



**Historical Resources Survey for the  
Sanyo Logistics Center Project  
San Diego, California**

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August 4, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Zepeda-Herman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carmen Zepeda-Herman, Principal Investigator

**NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA BASE INFORMATION**

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USGS Quadrangle Map: Otay Mesa quadrangle, 1994 edition

Acreage: 14.84 acres

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Acronyms and Abbreviations ..... iii**

**1.0 Summary ..... 1**

**2.0 Introduction ..... 1**

**3.0 Physical and Cultural Setting ..... 6**

    3.1 Physical Setting ..... 6

    3.2 Cultural Setting ..... 7

**4.0 Area of Potential Effect..... 10**

**5.0 Study Methods..... 10**

**6.0 Survey Results ..... 10**

    6.1 Record Search..... 10

    6.2 Survey Results ..... 13

**7.0 Evaluation and Recommendations..... 13**

    7.1 Regulatory Framework..... 13

    7.2 Evaluation of Resources ..... 17

**8.0 Certification and Project Staff..... 18**

**9.0 References Cited..... 18**

**FIGURES**

1: Regional Location .....2

2: Project Location on USGS Map.....3

3: Project Location on City 800' Map .....4

4: Project Location on Aerial Photograph.....5

**TABLE**

1: Cultural Resources within One Mile of the Area of Potential Effect..... 11

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

1: Overview of the Northeast Corner of the APE..... 14

2: Area with Lower Elevation Vegetation, Looking Northwest ..... 14

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1: Native American Heritage Commission
- 2: Sample Tribal Letter
- 3: Viejas Response

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont.)**

### **CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS (bound under separate cover)**

- 1: Record Search Results
- 2: Site Forms

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

APE	area of potential effect
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
City	City of San Diego
CRHR	California Register of Historic Resources
HRR	Historic Resources Regulations
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
project	Sanyo Logistics Center Project
RECON	RECON Environmental
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

## 1.0 Summary

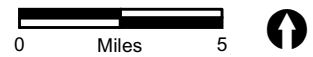
This report summarizes the background information, methods, and results of the historical resources survey of the 14.84-acre Sanyo Logistics Center Project (project). The project is located immediately west of Sanyo Avenue and north of Airway Road in the Otay Mesa Community Plan area, in the city of San Diego. The project would construct a 242,969-square-foot multi-tenant industrial distribution building that would include 232,969 square feet of warehouse space and 10,000 square feet of associated office space. The project would include 45 dock doors, and 270 parking spaces.


The records search from the South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University did not identify any previously recorded cultural resources within the project area. RECON Environmental, Inc. (RECON) identified two isolated artifacts during the survey. Cultural isolates are not considered significant historical resources for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or under City of San Diego (City) guidelines. Since the isolates are not significant historical resources, the project will not result in adverse effects to these resources. However, because the majority of the project area was covered in dense vegetation preventing adequate ground visibility to observe surface cultural material and due to the proximity of CA-SDI-12,337, RECON recommends construction monitoring by a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor during all ground-disturbing activities to prevent significant impacts to unknown subsurface archaeological deposits.

## 2.0 Introduction

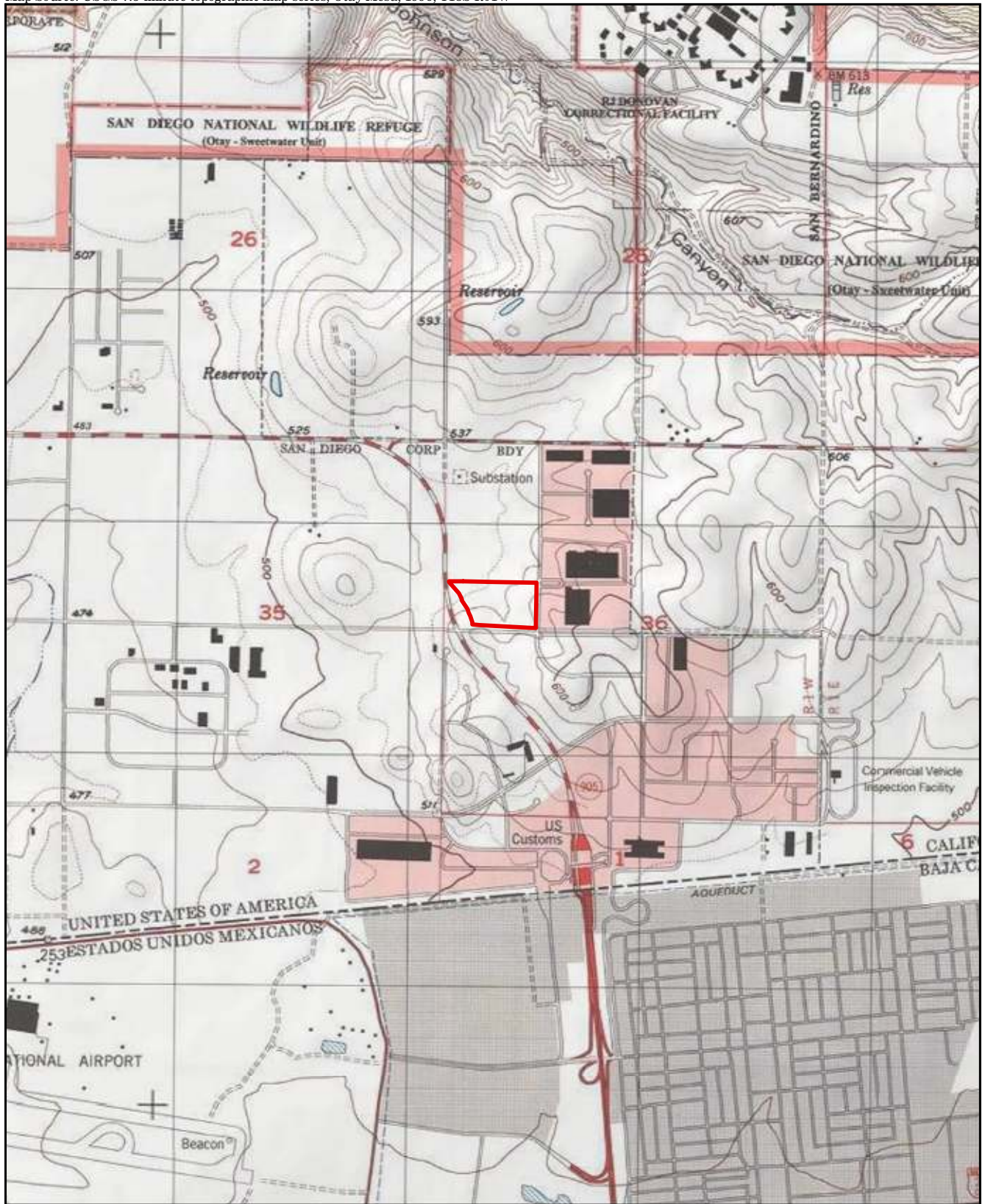
This report describes the results of the historical resource survey conducted for the Sanyo Logistics Center Project (project). The project is located on assessor parcel number 646-0130-55, immediately west of Sanyo Avenue and north of Airway Road in the Otay Mesa Community Plan area, in the city of San Diego (Figure 1). The project site is found on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographical map series, Otay Mesa quadrangle (Figure 2) and City, Engineering and Development, City 800' scale map, Number 210-1701 (Figure 3). Figure 4 presents an aerial photograph of the project site and vicinity.

The project would construct a 242,969-square-foot multi-tenant industrial distribution building that would include 232,969 square feet of warehouse space and 10,000 square feet of associated office space. The project would include 45 dock doors, and 270 parking spaces.



 Project Location

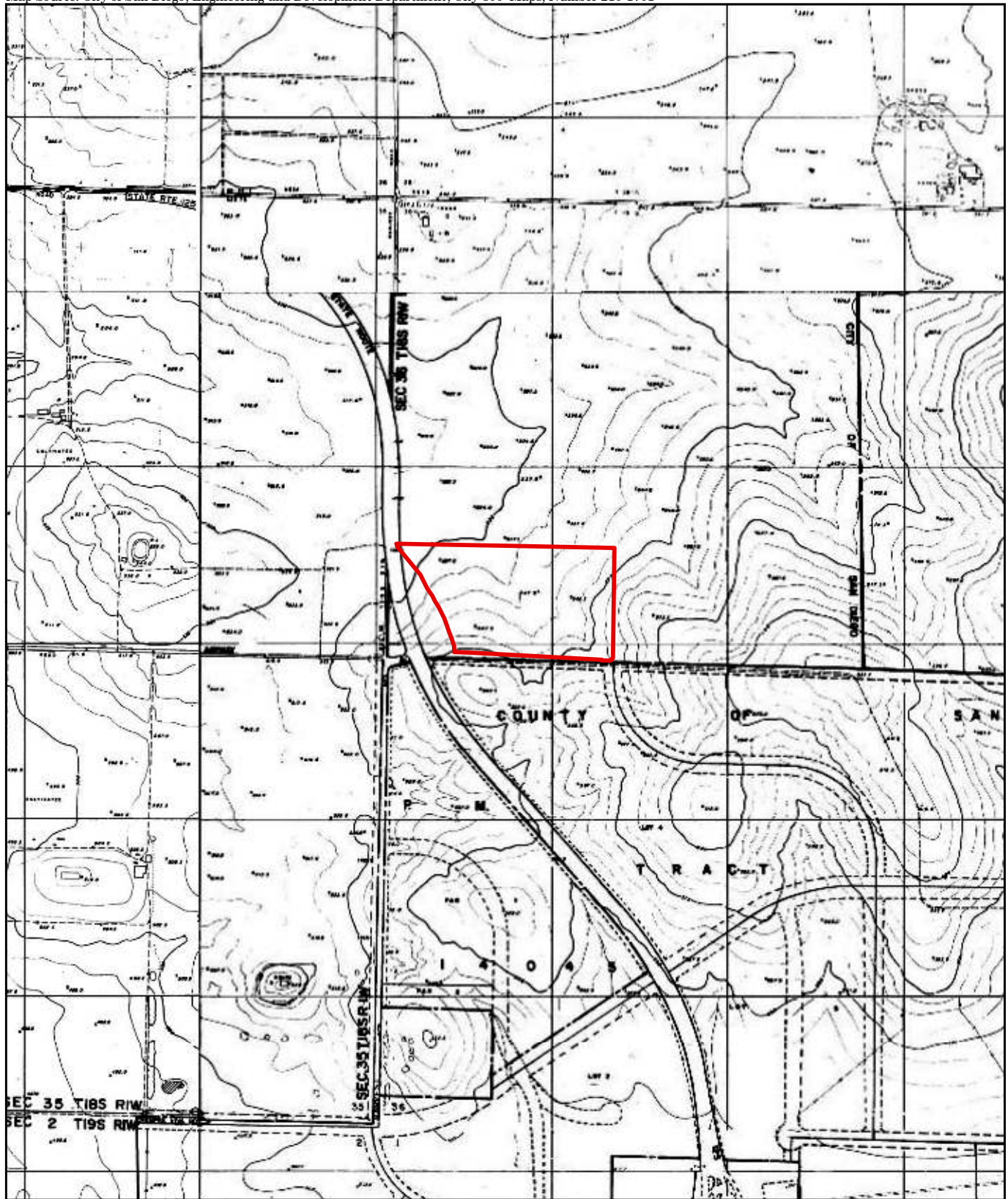
**FIGURE 1**  
Regional Location



 Project Boundary

**FIGURE 2**  
Project Location on USGS Map






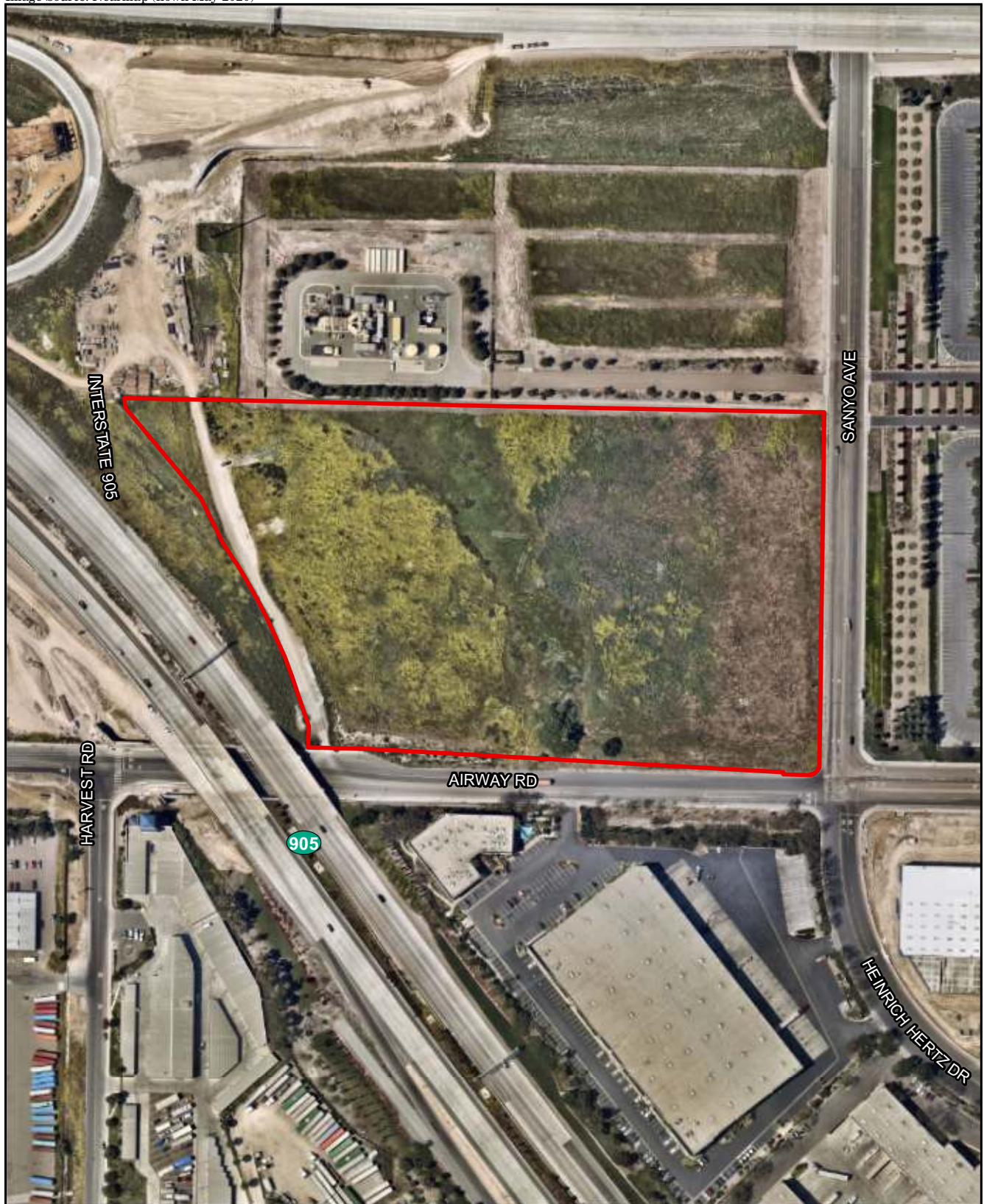
 Project Boundary

FIGURE 3

Project Location on City 800' Map



0 Feet 250



 Project Boundary

FIGURE 4  
Project Location on Aerial Photograph

## 3.0 Physical and Cultural Setting

### 3.1 Physical Setting

The project property is located on the eastern end of the Otay Mesa marine terrace (see Figure 2). The project elevation ranges from 530 feet above mean sea level in the northwest portion to 560 feet above mean sea level on the east end. Otay Mesa begins approximately 5.5 miles east of the Pacific Ocean, rising rather sharply from an elevation about 60 feet above mean sea level in the Tijuana River and Otay River mouths, to an elevation around 500 feet above mean sea level on the mesa's east end. The Otay River valley forms Otay Mesa's northern boundary. The valley's southern slopes are steep and heavily cut by small drainages emptying into the Otay River. The natural southern boundary of Otay Mesa is the Tijuana River and its tributary, Cottonwood Creek, both of which extend south of the United States-Mexico border. The eastern end of Otay Mesa is Otay Mountain, situated at the west end of the San Ysidro Mountains.

Otay Mesa is one of a series of three uplifted marine terraces, the La Jolla Terrace, Linda Vista Terrace, and Poway Terrace, which stretch along the coastline of metropolitan San Diego. Otay Mesa is part of the Linda Vista Terrace, which occurs between the elevations of 300 feet and 500 feet above mean sea level. In the project area, the top layer of this terrace is composed of the Linda Vista Formation. The Linda Vista Formation consists of near shore marine and non-marine deposits dating from the early Pleistocene and is composed of interbedded sandstones and cobble conglomerate with a generally reddish-brown coarse sand matrix (Abbott 1999).

The Santiago Peak Volcanic formation occurs in the foothills on the eastern edge of Otay Mesa. This material is of upper Cretaceous age and is represented as fine-grained, green metavolcanic stone that is locally known as felsite. Nodules and large cobbles of these Santiago Peak materials occur across Otay Mesa, including the project area, as float (Abbott 1999).

One soil type is mapped in the survey area, Diablo clay with 2 to 9 percent slopes. This soil type consists of well-drained, moderately deep to deep clays derived from soft, calcareous sandstone and shale. These soils are found in uplands and range between 34 to 40 inches deep over rock (USDA 1973).

As noted by Robbins-Wade (1990), the presence of clay soils in this region has implications with regard to site formation processes, as the expanding and contracting characteristics of these soils result in the opening and closing of fissures in the soil. This movement takes artifacts and other cultural debris from the surface to various depths below the surface. In addition, it has been proposed that items, which make up cultural features, are differentially moved vertically, lowering the chances of finding intact features and stratified deposits.

Prior to European settlement, the mesa tops on western Otay Mesa, including the project area, would have been covered with a combination of vernal pool/perennial grassland areas interspersed with coastal sage scrub and maritime succulent scrub communities. The south

slopes of the Otay River valley and the smaller drainages would have supported moderate to dense chamise chaparral communities that extended up onto the edges of the mesa. Riparian communities such as southern willow scrub and freshwater marsh would exist in the bottoms of the larger drainages such as Denney Canyon, and moderate to dense chamise chaparral communities extended up onto the edges of the mesa (Holland 1986).

Water sources on Otay Mesa are intermittent, consisting of seasonally running streams and vernal pools. It is generally accepted that in prehistoric times drainages had more substantial flows and the water table was generally higher (Christenson 1989). These conditions may have resulted in water being available on the mesa for a longer percentage of the year than it is now. Otay River, immediately to the north, would also have been a more regular source of water in prehistoric times.

A variety of usable resources would have been available to prehistoric populations in the project area. The coastal sage scrub, chamise chaparral, and maritime succulent scrub communities contain many plants used by the ethnographic Kumeyaay population. Uses for plants included food, medicinal, ceremonial, and as a source of wood. Animals available on the mesa would include jackrabbit, bush rabbit, cottontail rabbit, ground squirrel, woodrat, other small rodents, deer, and various small birds and reptiles.

Another resource available to prehistoric populations on Otay Mesa would be Santiago Peak Volcanics, a raw material for flaked stone tool production. This material occurs in cobble and block form throughout the Linda Vista Formation and is easily obtainable as it erodes out of its matrix. Santiago Peak Volcanics also occur as bedrock outcrops on the sides of Otay Mountain.

## **3.2 Cultural Setting**

### **3.2.1 Prehistoric Period**

The prehistoric cultural sequence in San Diego County is generally conceived as comprising three basic periods: the Paleoindian, dated between about 11,500 and 8,500 years ago and manifested by the artifacts of the San Dieguito Complex; the Archaic, lasting from about 8,500 to 1,500 years ago (A.D. 500) and manifested by the cobble and core technology of the La Jollan Complex; and the Late Prehistoric, lasting from about 1,500 years ago to historic contact (i.e., A.D. 500 to 1769) and represented by the Cuyamaca Complex. This latest complex is marked by the appearance of ceramics, small arrow points, and cremation burial practices.

The Paleoindian Period in San Diego County is most closely associated with the San Dieguito Complex, as identified by Rogers (1938, 1939, 1945). The San Dieguito assemblage consists of well-made scraper planes, choppers, scraping tools, crescentics, elongated bifacial knives, and leaf-shaped points. The San Dieguito Complex is thought to represent an early emphasis on hunting (Warren et al. 1993:III-33).

The Archaic Period brings an apparent shift toward a more generalized economy and an increased emphasis on seed resources, small game, and shellfish. The local cultural

manifestations of the Archaic Period are called the La Jollan Complex along the coast and the Pauma Complex inland. Pauma Complex sites lack the shell that dominates many La Jollan sites. Along with an economic focus on gathering plant resources, the settlement system appears to have been more sedentary. The La Jollan assemblage is dominated by rough cobble-based choppers and scrapers, and slab and basin metates. Large side-notched and Elko series projectile points appeared. Large deposits of marine shell at coastal sites argue for the importance of shellfish gathering to the coastal Archaic economy.

Near the coast and in the Peninsular Mountains beginning approximately 1,500 years ago, patterns began to emerge which suggest the ethnohistoric Kumeyaay. This period is characterized by higher population densities and elaborations in social, political, and technological systems. Economic systems diversify and intensify during this period, with the continued elaboration of trade networks, the use of shell-bead currency, and the appearance of more labor-intensive, but effective technological innovations. The late prehistoric archaeology of the San Diego coast and foothills is characterized by the Cuyamaca Complex. It is primarily known from the work of D. L. True at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (True 1970). The Cuyamaca Complex is characterized by the presence of steatite arrowshaft straighteners, steatite pendants, steatite comales (heating stones), Tizon Brown ware pottery, ceramic figurines reminiscent of Hohokam styles, ceramic “Yuman bow pipes,” ceramic rattles, miniature pottery various cobble-based tools (e.g., scrapers, choppers, hammerstones), bone awls, manos and metates, mortars and pestles, and Desert side-notched (more common) and Cottonwood Series projectile points.

### **3.2.2 Ethnohistory**

The Kumeyaay (also known as Kamia, Ipai, Tipai, and Diegueño) occupied the southern two-thirds of San Diego County. The Kumeyaay lived in semi-sedentary, politically autonomous villages or rancherías. Settlement system typically consisted of two or more seasonal villages with temporary camps radiating away from these central places (Cline 1984a and 1984b). Their economic system consisted of hunting and gathering with a focus on small game, acorns, grass seeds, and other plant resources. The most basic social and economic unit was the patrilocal extended family. A wide range of tools were made of locally available and imported materials. A simple shoulder-height bow was used for hunting. Numerous other flaked stone tools were made including scrapers, choppers, flake-based cutting tools, and biface knives. Preferred stone types were locally available metavolcanic, chert, and quartz. Obsidian was imported from the deserts to the north and east. Ground stone objects include mortars and pestles typically made of locally available, fine-grained granite. Both portable and bedrock types are known. The Kumeyaay made fine baskets. These employed either coiled or twined construction. The Kumeyaay also made pottery, using the paddle-and-anvil technique. Most were a plain brown utility ware called Tizon Brown ware, but some were decorated (Meighan 1954; May 1976, 1978).

### **3.2.3 Spanish/Mexican/American Periods**

The Spanish Period (1769–1821) represents a time of European exploration and settlement. Military and naval forces along with a religious contingent founded the San Diego Presidio,

the pueblo of San Diego, and the San Diego Mission in 1769 (Rolle 1998). Native American culture in the coastal strip of California rapidly deteriorated despite repeated attempts to revolt against the Spanish invaders (Cook 1976). One of the hallmarks of the Spanish colonial scheme was the rancho system. In an attempt to encourage settlement and development of the colonies, large land grants were made to meritorious or well-connected individuals.

In 1821, Mexico declared its independence from Spain. During the Mexican Period (1822–1848), the mission system was secularized by the Mexican government and these lands allowed for the dramatic expansion of the rancho system. The southern California economy became increasingly based on cattle ranching. The project property was not part of a rancho. The closest Rancho was Rancho Otay, approximately 0.8 mile to the north. Rancho Otay was originally given to Dona Magdalena Estudillo in 1829, and was worked jointly with Rancho Janal, owned by her brother Don Jose Antonio Estudillo. Rancho Otay totaled 6,657 acres and included a portion of the Otay River Valley (Pourade 1969).

After the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848 (beginning of the American Period), the population in San Diego County more than tripled (Pourade 1969). By the late 1800s, development in the county was well under way with the beginnings of a recognizable downtown San Diego area and the gradual development of a number of outlying communities, many of which were established around previously defined ranchos and land grants. Otay Mesa developed slowly until the 1870s. In 1869, a stage route to Yuma was opened that ran across the mesa. Farming developed through the 1870s, and by 1879 most of the mesa was under intensive agriculture. The most widely grown crops on the mesa were wheat, barley, corn, tomatoes, and beans. Water for crops was obtained from nearby streams and the Otay River, and by the early 1900s an extensive system of dams had developed (Pryde 1992).

Otay Mesa followed a particular rural community cultural pattern that developed in San Diego County from approximately 1870 to 1930. These communities were composed of an aggregate of people who lived within well-defined geographic boundaries, shared common bonds, and cooperated to solve common problems (Collett and Wade 1991). They lived, not in small towns or villages, but on farmsteads tied together through a common school district, church, post office, and country store (Hector and Van Wormer 1987). The Otay Mesa School District was started in 1914, and the Alta schoolhouse was constructed at that time. The schoolhouse, originally just east of Brown Field, was moved east to preserve it. By 1890, Otay also had a store, post office, blacksmith shop, and a Lutheran church. The population of Otay Mesa fluctuated over the early 1900s due to drought and in the 1930s due to the Great Depression.

Ranching and farming continued to be the main occupation of residents in and around the project area through most of the twentieth century. Over the past decades, large tracts of this formerly open land have been developed for light industrial, and more recently, residential projects. The result has been a dramatic change of the region from a sparsely populated rural area to expansive suburb.

## 4.0 Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect (APE) consists of the entire project parcel, equaling 14.84 acres.

## 5.0 Study Methods

The historical resources survey included both an archival search and an on-site foot survey of the project area. A records search with a one-mile radius buffer was requested from the South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University in order to determine if previously recorded prehistoric or historic cultural resources occur within the project area. Historic aerial photographs were reviewed to determine changes in the survey area over time.

A letter was sent on July 28, 2020, to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting them to search their Sacred Lands File to identify spiritually significant and/or sacred sites or traditional use areas in the project vicinity. The NAHC was also asked to provide a list of local Native American tribes, bands, or individuals who may have concerns or interests in the cultural resources of the project. The NAHC provided a list of twenty Native American contacts who may have an interest in the project. RECON sent letters to all twenty Native American contacts listed in the NAHC response letter on March 31, 2021.

The field survey was conducted on July 30, 2020, by RECON archaeologist Harry Price accompanied by Justin Linton, a Native American representative from Red Tail Environmental. The spacing between the field personnel was 12 meters. The survey area was inspected for evidence of archaeological materials such as flaked and ground stone tools, ceramics, milling features, and historic features. Photographs were taken to document the environmental setting and general conditions.

## 6.0 Survey Results

### 6.1 Record Search

The records search indicated that there have been numerous cultural resource investigations that have included the project. Sixty cultural resources occur within a one-mile radius of the project; 48 prehistoric resources (24 of which are isolated artifacts), 6 historic resources (1 of which is an isolated artifact), 3 multi-component resources, and 3 with no data recorded (Table 1) (Confidential Attachment 1). The prehistoric resources consist of lithic scatters and lithic scatters with ground stone. The historic resources consist of a roadway, agricultural complex, dam, foundations, and a cistern. The three multicomponent sites are lithic scatters that also exhibit historic foundations and trash scatters. No previously recorded cultural resources occur on the project property; however, one resource is immediately adjacent to the APE.

**Table 1**  
**Cultural Resources within One Mile of the APE**

Primary Number	Trinomial Number	Site Type	Period	Recording Events
P-37-005352	CA-SDI-005352	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-008056	CA-SDI-008056	Isolate: core	Prehistoric	1980 (Talley)
P-37-008057	CA-SDI-008057	Isolate: scraper	Prehistoric	1980 (Talley)
P-37-008058	CA-SDI-008058	Isolate: core	Prehistoric	1980 (Talley)
P-37-008059	CA-SDI-008059	Isolate: core	Prehistoric	1980 (Talley)
P-37-008060	CA-SDI-008060	Isolate: flake	Prehistoric	1980 (Talley)
P-37-008061	CA-SDI-008061	Isolate: core	Prehistoric	1980 (Talley)
P-37-008083	CA-SDI-008083	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1974 (Carrico)
P-37-009098	CA-SDI-009098	Lithic, ground stone scatter	Prehistoric	1981 (Hector)
P-37-009099	CA-SDI-009099	Lithic, ground stone scatter	Prehistoric	1981 (Bull)
P-37-009100	CA-SDI-009100	Homestead, trash scatter, lithic scatter	Multicomponent	1983 (Hector)
P-37-010067	CA-SDI-010067	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-010068	CA-SDI-010068	No data available	n/a	n/a
P-37-010072	CA-SDI-010072	No data available	n/a	n/a
P-37-010081	CA-SDI-010081	No data available	n/a	n/a
P-37-010735	CA-SDI-010735	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1987 (Cook and Elling)
P-37-010748	CA-SDI-010748	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1987 (Wade)
P-37-011049	CA-SDI-011049	Ground stone scatter	Prehistoric	1988 (Brian F. Smith & Associates)
P-37-011821	CA-SDI-011821	Lithic, shell scatter, foundations, trash scatter	Multicomponent	1989 (Gross and Robbins-Wade); 1995 (Kyle et al.)
P-37-012337	CA-SDI-012337	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	n/a
P-37-012872	CA-SDI-012872	Lithic, ground stone scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental); 2002 (Gallegos & Associates); 2010 (ASM Affiliates)
P-37-012873	CA-SDI-012873	Lithic, ground stone scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-012875	CA-SDI-012875	Lithic, ground stone scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-012878	CA-SDI-012878	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-012879	CA-SDI-012879	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-012880	CA-SDI-012880	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental); 2010 (HDR)
P-37-012881	CA-SDI-012881	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental); 1992 (Gallegos & Associates)
P-37-012882	CA-SDI-012882	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-012883	CA-SDI-012883	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-012884	CA-SDI-012884	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1998 (Gallegos & Associates); 1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-012885	CA-SDI-012885	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1998 (Gallegos & Associates); 1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-012886	CA-SDI-012886	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	2000 (Brian F. Smith & Associates); 1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-013722	--	Isolate: hammerstone	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-013723	--	Isolate: hammerstone	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-014282	CA-SDI-014081	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1995 (Gallegos & Associates)
P-37-015198	--	Isolate: flaked tools	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)



**Table 1**  
**Cultural Resources within One Mile of the APE**

Primary Number	Trinomial Number	Site Type	Period	Recording Events
P-37-015199	--	Isolate: flake	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-015203	--	Isolate: hammerstone	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-015204	--	Isolate: hammerstone	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-015205	--	Isolate: flake	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-015206	--	Isolate: glass, ceramic	Historic	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-015207	--	Isolate: flake	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-015208	--	Isolate: scraper	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-015209	--	Isolate: flake	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-015210	--	Isolate: flake	Prehistoric	1991 (ERC Environmental)
P-37-016524	--	Isolate: core	Prehistoric	1998 (Heritage Resources)
P-37-016525	--	Isolate: flake	Prehistoric	1998 (Heritage Resources)
P-37-016526	--	Isolate: core	Prehistoric	1998 (Heritage Resources)
P-37-017023	CA-SDI-015063	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	1997 (Gallegos & Associates)
P-37-024525	CA-SDI-016264	Foundations, cistern	Historic	2001 (Gallegos & Associates)
P-37-025712	CA-SDI-017105	Lithic scatter	Prehistoric	2004 (Robbins-Wade)
P-37-031173	CA-SDI-019750	Dam, trees	Historic	2009 (SRI)
P-37-031174	--	Dirt road	Historic	2009 (SRI)
P-37-031491	--	Roadway	Historic	2010 (Affinis Environmental Services)
P-37-031868	CA-SDI-020225	Foundations, trash scatter, lithic scatter	Multicomponent	2011 (ASM Affiliates)
P-37-032163	--	Agricultural complex	Historic	2011 (ASM Affiliates)
P-37-036094	--	Isolate: hammerstone	Prehistoric	2015 (LSA Associates)
P-37-036095	--	Isolate: hammerstone	Prehistoric	2015 (LSA Associates)
P-37-036096	--	Isolate: scraper	Prehistoric	2015 (LSA Associates)
P-37-036097	--	Isolate: assayed cobble	Prehistoric	2015 (LSA Associates)

CA-SDI-12337 is located immediately adjacent to the APE. CA-SDI-12337 includes four previously recorded sites, CA-SDI-5352, -9974, -10072, and -10735. These four sites were combined, possibly by Mary Robbins-Wade in 2002 as part of the proposed 80-acre Lin project (Robbins-Wade 2002), or by Carolyn Kyle in 1995 as part of the Otay Mesa Road Widening project. The current CA-SDI-12337 covers over 700 acres. Different portions of what is now CA-SDI-12337 have been tested in the past for various specific development projects, and these tests have determined the site lacks subsurface deposits and was not a significant historical resource under City criterion. The most recent survey of the property within CA-SDI-12337 by Robbins-Wade in 2007 determined that although the site was an “important” resource under San Diego County guidelines, the research potential of the site had been fulfilled through the several previous testing programs of portions of the site (Robbins-Wade 2007).

A response letter from the NAHC was received on July 30, 2020, indicating the results of the search of the Sacred Lands File for the project area were negative (Attachment 1). The NAHC provided a list of twenty Native American contacts who may have an interest in the project. On March 31, 2021, RECON sent letters to these twenty contacts informing them of the project and inquiring whether they would have any concerns regarding Native American issues or interests (Attachment 2). As of the response deadline of April 14, 2021, only one response was received. The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians determined that the project area has cultural significance or ties to Viejas. Cultural resources have been located within or adjacent to the APE of the project. Therefore, the Viejas Band requested that a Kumeyaay cultural monitor be on-site for ground-disturbing activities and to be informed of any new developments, such as inadvertent discovery of cultural artifacts, cremation sites, or human remains (Attachment 3).

## **6.2 Survey Results**

RECON completed the field survey on July 30, 2020 and identified two isolated artifacts (Confidential Attachment 2). Ground visibility within the APE varied from zero to five percent due to dense non-native grasses and annuals (Photograph 1). Vegetation was generally over six feet tall with the exception of a depression through the middle of the APE. Here, although ground cover was not as high, visibility remained poor (Photograph 2). The best ground visibility occurred along the northern boundary of the survey area, which is where the isolated artifacts (9743-ISO-1 and 9743-ISO-2) were identified.

9743-ISO-1 is a fine-grained metavolcanic core. It is uniaxially flaked and measures 65 by 63 by 35 millimeters. 9743-ISO-2 is a fine-grained metavolcanic tool measuring 60 by 52 by 26 millimeters. Both were located in areas cleared of vegetation.

## **7.0 Evaluation and Recommendations**

### **7.1 Regulatory Framework**

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a significant impact is a project effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Adverse changes include physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings resulting in the impairment of the resource's significance (Section 15064.5.4b, CEQA Guidelines). Mitigation measures are required for adverse effects on significant historical resources (Section 21083.2, CEQA Code).

State criteria are those listed in CEQA and used to determine whether a historic resource qualifies for the CRHR. CEQA also recognizes resources listed in a local historic register or deemed significant in a historical resource survey. Some resources that do not meet these criteria may still be historically significant for the purposes of CEQA.



**PHOTOGRAPH 1**  
Overview of the Northeast Corner of the APE



**PHOTOGRAPH 2**  
Area with Lower Vegetation, Looking Northwest

A resource may be listed in the CRHR if it is significant at the federal, state, or local level under one of more of the four criteria listed below.

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

Since resources that are not listed or determined eligible for the state or local registers may still be historically significant, their significance must be determined if they are affected by a project.

The City has developed a set of guidelines that ensure compliance with state and federal guidelines for the management of historical resources. These guidelines are stated in the City's Historic Resources Regulations (HRR). The HRR have been developed to implement applicable local, state, and federal policies and mandates. Included in these are the City's Progress Guide and General Plan, CEQA, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The intent of the City's guidelines is to ensure consistency in the identification, evaluation, preservation/mitigation, and development of the City's historical resources. These guidelines are also reflected in Section 5.5 (Historical Resources) of the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update (City of San Diego 2013).

The criteria used by the City to determine significance for historic resources reflect a more local perspective of historical, architectural, and cultural importance for inclusion on the City's HRR. The resource can meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's, a community's, or a neighborhood's historical, archaeological, cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, landscaping, or agricultural development.
2. Is identified with persons or events significant in local, state, or national history.
3. Embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or crafts.
4. Is representative of the notable work of a master builder, designer, architect, engineer, landscape architect, interior designer, artist, or craftsman.
5. Is listed or has been determined eligible by National Park Service for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or is listed or has been determined eligible by the State Historical Preservation Office for listing on the State Register of Historic Resources.

6. Is a finite group of resources related to one another in a clearly distinguishable way or is a geographically definable area or neighborhood containing improvements which have a special character, historical interest, or aesthetic value, or which represent one or more architectural periods or styles in the history and development of the city.

Unless demonstrated otherwise, archaeological sites with only a surface component are not typically considered significant. The determination of an archaeological site's significance depends on a number of factors specific to that site including size, type, integrity, presence or absence of a subsurface deposit; soil stratigraphy, features, diagnostic artifacts, or datable material; artifact/ecofact density; assemblage complexity; cultural affiliation; association with an important person or event; and ethnic importance. Under the City's Historical Resources Guidelines, all archaeological sites are considered potentially significant (City of San Diego 2001:13).

Under City's Historical Resources Guidelines for the Land Development Code there are historical resource types which are typically considered insignificant for planning purposes. These are isolates, sparse lithic scatters, isolated bedrock milling features, shellfish processing stations, and sites and buildings less than 45 years old (City of San Diego 2001:13).

### 7.1.1 Management Plan for Otay Mesa Prehistoric Resources

The Management Plan for Otay Mesa Prehistoric Resources (Gallegos et al. 1998) was developed as an outgrowth of negotiations between Caltrans and the Office of Historic Preservation to provide consistent site definitions and a management strategy for the kinds of resources present on Otay Mesa. This plan begins with a discussion of recorded site types using information drawn from site record forms. Habitation sites, temporary camps, lithic scatters, quarry, shell middens, and non-sites are resource types defined for the baseline study area. The types of sites in the management planning area were stratified based on geologic and landform information.

After the initial discussion of recorded site types on the mesa, Gallegos et al. (1998) combined a few of the types and determined that three site types dominate Otay Mesa: habitation sites, artifact scatters/temporary camps, and lithic scatters.

**Habitation site:** Gallegos identified 14 loci from 9 sites as falling within this category. Sites were placed in this category if they had a subsurface artifact density of 100 artifacts per square meter or greater. Of the 14 identified habitation sites, 8 had been destroyed, 1 had been preserved, 4 were intact, and 1 was partially intact. Four of the habitation sites had features (Gallegos et al. 1998:3-29). Most of the sites had chert, obsidian, or chalcedony, most contained ground stone implements, and almost all had shell in sufficient quantity for conducting radiocarbon dating.

**Temporary camp/artifact scatter:** Gallegos documented 11 temporary camps/artifact scatters. This category was based on surface artifact density, and/or the presence of a substantial amount of faunal material combined with a lack of a subsurface component,

(Gallegos et al. 1998:3-29). These sites represent short-term habitation periods, not of sufficient duration for a substantial midden to develop. Of the 11 sites in this category, 9 had been destroyed, 1 was intact, and 1 was partially intact. No features were found at any of the sites in this category.

**Non-sites:** Seventy-two sites on Otay Mesa fell into this category. Non-sites are defined by a lack of a substantial subsurface deposit and a surface artifact density of less than 0.03 artifacts per square meter (three lithic items within a 10-by-10-meter area). Gallegos et al. noted that some 5,057,397 square meters of what they categorized as non-site had been recorded in their study area. These non-site or quasi-quarry areas contained some 5,824 artifacts of which some 68 percent or 3,947 were waste flakes. A total of 1,859 tools were also noted. The total artifact density was 0.0009 artifacts/square meter, or 1 artifact/3,000 meters (Gallegos et al. 1998:3-45). Gallegos felt that some of the sites in this category could be redefined as activity area or temporary camps with additional effort.

Gallegos et al. 1998 suggest that much of the effort to date on Otay Mesa has been wasted on these sparse lithic scatters, which have little or no research potential. This is made worse because they have been recorded and/or tested one small piece at a time as each parcel is developed. Research on these low-density lithic scatters wastes precious research resources and has yielded virtually no meaningful insights into prehistory. They assert that these low-density lithic scatters should be treated as archaeological noise and not recorded in future research because they get in the way of more productive research. Work in the future should be concentrated on the few habitation sites that remain, since they would provide information to answer research questions concerning settlement patterns, chronology, lithic technology, trade, and diet.

## 7.2 Evaluation of Resources

The current survey identified two isolated artifacts. Cultural isolates are not considered significant historical resources, because they generally lack characteristics that would qualify them for listing on the CRHR. Isolates are also not considered significant cultural resources under City guidelines. Therefore, the two isolates found during the survey are not historical resources under the CRHR or the City's inventory requirements. Since the isolates are not significant historical resources, the project will not result in adverse effects to these resources.

Because the majority of the APE was covered in dense vegetation preventing adequate ground visibility to observe surface cultural material and due to the proximity of CA-SDI-12,337, RECON recommends construction monitoring by a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor during all ground-disturbing activities to prevent significant impacts to unknown subsurface archaeological deposits.

## 8.0 Certification and Project Staff

This report was prepared in compliance with CEQA (Section 21083.2 of the Statutes and Appendix K of the Guidelines) and with policies and procedures of the City. To the best of our knowledge, the statements and information contained in this report are accurate.



Carmen Zepeda-Herman, Principal Investigator

Resumes for key personnel are on file with the City. The following individuals participated in the field tasks or preparation of this report.

Carmen Zepeda-Herman	Principal Investigator
Harry Price	Field Archaeologist
Justin Linton	Native American Monitor
Luis Barragan	GIS Analyst
Jennifer Gutierrez	Production Specialist

## 9.0 References Cited

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

Native American Heritage Commission

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

July 30, 2020

Carmen Zepeda-Herman  
RECON Environmental

Via Email to: [czepeda@reconenvironmental.com](mailto:czepeda@reconenvironmental.com)

**Re: Sanyo Logistics Center Project, San Diego County**

Dear Ms. Zepeda-Herman:

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: [steven.quinn@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:steven.quinn@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Steven Quinn  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON  
**Laura Miranda**  
*Luiseño*

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
*Chumash*

SECRETARY  
**Merri Lopez-Keifer**  
*Luiseño*

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
**Russell Attebery**  
*Karuk*

COMMISSIONER  
**Marshall McKay**  
*Wintun*

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

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER  
**Julie Tumamait-Stenslie**  
*Chumash*

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**Christina Snider**  
*Pomo*

**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
West Sacramento,  
California 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
[NAHC.ca.gov](http://NAHC.ca.gov)

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
San Diego County  
7/30/2020**

**Barona Group of the Capitan Grande**

Edwin Romero, Chairperson  
1095 Barona Road Diegueno  
Lakeside, CA, 92040  
Phone: (619) 443 - 6612  
Fax: (619) 443-0681  
cloyd@barona-nsn.gov

**Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians**

Ralph Goff, Chairperson  
36190 Church Road, Suite 1 Diegueno  
Campo, CA, 91906  
Phone: (619) 478 - 9046  
Fax: (619) 478-5818  
rgoff@campo-nsn.gov

**Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians**

Michael Garcia, Vice Chairperson  
4054 Willows Road Diegueno  
Alpine, CA, 91901  
Phone: (619) 445 - 6315  
Fax: (619) 445-9126  
michaelg@leaningrock.net

**Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians**

Robert Pinto, Chairperson  
4054 Willows Road Diegueno  
Alpine, CA, 91901  
Phone: (619) 445 - 6315  
Fax: (619) 445-9126  
wmicklin@leaningrock.net

**Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel**

Clint Linton, Director of Cultural Resources  
P.O. Box 507 Diegueno  
Santa Ysabel, CA, 92070  
Phone: (760) 803 - 5694  
cjlinton73@aol.com

**Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel**

Virgil Perez, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 130 Diegueno  
Santa Ysabel, CA, 92070  
Phone: (760) 765 - 0845  
Fax: (760) 765-0320

**Inaja-Cosmit Band of Indians**

Rebecca Osuna, Chairperson  
2005 S. Escondido Blvd. Diegueno  
Escondido, CA, 92025  
Phone: (760) 737 - 7628  
Fax: (760) 747-8568

**Jamul Indian Village**

Lisa Cumper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 612 Diegueno  
Jamul, CA, 91935  
Phone: (619) 669 - 4855  
lcumper@jiv-nsn.gov

**Jamul Indian Village**

Erica Pinto, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 612 Diegueno  
Jamul, CA, 91935  
Phone: (619) 669 - 4785  
Fax: (619) 669-4817  
epinto@jiv-nsn.gov

**Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians**

Carmen Lucas,  
P.O. Box 775 Kwaaymii  
Pine Valley, CA, 91962 Diegueno  
Phone: (619) 709 - 4207

**La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians**

Gwendolyn Parada, Chairperson  
8 Crestwood Road Diegueno  
Boulevard, CA, 91905  
Phone: (619) 478 - 2113  
Fax: (619) 478-2125  
LP13boots@aol.com

**La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians**

Javaughn Miller, Tribal Administrator  
8 Crestwood Road Diegueno  
Boulevard, CA, 91905  
Phone: (619) 478 - 2113  
Fax: (619) 478-2125  
jmiller@LPtribe.net

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 Sanyo Logistics Center Project, San Diego County.

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
San Diego County  
7/30/2020**

**Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay  
Nation**

Angela Elliott Santos, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1302 Diegueno  
Boulevard, CA, 91905  
Phone: (619) 766 - 4930  
Fax: (619) 766-4957

**Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay  
Nation**

Cody Martinez, Chairperson  
1 Kwaaypaay Court Kumeyaay  
El Cajon, CA, 92019  
Phone: (619) 445 - 2613  
Fax: (619) 445-1927  
ssilva@sycuan-nsn.gov

**Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno  
Mission Indians**

Michael Linton, Chairperson  
P.O Box 270 Diegueno  
Santa Ysabel, CA, 92070  
Phone: (760) 782 - 3818  
Fax: (760) 782-9092  
mesagrandeband@msn.com

**Viejas Band of Kumeyaay  
Indians**

John Christman, Chairperson  
1 Viejas Grade Road Diegueno  
Alpine, CA, 91901  
Phone: (619) 445 - 3810  
Fax: (619) 445-5337

**San Pasqual Band of Diegueno  
Mission Indians**

Allen Lawson, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 365 Diegueno  
Valley Center, CA, 92082  
Phone: (760) 749 - 3200  
Fax: (760) 749-3876  
allenl@sanpasqualtribe.org

**Viejas Band of Kumeyaay  
Indians**

Ernest Pingleton, Tribal Historic  
Officer, Resource Management  
1 Viejas Grade Road Diegueno  
Alpine, CA, 91901  
Phone: (619) 659 - 2314  
epingleton@viejas-nsn.gov

**San Pasqual Band of Diegueno  
Mission Indians**

John Flores, Environmental  
Coordinator  
P. O. Box 365 Diegueno  
Valley Center, CA, 92082  
Phone: (760) 749 - 3200  
Fax: (760) 749-3876  
johnf@sanpasqualtribe.org

**Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay  
Nation**

Kristie Orosco, Kumeyaay  
Resource Specialist  
1 Kwaaypaay Court Kumeyaay  
El Cajon, CA, 92019  
Phone: (619) 445 - 6917

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 Sanyo Logistics Center Project, San Diego County.

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### Sample Tribal Letter



*An Employee-Owned Company*

March 31, 2021

Mr. John Christman  
Chairperson  
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
1 Viejas Grade Road  
Alpine, CA 91901

Reference: Sanyo Logistics Center Project, San Diego, California (RECON Number 9743)

Dear Mr. Christman:

RECON Environmental, Inc. (RECON) has been retained by Badiie Development to conduct an archaeological survey for the Sanyo Logistic Center Project located west of Sanyo Avenue and north of Airway Road in the Otay Mesa Community Plan area, in the city of San Diego. The project would construct a 242,969-square-foot multi-tenant industrial distribution building that would include 232,969 square feet of warehouse space and 10,000 square feet of associated office space. The project would include 45 dock doors, and 270 parking spaces within 14.84 acres. The project property is currently vacant and is found on the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographical map series, Otay Mesa quadrangle (see attached Figure).

A letter requesting identification of spiritually significant and sacred sites or traditional use areas in the proposed project vicinity was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). No Native American cultural resources were identified in the immediate project area. A record search was conducted of the archaeological databases maintained at the California Historical Resources Information System, South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) at San Diego State University. The files at SCIC also failed to identify any prehistoric archaeological sites recorded within the proposed project area. The survey conducted by a RECON archaeologist and a Native American monitor from Red Tail Environmental consisted of the entirety of the project property. Two isolated artifacts (core and flaked lithic tool) were recorded during the survey.

Pursuant to the letter received in response from the NAHC, we are contacting you as a potentially interested party. We would like to know if you have any concerns regarding the proposed project as it relates to Native American issues or interests. Would you have any information on sacred sites in the vicinity of the proposed project that may help us advise the client to avoid impacts to these sites? We would like to obtain Native American input early enough in the environmental process to ensure adequate time to address any concerns you may have.

We would also appreciate any referrals to another tribe or person knowledgeable about the cultural resources within or adjacent to the proposed project area that may be of help in the planning process with regard to Native American concerns. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, comments, or concerns. If we have not heard from you by April 14, 2021, we will assume that you have no comments. Thank you for your assistance.

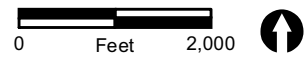
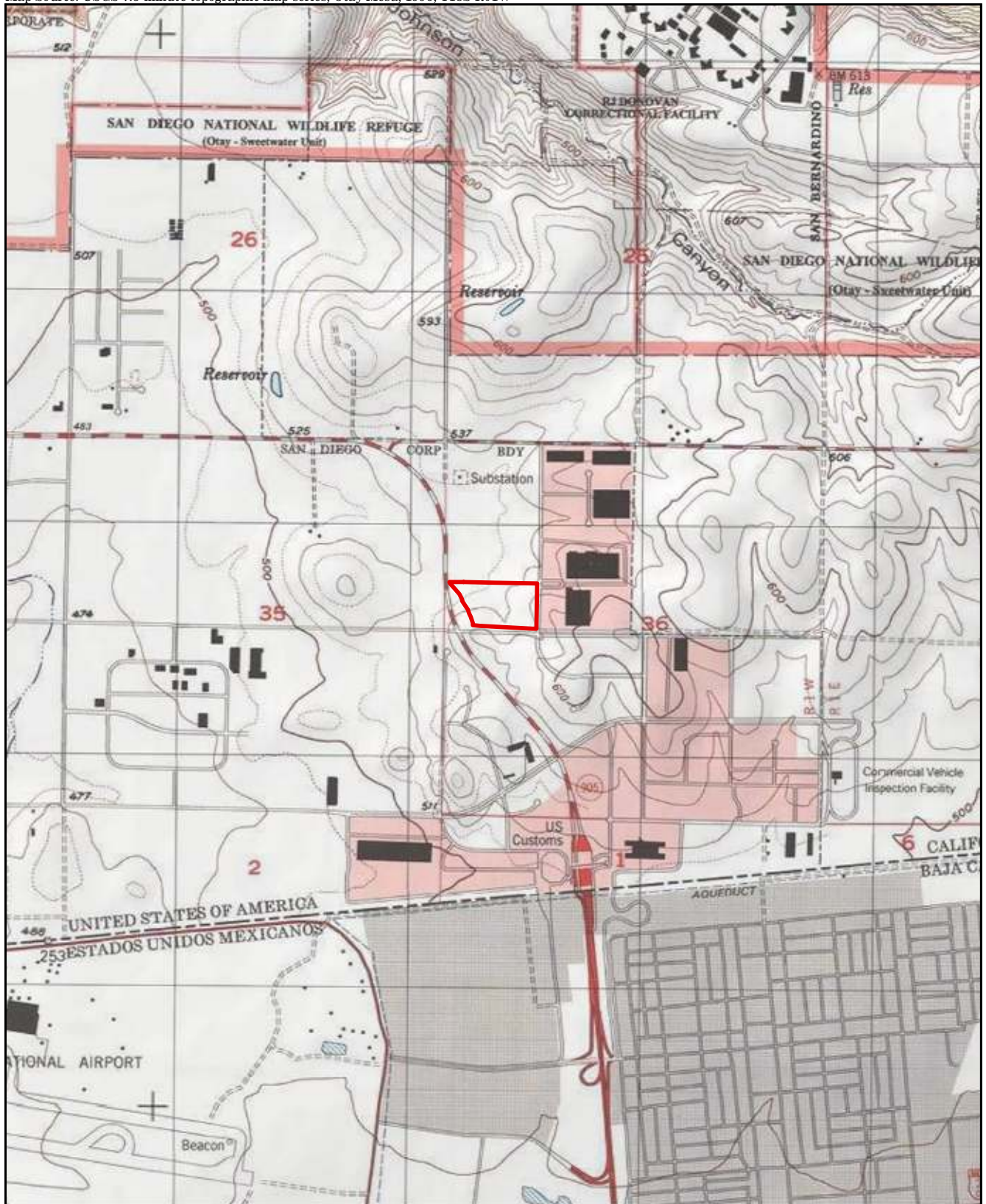
Sincerely,

  
Carmen Zepeda-Herman  
Project Archaeologist

CZH:jg

Enclosure





 Project Boundary

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

### Viejas Response

## Carmen Zepeda-Herman

---

**From:** Ray Teran <rteran@viejas-nsn.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 31, 2021 1:38 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Gutierrez  
**Cc:** Ernest Pingleton; Carmen Zepeda-Herman  
**Subject:** [External] FW: Sanyo Logistics Center Project, San Diego, California (RECON Number 9743)  
**Attachments:** Pingleton\_Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.pdf

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians (“Viejas”) has reviewed the proposed project and at this time we have determined that the project site has cultural significance or ties to Viejas. Cultural resources have been located within or adjacent to the APE-DE of the proposed project.

Viejas Band request that a Kumeyaay Cultural Monitor be on site for ground disturbing activities and to inform us of any new developments such as inadvertent discovery of cultural artifacts, cremation sites, or human remains.

If you wish to utilize Viejas cultural monitors, please call Ernest Pingleton at 619-655-0410 or email, epingleton@viejas-nsn.gov, for contracting and scheduling. Thank you.

If a Tribe, having a closer proximity to the Project, requests to perform cultural monitoring, Viejas will differ to them.

---

**From:** Ernest Pingleton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 31, 2021 1:12 PM  
**To:** Ray Teran <rteran@viejas-nsn.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sanyo Logistics Center Project, San Diego, California (RECON Number 9743)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jennifer Gutierrez <[jgutierrez@reconenvironmental.com](mailto:jgutierrez@reconenvironmental.com)>  
**Date:** March 31, 2021 at 11:48:34 AM PDT  
**To:** Ernest Pingleton <[epingleton@viejas-nsn.gov](mailto:epingleton@viejas-nsn.gov)>  
**Cc:** Carmen Zepeda-Herman <[czepeda@reconenvironmental.com](mailto:czepeda@reconenvironmental.com)>  
**Subject:** Sanyo Logistics Center Project, San Diego, California (RECON Number 9743)

The above-referenced PDF is attached for your review and comment. Please contact Carmen Zepeda-Herman with any questions or comments.

Jennifer Gutierrez  
Production Specialist

**RECON Environmental, Inc.**  
3111 Camino del Rio North, Suite 600  
San Diego, CA 92108-5726  
(619) 308-9333

**CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS**

(Under Separate Cover)