Adjacent Foothills, Prairie, Exposed Coast, and Sheltered Coast) that encompass the watersheds of the Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and San Gabriel Rivers (Bean and Smith 1978:538).



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

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

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

Deceased Gabrielino were either buried or cremated, with inhumation more common on the Channel Islands and the neighboring mainland coast, and cremation predominating on the remainder of the coast and in the interior (Harrington 1942; McCawley 1996:157). Remains were buried in distinct burial areas, either associated with villages or without apparent village association (Altschul et al. 2007). Cremation ashes have been found in archaeological contexts buried within stone bowls and in shell dishes (Ashby and Winterbourne 1966:27), as well as scattered among broken ground stone implements (Cleland et al. 2007). Archaeological data such as these correspond with ethnographic descriptions of an elaborate mourning ceremony that included a variety of offerings, such as seeds, stone grinding tools, otter skins, baskets, wood tools, shell beads, bone and shell ornaments, and projectile points and knives. Offerings varied with the sex and status of the deceased (Dakin 1978:234–365; Johnston 1962:52–54; McCawley 1996:155–165).

### ***Native American Communities in the Project Vicinity***

In general, it has proven very difficult or impossible to establish the precise location of Native American villages occupied before Spanish colonization (McCawley 1996:31–32). Native American place names referred to at this time did not necessarily represent a continually occupied settlement within a discrete location. Instead, in at least some cases, the communities were represented by several smaller camps scattered throughout an approximate geography, shaped by natural features subject to change over generations (Johnston 1962:122). Many of the villages had long since been abandoned by the time ethnographers, anthropologists, and historians attempted to document their locations, at which point the former village sites had been affected by agricultural and urban development, and Native American lifeways had been irrevocably changed.

Efforts to reconstruct former village locations are further confounded by the use of alternative names and spellings for communities, and conflicting reports on their meaning or locational reference. McCawley

quotes Kroeber (1925:616) in his remarks on the subject, writing that “the opportunity to prepare a true map of village locations ‘passed away 50 years ago’” (McCawley 1996:32). Thus, even with archaeological evidence, it can be difficult to conclusively establish whether any given assemblage represents the remains of the former village site.

Several former village sites and placenames associated with Native American communities are known to have been located in the vicinity and are depicted in Figure A-6. Those nearest the Project site include Maawnga, Yaanga, and Geveronga to the southeast in the downtown area of Los Angeles, and Kaweenga in Universal City to the northwest. All of these named village sites are more than 4 miles from the Project site. Closest among these is the site of Maawnga. Alternative spellings for Maawnga include Maigna, Moonga, Moomga, Momonga, Maigna, Mau, and Mauga (McCawley 1996:55). Reid’s (1852:8) historical account describes the village site of Maawnga within the Rancho de los Felis (Rancho Los Feliz), in what is now portions of Hollywood, Los Feliz, Griffith Park, and Elysian Park. The Rancho Los Feliz grant measured 1.5 leagues or approximately 10 square miles (McCawley 1996:55). Other references cite J.P. Harrington’s historical informant, who recalled that it was located where the first Jewish cemetery was established (Johnston 1962:57). Citing research of Marco Hellman, Johnston (1962:57) places Maawnga within Elysian Park on Chavez Road at a police department pistol range (see also Dillon 1995:23). This puts the village at least 6.8 km (4.2 miles) southeast of the Project site (see Figure A-6).

Most accounts of Yaanga place it near Los Angeles’s original plaza and present-day Union Station. However, historians and archaeologists have presented multiple possible village locations in this general area (see Goldberg 1999, Morris et al. 2016); however, like the original Los Angeles pueblo, it is likely that the village was relocated from time to time due to major shifts of the Los Angeles River during years of intense flooding. Dillon (1994) presented an exhaustive review of the potential locations, most within several blocks of the pueblo plaza. Johnston (1962:122) concluded that “in all probability Yaanga lay scattered in a fairly wide zone along the whole arc [from the base of Fort Moore Hill to Union Station], and its bailiwick included as well seed-gathering grounds and oak groves where seasonal camps were set up.” A second village, known as Geveronga, has also been described in ethnographic accounts as immediately adjoining the Pueblo of Los Angeles, though much like Yaanga, its location can only be inferred from ethnographic information (McCawley 1996:57).

Kaweenga, from which the modern-day Cahuenga derives its name, was located within the Cahuenga Pass (McCawley 1996:40), near or possibly at the Campo de Cahuenga site, near present-day Universal Studios, several miles northwest of the Project site and on the northern side of the Santa Monica Mountains.

## **Historical Development of the Project Site**

The Project site is situated within the stretch of land known as Rancho Los Feliz—originally designated as a Spanish land concession given in 1795 by the Spanish Governor Pedro Fages to José Vicente Feliz (Schmal and Vo 2004). It remained under Jose Feliz’s care into the early nineteenth century under Mexican administration. Following Jose Feliz’s death, Rancho Los Feliz passed through a series of owners in the family. The transfer of property rights from Mexico to the United States was established by the 1851 California Land Act, which required claimants to file land patent applications. The Rancho Los Feliz land grant was applied for by Maria Ygnacia Berdugo in 1852, though the patent was not awarded until 1871. In the intervening years the Berdugo’s heirs sold the land to Antonio Coronel in 1863. Within at least five years, Coronel divided and sold the south half (containing the Project site) to James Lick, a wealthy businessman. After leaving a successful piano business in South America, Lick moved to San Francisco in 1848 and established the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company, then went on to make his fortune buying and developing land, including the south half of Rancho Los Feliz and all of Santa Catalina Island.

Lick suffered a massive stroke in 1874 and died two years later. In 1882 the land was acquired by Colonel Griffith Jenkins Griffith, who would later donate nearly half the original land to the City of Los Angeles, which would become Griffith Park, the largest park owned by the City. The donation consisted of 3,015 acres with the specific provision that it would never be developed (Weaver 1973:78).

Around the turn of the twentieth century the land surrounding the Project area still retained a pastoral character with very few permanent residents. Topographic maps and aerial photos depict the conversion of the setting to an increasingly residential and urban setting. The Project site is currently developed with a one-story building operated as an auto repair shop within the eastern portion of the Project site and a two-story apartment building in the western portion. The areas between the buildings are mostly paved with asphalt and concrete, the exceptions being a front lawn and trees around the apartment building. In 1928, the western portion of the Project site was developed with at least two structures, including one of the extant buildings on the property on the west side and one in the center that was apparently demolished after 1954. Additional structures were constructed along the east boundary by 1948. Between 1954 and 1964, an L-shaped building was constructed at the east end of the property, which could be the other extant building in the Project site.

Byer's geotechnical assessment concluded that the Project site had been graded and minor amounts of fill were deposited to create level pads for the existing buildings and hardscaping elements (Babayan 2020:4). The surrounding area is fully urbanized and is characterized primarily by single- and multi-family homes, commercial properties. Properties developed for various other uses are located in the vicinity, such as the Immaculate Heart College on Franklin Avenue, across the street from and to the north of the Project site.

## **CHRIS RECORDS SEARCH AND ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**

Parker Environmental Consultants requested a non-confidential CHRIS records search from the SCCIC in June 2020. The records search was conducted on August 30, 2020 and included a search of all recorded archaeological and built-environment resources as well as a review of cultural resource reports on file within a 0.8-km (0.5-mile) radius of the Project site. The SCCIC maintains records of previously documented archaeological resources (including those that meet the definition of a tribal cultural resource) and technical studies. The SCCIC also maintains copies of the California Office of Historic Preservation's portion of the Historic Resources Inventory.

The non-confidential CHRIS records search did not identify any previous studies having been conducted within the Project site and no previously recorded resources were identified within the Project site. Within the 0.5-mile search radius, the CHRIS search identified 26 previous studies, two archaeological resources, and 32 built-environment resources. The non-confidential CHRIS records search letter returned by the SCCIC is included in Attachment B.

Generally, a confidential CHRIS records search includes specific information on the nature and location of sensitive archaeological sites, which are not disclosed to the public or unauthorized persons and are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. SWCA's review of the Project site included a review of confidential CHRIS site records already on file from previous studies recently conducted for the area, which includes the Project site and portions of the 0.5-mile radius. Review of the confidential site records provided more detailed information on the two archaeological sites identified in the non-confidential records search.

SWCA's archival research confirmed that one of the two sites identified in the CHRIS search is LAN-1096, which is designated as HCM #112 by the OHR. The site record on file with the SCCIC contained only a generic description of the site that was included in the HCM designation. The site is described as a "Gabrielino Indian Site." A list of the Historic Cultural Monuments prepared by the Cultural Heritage

Board (on file with the SCCIC) includes the following description: “archaeological surveys discovered sites of villages at the mouth of Fern Dell Canyon leaving no doubt that fairly large settlement existed at this point and at others which received water from canyons leading from the Hollywood Hills.” A plaque is present within the recreation area and identifies the location as a Gabrielino Indian site, which is associated with a natural spring, and refers to the area as “Mocohuenga Canyon.”

The site is reported as having been located within the Fern Dell (also spelled Ferndell) recreation area, which is located at the south end of Griffith Park, at the base of the Santa Monica Mountains, approximately 0.25 miles northeast of the Project site (Figure A-4 and Figure A-7). This location is consistent with oral history, ethnographic sources, and general Native American site settlement patterns that show a concentration of settlements at the base of foothills and near permanent or semi-permanent sources of water. Singer (1982:2) came to a similar conclusion in terms of assessing archaeological site sensitivity based on the results of his survey of the foothills north of the Project site.

## **SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH**

On June 20, 2022, the NAHC submitted the results of an SLF search in response to the City’s request. The results of the SLF were negative. In the response letter, the NAHC noted that the lack of recorded sites does not indicate the absence of tribal cultural resources within the Project site, and that the CHRIS and SLF are not exhaustive. The NAHC’s response to SWCA’s request included a list of nine Native American contacts who may have knowledge of cultural resources in or near the study area and recommended they be contacted prior to work. No further outreach was conducted as part of the current study. The SLF results letters are included in Attachment C.

## **SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT**

### **Methods**

Although not all tribal cultural resources are archaeological in nature, those likely to be preserved below the surface are likely to fit the definition of an archaeological and tribal cultural resource. Similarly, the evaluation of a tribal cultural resource must consider the cultural values to a California Native American tribe, in addition to scientific and archaeological considerations. This section assesses the potential (i.e., sensitivity) for tribal cultural resources that are archaeological in nature to be preserved below the surface of the Project site. This sensitivity assessment considers archaeological, ethnographic, historical, environmental, and other archival data sources. Evidence from these sources is used to estimate whether the location was favorable for Native American habitation, the environmental setting within the last 12,000 years, land uses within region, and any alterations to the physical setting within the Project site that may have occurred from natural causes or historic-period developments and influenced the potential for preserving buried materials.

Where sites are fully paved or otherwise developed and directly testing for such buried materials is not feasible, indirect evidence is used. For this reason, the resulting sensitivity assessment is qualitative by nature—ranging along a spectrum of increasing probability—designated here as low, moderate, and high. Indicators of favorable habitability for Native American sites are proximity to certain natural features (e.g., perennial water source, plant or mineral resource, animal habitat), flat topography, and historically dry conditions (i.e., not directly within standing water). The assessment also considers whether the general location is described in ethnographic studies and oral histories, and whether the area of interest is similar to the physical setting in which other Native American archaeological sites have been identified.

There is no strict correlation between resource sensitivity and distance from a previously known site, body of water, or any other typical indicator of use by Native Americans, nor is there a standard depth at

which material remains associated with Native American activity can be preserved. A sensitivity assessment must also consider whether a specific location is capable of containing buried deposits, including whether there are natural or historic-period developments that have eroded, displaced, or otherwise destroyed any potential materials that may have once been present. Areas with a favorable setting for habitation or temporary use, soil conditions capable of preserving buried material, and little to no disturbances are considered to have a high sensitivity. Areas lacking these traits are considered to have low sensitivity. Areas with a combination of these traits are considered to have moderate sensitivity.

Historical maps drawn to scale were georeferenced using ESRI ArcMAP v10.5 to show precise relationships to the Project site. Sources consulted included the following publicly accessible data sources: City of Los Angeles OHR (SurveyLA); David Rumsey Historical Map Collection; Huntington Library Digital Archives; Library of Congress; Los Angeles Public Library Map Collection; USGS historical topographic maps; and University of California, Santa Barbara, Digital Library (aerial photographs). Portions of the environmental and historical context were also informed by reports prepared for the Project, including those from the geotechnical study by Byer (Babayan 2020) and the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report by the Reynolds Group (2019).

## **Results**

The CHRIS and SLF searches were negative for tribal cultural resources or potential tribal cultural resources within the Project site. SWCA's review of ethnographic literature and archival data identified the nearest named Native American village sites, which are estimated to have been more than 4 miles away. The Gabrielino village known as Maawnga is the closest ethnographically documented Native American community to the Project site and is estimated to have been located somewhere in Elysian Park, at least 6.8 km (4.2 miles) southeast of the Project site.

LAN-1096 is listed as HCM #112 and is described as a "Gabrielino Indian Site." The site is mapped within an outdoor recreation area referred to as the Ferndell Nature Museum and is approximately 0.25-miles north of the Project site. The record for the site is a memo prepared by the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board describing "sites of villages at the mouth of Fern Dell Canyon" that were "discovered by archaeological surveys." No information could be found pertaining to the specific archaeological surveys referenced in the memo. Furthermore, it is unclear what the boundary was based on and whether any artifacts or features were ever recorded by archaeologists or tribal representatives.

While more detailed information regarding the contents and location of LAN-1096 is lacking, the location of a Native American camp in this setting is consistent with settlement patterns described in ethnographic sources and observed in the archaeological record. Specifically, LAN-1096 is situated at the base of foothills and near permanent or semi-permanent sources of water (i.e., springs and seasonal streams). The irrigation map included in Hall's 1888 study of Los Angeles water resources plotted several springs near LAN-1096, including two situated between approximately 80 and 110 meters northeast of the Project site (see Figure A-4). Such locations afforded not only direct access to water, but also tended to support plant and animal species used by Native Americans, which created generally favorable conditions for seasonal or semi-permanent camps. These camps and village sites varied in size and use over time, and likely included some seasonal variation. Canyon outlets in the Los Angeles Basin are known to have been intensively used by Native Americans, especially those with spring-fed streams. As a result, these settings generally have increased archaeological sensitivity for tribal cultural resources, which is consistent with previous archaeological assessments conducted within the Santa Monica Mountains (Desautels 1976; Singer 1982).

Soils underlying the developed surfaces within the Project site were described in geotechnical bores as consisting of up at least 2 feet of artificial fill, which is underlaid by 3 to 4.5 meters (10 to 15 feet) of

Holocene-age alluvial sediments that accumulated over the last 12,000 year, during the time in which Native Americans were inhabiting the Los Angeles Basin. These sediments appear to have been created through relatively low-energy deposition that is favorable for the preservation of archaeological materials that may have once been present on the surface. Such materials would likely meet the criteria to be considered a tribal cultural resource. Disturbances were noted at least within the upper two feet beneath the existing grade, which may not entirely preclude the presence of any Native American objects that may have previously been deposited on the surface, but this would result in a decreased sensitivity for a tribal cultural resource.

In summary, based strictly on geographic proximity of the Project site to LAN-1096 and the location at the base of the foothills along a spring-fed stream, there is increased sensitivity for a buried tribal cultural resource. While there have clearly been impacts from developments beginning at least in the 1920s, the potential for a deeply buried and intact Native American site within the Project site cannot be ruled out, especially below and outside of areas previously subject to grading. Such sites could include tools or the debris from their creation, plant and animal remains, hearths, and items of adornment or sacred objects. SWCA did not identify any specific evidence to suggest an increased potential for Native American human remains or funerary objects directly within the Project site, nor was there any description of these being identified within LAN-1096; however, this is always a possibility and because of the proximity to the site, this potential should be considered to ensure existing regulations address an inadvertent discovery.

Based on these findings, SWCA considers the Project site to have **moderate sensitivity for buried and as-yet unidentified tribal cultural resources**. As such, the following mitigation measure is recommended consistent with the guidance provided in SCAG's Connect SoCal Program EIR. Program Mitigation Measure (MM) CULT-1 subsection (j):

**MM-1.** The Project Applicant shall retain an archaeological monitor to observe ground disturbing operations, including but not limited to grading, excavation, trenching, or removal of existing features of the subject property. The archaeological monitor should be supervised by an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards.

If any suspected archaeological objects or artifacts are encountered during the course of any ground disturbance activities, the Project permittee shall follow the process set forth in the City's regulatory compliance measure RCM-CR-1.

In the event any suspected human remains are encountered during the course of any ground disturbance activities, the Project permittee shall follow the process set forth in the City's regulatory compliance measure RCM-CR-2.

In the event any suspected tribal cultural resources are encountered during the course of any ground disturbance activities, the Project permittee shall follow the process set forth in the City's regulatory compliance measure RCM-TRC-1, which includes stopping all work in the area of the discovery and contacting all California Native American tribes that have informed the City they are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project.

## **STUDY CONSTRAINTS AND DISCLAIMER**

In creating the category of tribal cultural resources, the legislative intent of AB 52 is expressly stated as seeking to consider “the tribal cultural values in addition to the scientific and archaeological values when determining impacts and mitigation” and “recognize that California Native American tribes may have expertise with regard to their tribal history and practices, which concern the tribal cultural resources with which they are traditionally and culturally affiliated” (Gatto 2014). Analysis of tribal cultural resources in

the absence of information provided by local tribes, therefore, is considered to be constrained insofar as the evidence considered may be confined to published, academic, and archaeological sources, and the conclusions can only be considered as representing scientific and archaeological values. The analysis and conclusions stated herein are based on the expertise and professional judgement of SWCA's qualified archaeologists, and are intended to provide a summary of substantial evidence to be used in assessing the potential for tribal cultural resources under CEQA, and should not be considered a replacement for tribal expertise or assumed to represent tribal cultural values.

Consulting tribal parties and the lead CEQA agency will be made aware of these findings, specifically the Project site's proximity to the Los Angeles HCM (LAN-1096). Management recommendations and appropriate measures will be developed with the lead agency as part of the environmental review process.

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## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Report Figures**

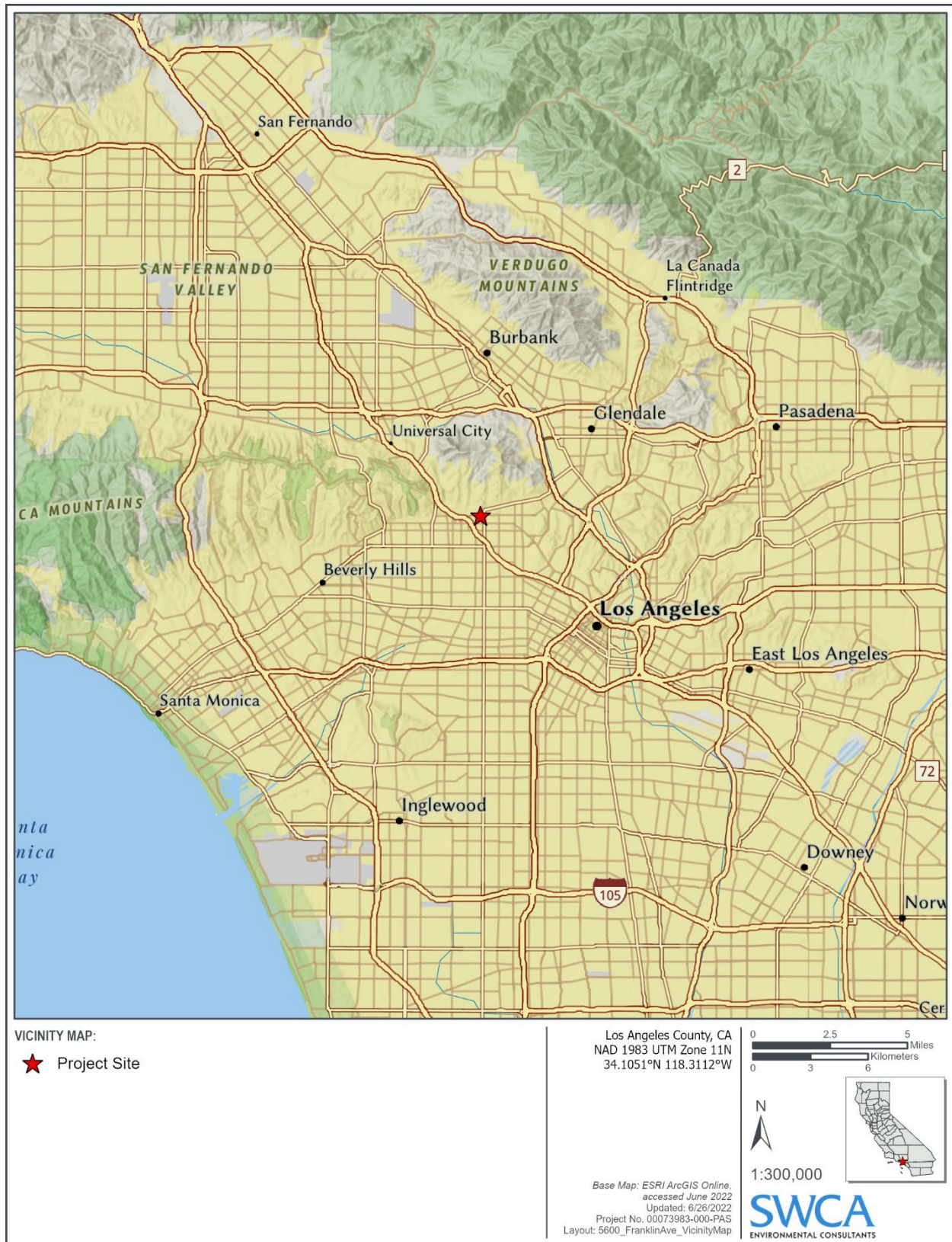


Figure A-1. Project vicinity.





Figure A-2. Project site plotted on a 2020 aerial.



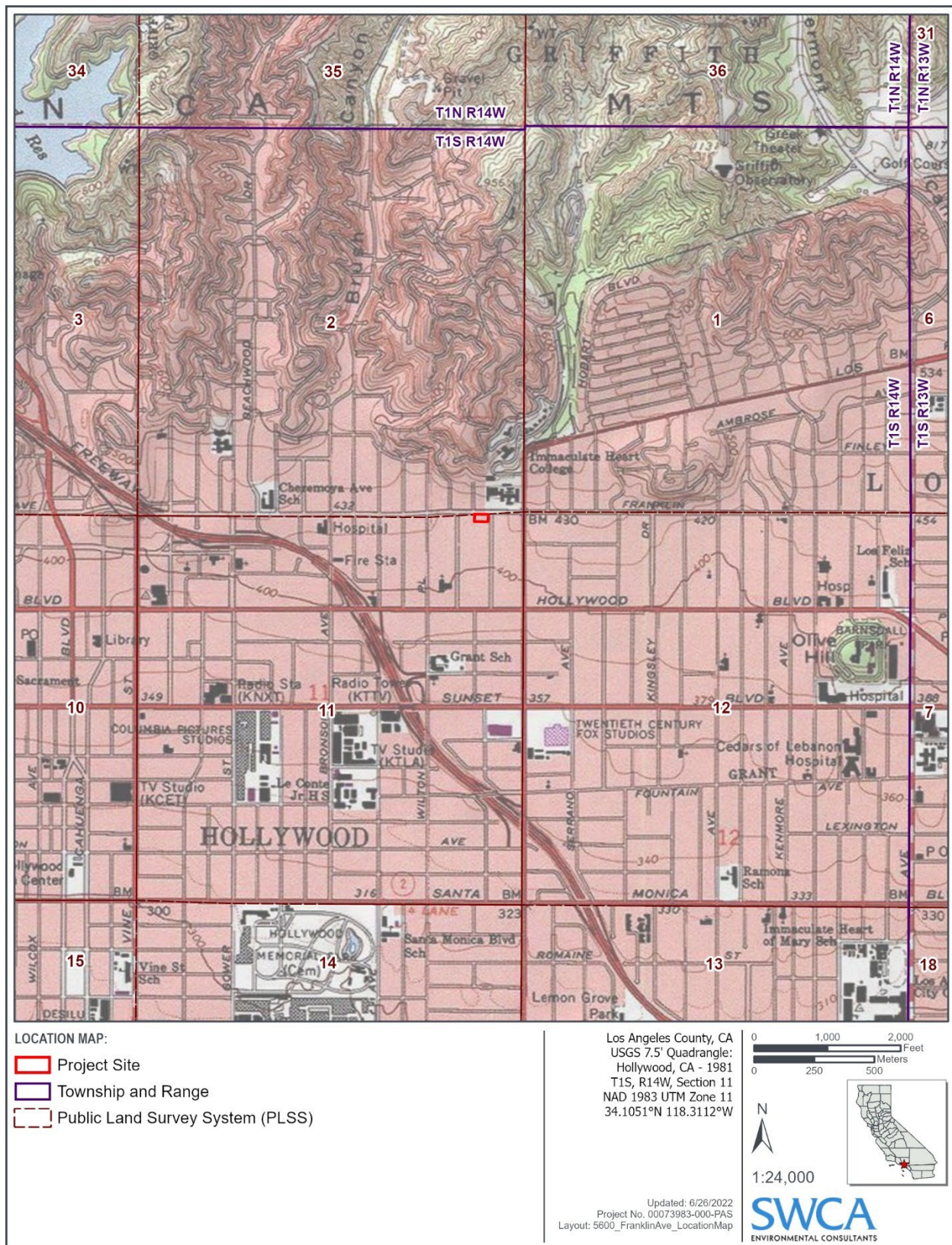


Figure A-3. Project location plotted on USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle, Hollywood, California.

This figure has been removed because it contains sensitive information regarding the nature and location of archaeological sites that cannot be disclosed to the general public or unauthorized persons and is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act (California Code of Regulations Section 15120[d]).

**Figure A-4. Project site plotted on Hall's 1888 irrigation map showing springs within the vicinity and the plotted location of Site LAN-1096.**





Figure A-5. Native American territorial boundaries based on ethnographic and tribal sources.





Figure A-6. Native American village sites, placenames, and historical points of reference.

This figure has been removed because it contains sensitive information regarding the nature and location of archaeological sites that cannot be disclosed to the general public or unauthorized persons and is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act (California Code of Regulations Section 15120[d]).

**Figure A-7. Project site and LAN-1096 plotted on a 2020 aerial.**

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**South Central Coastal Information Center Records Search Results**

## South Central Coastal Information Center

California State University, Fullerton  
Department of Anthropology MH-426  
800 North State College Boulevard  
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846  
657.278.5395

### *California Historical Resources Information System*

*Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura and San Bernardino Counties*

[sccic@fullerton.edu](mailto:sccic@fullerton.edu)

8/30/2020

SCCIC File #: 21544.7652

Elise Lorenzana-Cronkrite  
Parker Environmental Consultants  
23822 Valencia Boulevard, Suite 301  
Valencia, CA 91355

Re: Record Search Results for 5600 Franklin Avenue Project [ENV-2020-3838-EAF]

The South Central Coastal Information Center received your records search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Hollywood, CA USGS 7.5' quadrangle. The following summary reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a ¼-mile radius. The search includes a review of all recorded archaeological and built-environment resources as well as a review of cultural resource reports on file. In addition, the California Points of Historical Interest (SPHI), the California Historical Landmarks (SHL), the California Register of Historical Resources (CAL REG), the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California State Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD), and the City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments (LAHCM) listings were reviewed for the above referenced project site and a ¼-mile radius. Due to the sensitive nature of cultural resources, archaeological site locations are not released.

#### RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS SUMMARY

<b>Archaeological Resources*</b> <b>(*see Recommendations section)</b>	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 2
<b>Built-Environment Resources</b>	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 32
<b>Reports and Studies</b>	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 26
<b>OHP Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) 2019</b>	Within project area: 0 Within ¼-mile radius: 131
<b>California Points of Historical Interest (SPHI) 2019</b>	Within project area: 0 Within ¼-mile radius: 0
<b>California Historical Landmarks (SHL) 2019</b>	Within project area: 0 Within ¼-mile radius: 0
<b>California Register of Historical Resources (CAL REG) 2019</b>	Within project area: 0 Within ¼-mile radius: 13
<b>National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) 2019</b>	Within project area: 0 Within ¼-mile radius: 1

<b>Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility (ADOE): 2012</b>	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 0
<b>City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments (LAHCM)</b>	Within project area: 0 Within ¼-mile radius: 7

**HISTORIC MAP REVIEW** - Santa Monica, CA (1902) 15' USGS historic map indicates that in 1902, there was no visible development within the project area. There were four roads, several buildings, and one intermittent stream with the project search radius. The Hollywood and Cahuenga Valley R.R. ran south of the project area. In 1921, there was one building within the project area. There was a significant increase in development with the development of several additional roads and buildings with the project search radius. Also of note were the historic place names of Hillhurst Park and Hollywood. The previously mentioned railroad was no longer visible. All other features still remained.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

\*When we report that no archaeological resources are recorded in your project area or within a specified radius around the project area; that does not necessarily mean that nothing is there. It may simply mean that the area has not been studied and/or that no information regarding the archaeological sensitivity of the property has been filed at this office. The reported records search result does not preclude the possibility that surface or buried artifacts might be found during a survey of the property or ground-disturbing activities.

According to our records the project area and most of the surrounding radius has not been surveyed for cultural resources. The subject property does not appear to have been evaluated for historical significance, and the archaeological sensitivity of the project site is unknown. Therefore, it is recommended that a qualified archaeological consultant be retained to survey the property for cultural resources prior to the approval of project plans. It is also recommended that the Native American Heritage Commission be consulted to identify if any additional traditional cultural properties or other sacred sites are known to be in the area. The NAHC may also refer you to local tribes with particular knowledge of potential sensitivity. The NAHC and local tribes may offer additional recommendations to what is provided here and may request an archaeological monitor during ground-disturbing activities or additional research.

For your convenience, you may find a professional consultant\*\*at [www.chrisinfo.org](http://www.chrisinfo.org). Any resulting reports by the qualified consultant should be submitted to the South Central Coastal Information Center as soon as possible.

\*\*The SCCIC does not endorse any particular consultant and makes no claims about the qualifications of any person listed. Each consultant on this list self-reports that they meet current professional standards.

If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at 657.278.5395 Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the SCCIC number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the [California Historical Resources Information System](#),

Isabela Kott  
GIS Technician/Staff Researcher

Enclosures:

(X) Invoice # 21544.7652

*Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.*

*The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.*

**ATTACHMENT C**  
**Sacred Lands File Search Results**



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

June 20, 2022

Danalynn Dominguez  
City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

Via Email to: [danalynn.dominguez@lacity.org](mailto:danalynn.dominguez@lacity.org)

### Re: 5600 West Franklin Avenue Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Dominguez:

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**  
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VICE CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
Chumash

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
**Russell Attebery**  
Karuk

SECRETARY  
**Sara Dutschke**  
Miwok

COMMISSIONER  
**William Mungary**  
Paiute/White Mountain  
Apache

COMMISSIONER  
**Isaac Bojorquez**  
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER  
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Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,  
Nomlaki

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Luiseño

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**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
Los Angeles County  
6/20/2022**

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Cahuilla  
Luiseno

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Luiseno

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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 5600 West Franklin Avenue Project, Los Angeles County.