
Appendix 1-G
Cultural Resources Inventory Report

Cultural Resources Desktop Inventory Report

Avocado Site Alternative:

SoCalGas Ventura Compressor Station Modernization Project

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Management Summary/Abstract

South Environmental was retained by Dudek to complete a Cultural Resources Desktop Inventory Report for the Avocado Site Alternative of the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) Ventura Compressor Modernization Project (VCM Project) located in the City of Ventura, California. This report includes an inventory of any archaeological, unique archaeological, and historic built-environment resources that could be affected by the Avocado Site Alternative. Identification efforts include the results of a California Historical Resources Information Center (CHRIS) records search of the Avocado Site and a 0.5- mile radius; a search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC's) Sacred Lands File; background research; and development of a cultural context for the Avocado Site.

This report was prepared following the guidance for cultural resources technical reports as outlined in the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) *Guidelines for Energy Project Applications Requiring California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance: Pre-filing and Proponent's Environmental Assessments* (CPUC 2019); and the California State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format* (OHP 1990).

No previously recorded archaeological, unique archaeological, or historic built environment resources were identified within the Avocado Site as a result of this desktop inventory report. However, several previously recorded prehistoric archaeological sites were identified both east and west of the Avocado Site, one of which (CA-VEN-849) is directly adjacent to the proposed offsite impact area. The records search results in combination with the Avocado Site's proximity to the Pacific Ocean and Ventura River, suggests the area is sensitive for prehistoric cultural resources.

1 Introduction

South Environmental was retained by Dudek to complete a Cultural Resources Desktop Inventory Report for the Avocado Site Alternative of the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) Ventura Compressor Modernization Project located in the City of Ventura, California. The Avocado Site is being evaluated as a potential alternative site for the existing Ventura Compressor Station at 1555 N. Olive Street in the City of Ventura, California. This report includes an inventory of any archaeological, unique archaeological, and built environment resources identified as a result of a desktop inventory report. Access to the Avocado Site was not provided and no survey was completed as part of this study. Identification efforts include the results of a California Historical Resources Information Center (CHRIS) records search of the Avocado Site Alternative components and a 0.5-mile radius; a search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC's) Sacred Lands File; outreach to Native American groups; and development of a cultural context.

This report was prepared following the guidance for cultural resources technical reports as outlined in the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) *Guidelines for Energy Project Applications Requiring California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance: Pre-filing and Proponent's Environmental Assessments* (CPUC 2019); and the California State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format* (OHP 1990).

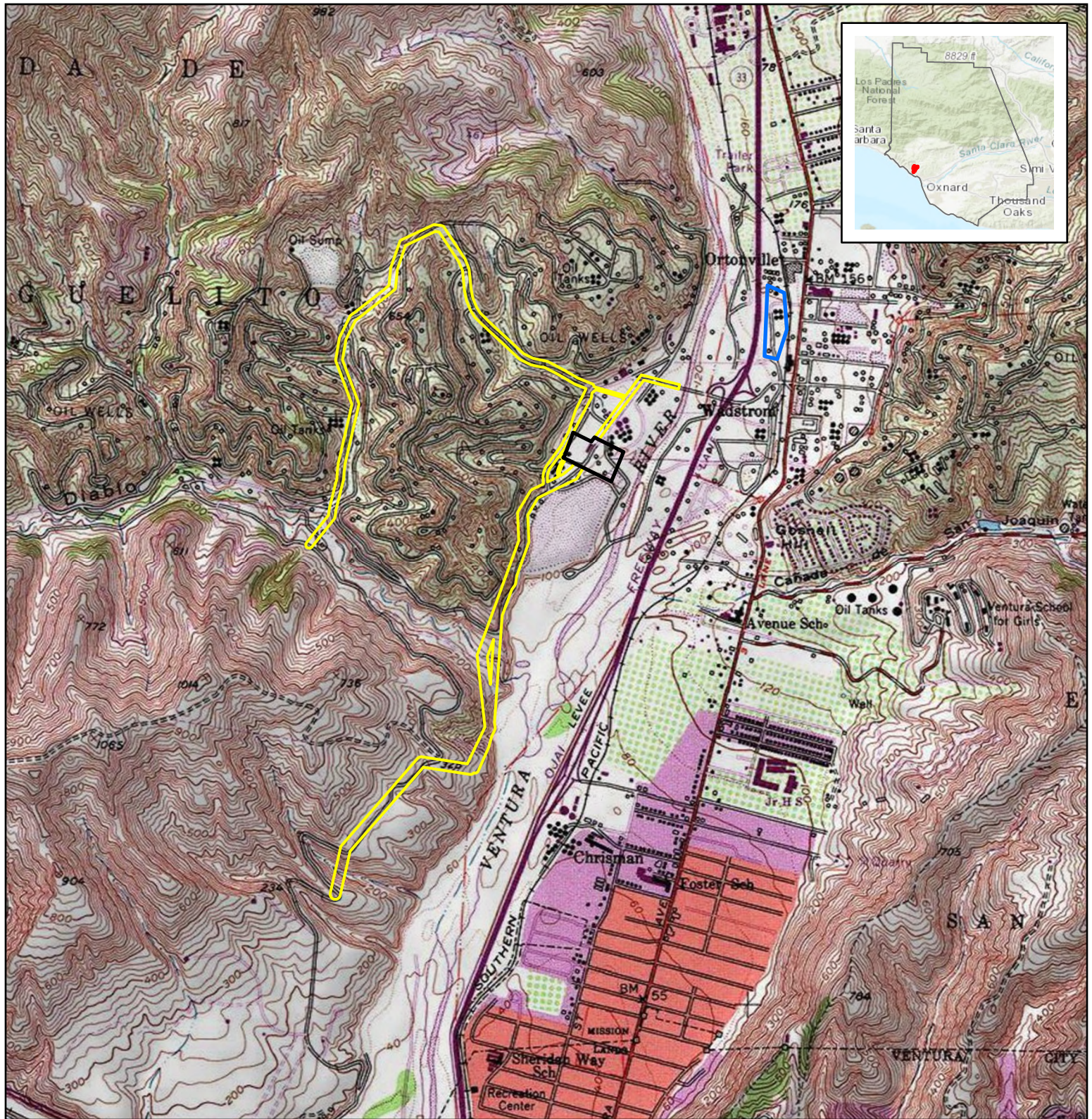
This report was authored by South Environmental Archaeologist Samantha Jovanovic, MA, MS and Archaeological Principal Investigator, Samantha Murray, MA, Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology.

1.1 Avocado Site Alternative Location

The Avocado Site is an approximately 15-acre agricultural site designated for open space uses and zoned for agriculture located approximately 3,000 feet west of the existing compressor station within the County of Ventura. The Avocado Site falls within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) *Ventura 7.5 Minute Topographical Quadrangle*, in Sections 29 and 32, Township 3 North, Range 23 West (Figure 1, Avocado Site Alternative Location Map).

For clarity throughout this report, the following terms are used to describe the three distinct components of the Avocado Site Alternative (see Figure 1):

- Station Site (permanent impact area)
- Temporary Staging Area (temporary impact area)
- Offsite Impact Area (i.e., the linear portions of the Avocado Site Alternative that include proposed access roads and electrical interconnects) [permanent impact area].



Source: ESRI USA Topo Maps and World Topo Map 2025

Figure 1. Project Location Map

- Devil's Canyon Road Site Station - Permanent Impact
- Devil's Canyon Road Site Temporary Staging Area - Temporary Impact
- Devil's Canyon Road Site Offsite Impact Area - Permanent Impact

Project Site is within unincorporated and Ventura, California, in Ventura County on the USGS Ventura 7.5-minute quadrangle map in Sections 20,21,28,29,32 of Township 03 North and Range 23 West

Center Coordinate (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 34.3044915N Longitude: -119.3116339W



0 1,150 2,300 Feet
Scale: 1:24,000



1.2 Regulatory Setting

1.2.1 State

California Register of Historical Resources

In California, the term “historical resource” includes but is not limited to “any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California” (California Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(j)). In 1992, the California legislature established the CRHR “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” (California Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(a)). The criteria for listing resources on the CRHR were expressly developed to be in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), enumerated below. According to California Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c)(1–4), a resource is considered historically significant if it (i) retains “substantial integrity,” and (ii) meets at least one of the following criteria:

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

In order to understand the historic importance of a resource, sufficient time must have passed to obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource. A resource less than 50 years old may be considered for listing in the CRHR if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance (see 14 CCR 4852(d)(2)).

The CRHR protects cultural resources by requiring evaluations of the significance of prehistoric and historic resources. The criteria for the CRHR are nearly identical to those for the NRHP, and properties listed or formally designated as eligible for listing in the NRHP are automatically listed in the CRHR, as are the state landmarks and points of interest. The CRHR also includes properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

California Environmental Quality Act

As described further below, the following CEQA statutes and CEQA Guidelines are of relevance to the analysis of archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources:

- California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g) defines “unique archaeological resource.”
- California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) define “historical resources.” In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) defines the phrase “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource.” It also defines the circumstances when a Project would materially impair the significance of an historical resource.
- California Public Resources Code Section 21074(a) defines “tribal cultural resources.”
- California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) set forth standards and steps to be employed following the accidental discovery of human remains in any location other than a dedicated ceremony.
- California Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2(b)-(c) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4 provide information regarding the mitigation framework for archaeological and historic resources, including examples of preservation-in-place mitigation measures; preservation-in-place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to significant archaeological sites because it maintains the relationship between artifacts and the archaeological context and may also help avoid conflict with religious or cultural values of groups associated with the archaeological site(s).

More specifically, under CEQA, a Project may have a significant effect on the environment if it may cause “a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource” (California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b).) If a site is either listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or if it is included in a local register of historic resources or identified as significant in a historical resources survey (meeting the requirements of California Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(q)), it is a “historical resource” and is presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of CEQA (California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)). The lead agency is not precluded from determining that a resource is a historical resource even if it does not fall within this presumption (California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)).

A “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource” reflecting a significant effect under CEQA means “physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(1); California Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(q)). In turn, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(b)(2) states the significance of an historical resource is materially impaired when a Project:

1. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; or
2. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the Project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or
3. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

Pursuant to these sections, the CEQA inquiry begins with evaluating whether a project site contains any “historical resources,” then evaluates whether that Project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource such that the resource’s historical significance is materially impaired.

If it can be demonstrated that a Project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that they cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2[a], [b], and [c]).

California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archaeological resource as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

1. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
2. Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Impacts to non-unique archaeological resources are generally not considered a significant environmental impact (California Public Resources Code section 21083.2(a); CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)(4)). However, if a non-unique archaeological resource qualifies as tribal cultural resource (California Public Resources Code Section 21074(c), 21083.2(h)), further consideration of significant

impacts is required. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 assigns special importance to human remains and specifies procedures to be used when Native American remains are discovered. As described below, these procedures are detailed in California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

Assembly Bill 52

AB 52 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.”

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5

CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5 assigns special importance to human remains and specifies procedures to be used when Native American remains are discovered. As described below, these procedures are detailed in PRC section 5097.98. California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods, regardless of their antiquity, and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains. California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that if human remains are discovered in any place other than a dedicated cemetery, the following procedures shall be followed:

- Stop immediately and contact the County Coroner.

- If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the Coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).
- The NAHC will immediately notify the person it believes to be the most likely descendant (MLD) of the deceased Native American.
- The MLD has 48 hours to make recommendations to the owner, or representative, for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the human remains and grave goods.
- If the owner does not accept the MLD's recommendations, the owner or the MLD may request mediation by the NAHC.

No further disturbance or excavation of the site or nearby area reasonably suspected to contain human remains shall occur until the County Coroner has examined the remains (Section 7050.5(b)). PRC Section 5097.98 also outlines the process to be followed in the event that remains are discovered.

1.2.2 Local

CPUC decisions, as well as California courts, have confirmed the CPUC's preemptory powers over matters of statewide concern, including utility project siting. General Order 177 was passed in December 2022, reaffirming preemption of local authority. As such, no local discretionary (e.g., rezone, land use) permits would be required because the CPUC has preemptive jurisdiction over the siting, construction, maintenance, and operation of natural gas facilities in California. The Avocado Site is within portions of the City of Ventura and County of Ventura. This section identifies land use plans and regulations for informational purposes and to assist with environmental review, although the VCM Project is not subject to local discretionary permitting. The Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) lists the local authorizations that may be required for VCM Project construction.

City of San Buenaventura – 2005 Ventura General Plan

Policy 9D: Ensure proper treatment of archeological and historic resources.

Action 9.14: Require archaeological assessments for Projects proposed in the Coastal Zone and other areas where cultural resources are likely to be located.

Action 9.15: Suspend development activity when archaeological resources are discovered, and require the developer to retain a qualified archaeologist to oversee handling of the resources in coordination with the Ventura County Archaeological Society and local Native American organizations as appropriate.

Action 9.16: Pursue funding to preserve historic resources.

Action 9.17: Provide incentives to owners of eligible structures to seek historic landmark status and invest in restoration efforts.

Action 9.18: Require that modifications to historically-designated buildings maintain their character.

Action 9.19: For any Project in a historic district or that would affect any potential historic resource or structure more than 40 years old, require an assessment of eligibility for State and federal register and landmark status and appropriate mitigation to protect the resource.

Action 9.20: Seek input from the City's Historic Preservation Commission on any proposed development that may affect any designated or potential landmark.

Action 9.21: Update the inventory of historic properties.

Action 9.22: Create a set of guidelines and/or policies directing staff, private property owners, developers, and the public regarding treatment of historic resources that will be readily available at the counter.

Action 9.23: Complete and maintain historic resource surveys containing all the present and future components of the historic fabric within the built, natural, and cultural environments.

Action 9.24: Create a historic preservation element.

2 Environmental Setting

The Avocado Site Alternative Station Site includes undeveloped hillside and agricultural land, the Temporary Staging Area includes agricultural land, and the offsite impact area follows Taylor Ranch Road. The entire Avocado Site is surrounded by agricultural fields and undeveloped areas and is roughly 0.55 miles west of Highway 33. More broadly, the Avocado Site is located west of the Ventura River Valley and near the southern foothills of the Ventura Hills with the nearest major water features being the Ventura River (approximately 0.4 miles to the east) and the Pacific Ocean (approximately 1.5-miles southwest of the Avocado Site Alternative Station Site and approximately 0.3- mile southwest of the Temporary Staging Area).

The overall Avocado Site decreases in elevation from the Avocado Site in the hills, southwards along the offsite impact area to the Temporary Staging Area. The elevation is approximately 550 feet above mean sea level (amsl) at the Avocado Site Alternative Station Site, decreasing to approximately 25 feet amsl at the Temporary Staging Area closest to the ocean. The region has a Mediterranean climate with temperate, warm, dry summers and comparatively wetter winters. (Kauffman 2021). Rainfall is highly seasonal with the majority of the annual 16 inches falling between November and March (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 2025).

The Avocado Site is within the Transverse Ranges geomorphic province characterized by east- west trending mountain ranges and intervening valleys. The entire Avocado Site is on Older Alluvial deposits from the Early to Middle Pleistocene (2.5 to 0.129 million years ago) from sedimentary sources (Gutierrez et al. 2008). There are several soil series throughout the Avocado Site including Huerhuero, Malibu, Calleguas, and Arnold as well as several series in minor amounts (approximately five percent or less) (University of California, Davis [UCD] and Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2025). Soils within the Avocado Site consist of moderately well drained soils that comprise alluvium derived primarily from sedimentary rock sources, especially sandstone (National Cooperative Soil Survey 2020, 2001a, 2001b; UCD and NRCS 2025). Huerhuero soils make up most of the Avocado Site (UCD and NRCS 2025). .

3 Cultural Setting

3.1 Prehistoric Context

While many chronological sequences have been developed to describe cultural changes in Southern California, the following builds on Wallace (1955, 1978), who developed a prehistoric chronology for the Southern California coastal region that is still widely used today. Four periods are presented in this sequence: Early Man, Milling Stone, Intermediate, and Late Prehistoric. The summary of prehistoric chronological sequences for Southern California coastal and near-coastal areas presented below is a combination of Wallace (1955) and Warren (1968) as well as more recent studies.

3.1.1 Early Man Horizon (ca. 10,000 – 6,000 B.C.)

Many pre-8,000 B.C. sites have been identified along the Southern California coast and Channel Islands (Moratto 1984; Erlandson 1991; Rick et al. 2001; Johnson et al. 2002; Jones and Klar 2007). The Santa Rosa Island Arlington Springs site produced human femur bones that dated to approximately 13,000 years ago (Johnson et al. 2002). The most widely accepted dates for archaeological sites on the Southern California coast are from two of the northern Channel Islands, located off the coast of Santa Barbara. On San Miguel Island, Daisy Cave clearly establishes the presence of people in this area about 10,000 years ago (Erlandson 1991:105).

Early Man Horizon sites are generally associated with a greater emphasis on hunting than later horizons. Recent data indicate that the Early Man economy was a diverse mixture of hunting and gathering, including a significant focus on aquatic resources in coastal areas and on inland Pleistocene lakeshores (Moratto 1984).

3.1.2 Milling Stone Horizon (6,000 – 3,000 B.C.)

Set during the Altithermal, which began around 6,000 B.C., the Milling Stone Horizon is characterized by changing subsistence strategies in response to drier climate. This included a greater emphasis on plant foods and small game. Extensive seed processing is evident in the dominance of stone grinding implements in contemporary archaeological assemblages; namely, milling stones (metates) and handstones (manos). The mortar and pestle, associated with acorns or other foods processed through pounding, were first used during the Milling Stone Horizon and increased dramatically in later periods (Wallace 1955, 1978; Warren 1968). Other food resources included small and large terrestrial mammals, sea mammals, birds, shellfish and other littoral and estuarine species, near-shore fishes, yucca, agave, and seeds and other plant products (Kowta 1969). Depending on the environmental setting (coastal or inland), food procurement strategies are found to be highly variable (Byrd and Raab 2007:220).

3.1.3 Intermediate Horizon (3,000 B.C. – A.D. 500)

The Intermediate Horizon is characterized by a shift toward a hunting and maritime subsistence strategy, as well as greater use of plant foods. During the Intermediate Horizon, a noticeable trend occurred towards a greater adaptation to local resources including a broad variety of fish, land mammals, and sea mammals along the coast. This diversity was reflected in tool kits for hunting, fishing, and processing food and materials, with flake scrapers, drills, various projectile points, and shell fishhooks being manufactured. Mortars and pestles became more common during this period, gradually replacing manos and metates as the dominant milling tool. This change in milling stone technology indicates a transition from the processing and consumption of hard seed resources to the increased reliance on acorns (Glassow et al. 1988; True 1993).

3.1.4 Late Prehistoric Horizon (A.D. 500 – Historic Contact)

The Late Prehistoric Horizon is characterized by an increased diversity of plant food resources and land and sea mammal hunting. Material culture became more complex as demonstrated through more diverse classes of artifacts. During this period, the northern Channel Islands populations further developed craft specializations, including shell bead manufacture, that sustained trade with mainland settlements and with further trading partners to the east, creating a regional economy. Steatite quarried on Santa Catalina Island was used to make stone bowls, pipes, comals, sucking tubes, pendants, beads, and effigies. The lack of pottery in coastal and near-coastal sites implies that ceramic technology was not widely used, or that ceramics were obtained by trade with neighboring groups to the south and east. The lack of widespread pottery manufacture may also be due to the utility of tightly woven and watertight basketry that functioned in much the same way as ceramic vessels.

In areas of inland settlement, by the end of the Intermediate Period, mobility and long-distance migration towards the coast from seasonal camps was replaced by the development of permanent settlements. The period between A.D. 500 and historic contact is divided into three regional patterns: Chumash (Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties), Takic/Numic (Los Angeles, Orange, and western Riverside counties), and Yuman (San Diego County). Modern Gabrieliño/Tongva, Juaneño, and Luiseño people in this region are considered to be the descendants of the Uto-Aztecan, Takic-speaking populations that settled along the California coast during this period (Warren 1968).

3.2 Ethnographic Context

3.2.1 Ventureño Chumash

The Avocado Site is located within an area historically occupied by the Ventureño Chumash (named for their historic association with Mission San Buenaventura) (Grant 1978). The Chumash spoke six closely related Chumashan languages, which have been divided into three branches — Northern Chumash (consisting only of Obispeño), Central Chumash (consisting of Purisimeño, Ineseño, Barbareño, and Ventureño), and Island Chumash (Jones and Klar 2007:80). Groups neighboring

Chumash territory included the Salinan to the north, the Southern Valley Yokuts and Tataviam to the east, and the Gabrielino (Tongva) to the south.

Early Spanish accounts of the total Chumash population vary from estimates of around 8,000-10,000 (Kroeber 1976) to 18,000-22,000 (Cook and Heizer 1965: 21) along the Santa Barbara Channel coast. These coastal Chumash villages consisted of large, round dwellings made of tule reed mats and arranged in close groups. Lodging as many as 60 people, the houses supported large family groups (Brown 2001).

Subsistence strategies for the Chumash included both coastal and inland food resources. The acorn was a staple food for which the Chumash developed a variety of tools, including different baskets for processing, cooking, and serving acorns and other plant foods, and mortar and milling stones for crushing and grinding. Hunting was also an important component of daily life, with bows and arrows used to hunt large game and snares and traps used to capture smaller animals (Brown 2001; Hudson and Blackburn 1983).

Being located on the coast, the *tomol*, or wooden plank canoe, became essential to facilitating both marine resource procurement and to maintaining active trade networks between inland and coastal groups. Large marine mammals such as whales and seals were hunted with harpoons. Fish were captured using hooks, lines, and nets. Additionally, shellfish were procured from the coast, including clams and scallops, which could be dug up with sticks and other tools; and mussels and abalone, which could be gathered from rocks using prying tools.

Trade was an important aspect of both Chumash subsistence and maintaining social ties to other island and inland groups. Island, coastal, and inland Chumash traded a variety of materials including beads, tools, baskets, shells, acorns, steatite, obsidian, chert, and animal skins.

Like so many Native American groups, the Chumash were heavily affected by the arrival of the Spanish. The Spanish mission system, and later Mexican and American settlers, had devastating effects on native populations and dramatically altered traditional Chumash lifeways. The introduction of European diseases, against which native populations had no immunity, also took a tremendous toll on the Chumash (Johnson 1987). However, many Chumash descendants still inhabit the region today.

Review of various ethnographic studies and historic maps (King 1975; McLendon and Johnson 1999; Brown 2001; Grant 1978) indicate that prehistoric utilization of the nearby Ventura River was extensive. Several Chumash placenames were identified within the Avocado Site vicinity, including the villages of *quyuy*, *kamexmey*, *micqanaqan*, and *šišolop* (King 1975). Based on a map produced by King (1975), the village site of *quyuy* appears to be the closest village site to the Avocado Site Alternative Station Site.

The site of the historic village of *šišolop* or *Shishilop* (as recorded in site record CA-VEN-3) is located approximately two miles southeast of the Avocado Site Alternative Station Site and one mile east of the



Temporary Staging Area. It was one of the largest villages in the region and was the political and commercial hub at the height of indigenous habitation. The village was located east of the mouth of the Ventura River in the vicinity of Figueroa Street and South California Street, south of the Ventura Freeway (Highway 101) (Exhibit 1) (McLendon and Johnson 1999:33; Ruppenstein 2019). Initial habitation of the village dates back to approximately 1,000 A.D. and extends into the historic period, with the landing and visitation of the Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542 (City of San Buenaventura 2013). It is estimated that the village of *Shisholop* ("in the mud") spanned inland from the beach past the San Buenaventura Mission and was home to between 300 and 400 individuals at its peak. In 1975, the *Shisholop* village site as well as Cabrillo's Landing site were designated as a historical point of interest (No. 18) by the City of Ventura (City of San Buenaventura n.d., 2013).

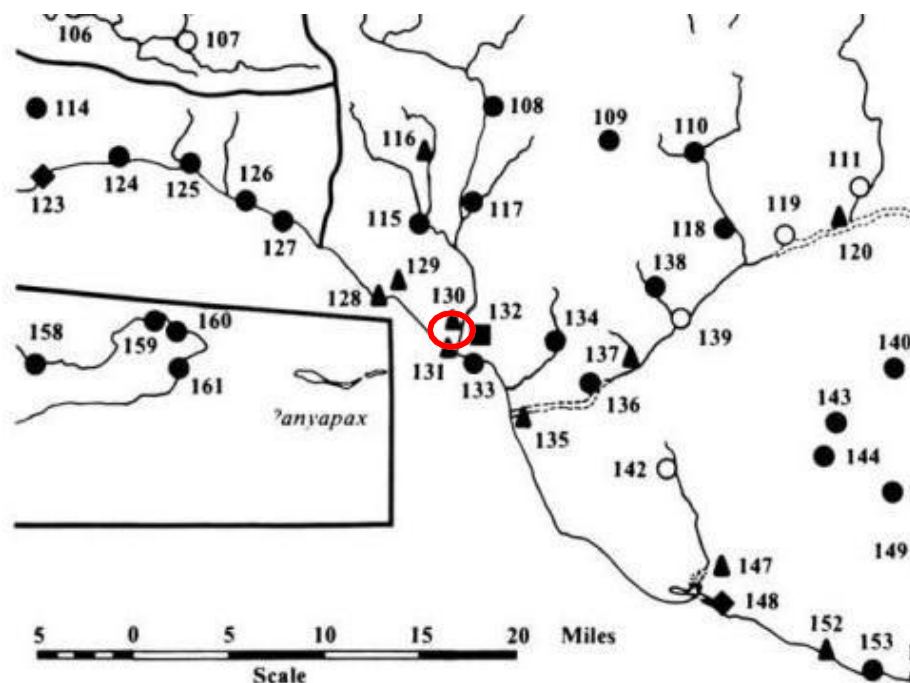


Exhibit 1. Map of Historic Chumash Villages (King 1975).

(Red circle shows approximate location of the Avocado Site)



Exhibit 2. Historic Chumash Villages (McLendon and Johnson 1999)
(Red circle shows approximate location of the Avocado Site)

3.3 Historic Context

Post-Contact history for the State of California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), Mexican Period (1822–1848), and American Period (1848–present).

3.3.1 Spanish Period (1769–1822)

In search of the legendary Northwest Passage, Spanish explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo stopped in 1542 at present-day San Diego Bay. Cabrillo explored the shorelines of present-day Santa Catalina Island as well as San Pedro and Santa Monica Bays. Much of the present California and Oregon coastline was mapped and recorded in the next half-century by Spanish naval officer Sebastián Vizcaíno. Spain laid claim to California based on the surveys conducted by Cabrillo and Vizcaíno (Bancroft 1885:96–99; Gumprecht 1999:35).

The 1769 overland expedition by Captain Gaspar de Portolá marks the start of California's Historic period. With a band of 64 soldiers, missionaries, Baja (lower) California Native Americans, and Mexican civilians, Portolá established the Presidio of San Diego, a fortified military outpost, as the first Spanish settlement in Alta California. In July of 1769, while Portolá was exploring Southern California, Franciscan Fr. Junípero Serra founded Mission San Diego de Alcalá at Presidio Hill, the first of the 21 missions that would be established in Alta California by the Spanish and the Franciscan Order between 1769 and 1823.

A major emphasis during the Spanish Period in California was the construction of missions and associated presidios to integrate the Native American population into Christianity and communal enterprise. Incentives were also provided to bring settlers to pueblos or towns, but just three pueblos were established during the Spanish Period, only two of which were successful and remain as California cities (San José and Los Angeles).

3.3.2 Mexican Period (1822–1848)

After more than a decade of intermittent rebellion and warfare, New Spain (Mexico and the California territory) won independence from Spain in 1821. In 1822, the Mexican legislative body in California ended isolationist policies designed to protect the Spanish monopoly on trade, and decreed California ports open to foreign merchants (Dallas 1955:14).

Extensive land grants were established in the interior during the Mexican Period, in part to increase the population inland from the more settled coastal areas where the Spanish had first concentrated their colonization efforts. The secularization of the missions following Mexico's independence from Spain resulted in the subdivision of former mission lands and establishment of many additional ranchos. During the supremacy of the ranchos (1834–1848), landowners largely focused on the cattle industry and devoted large tracts to grazing. Cattle hides became a primary southern California export, providing a commodity to trade for goods from the east and other areas in the United States and

Mexico. The number of nonnative inhabitants increased during this period because of the influx of explorers, trappers, and ranchers associated with the land grants. The rising California population contributed to the introduction and rise of diseases foreign to the Native American population, who had no associated immunities.

War in 1846 between Mexico and the United States precipitated the Battle of Chino, a clash between resident Californios and Americans in the San Bernardino area.

3.3.3 American Period (1848–Present)

The Mexican–American War ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, ushering California into its American Period. California officially became a state with the Compromise of 1850, which also designated Utah and New Mexico (with present-day Arizona) as U.S. Territories.

Horticulture and livestock continued to dominate the Southern California economy in the 1850s. The Gold Rush began in 1848, and with the influx of people seeking gold, cattle were no longer desired mainly for their hides but also as a source of meat and other goods. During the 1850s cattle boom, rancho vaqueros drove large herds from Southern to Northern California to feed that region's burgeoning mining and commercial boom. The cattle boom ended for southern California as neighbor states and territories drove herds to northern California at reduced prices. Operation of the huge ranchos became increasingly difficult, and droughts severely reduced their productivity (Cleland 2005:102–103).

City of Ventura

The City of Ventura, officially named San Buenaventura, was founded in 1782. San Junípero Serra, established the Mission San Buenaventura as the ninth California mission, naming it after the Italian Saint, Bonaventura. This led to Ventura's nickname, the "city of good fortune" (City of Ventura 2025). By the 1840s, the prior mission land was divided into ranchos, with Rancho San Miguel deeded to Raimundo Olivas. Olivas built a grand hacienda on the banks of the Santa Clara River that remains one of the oldest extant buildings in Ventura today (Visit Ventura CA 2023).

Throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, Ventura was a thriving agricultural hub filled with orchards and gardens that were watered by a 7-mile-long aqueduct. After the city was incorporated on April 2, 1866, it began to transform (City of Ventura 2025). In 1873, Ventura was chosen as the County seat. After the Civil War, several settlers from the east came to the Ventura area to acquire lands and settle. One such easterner was Thomas Scott, a wealthy railroad magnate, who took ownership of land in Ventura. However, Scott never came to stay in Ventura and instead sent Thomas R. Bard, a soldier in charge of train supplies for Union Troops, to manage his property. In the late 1860s, oil was discovered near Ventura that brought an entirely new industry to the city. By 1890, the Union Oil Company was established with Thomas Bard serving as president (Visit Ventura CA 2023). This company and the oil industry led to a boom of growth in Ventura, leading to an increase in the arrival

of immigrants, and thereby increased infrastructure developments in the form of roadways and bridges (City of Ventura 2023). By 1914, the main oil field was drilled and at its peak would produce 90,000 barrels of oil a day (Visit Ventura CA 2023).

Ventura continued to grow slowly throughout the early twentieth century and its downtown saw a big transformation. Main Street in downtown Ventura began to fill in with red brick commercial storefronts, banks, a City Hall, and the Ventura County Courthouse. Victorian and Spanish Revival style residences were constructed in proximity to downtown, making it a walkable, pedestrian friendly area. Around mid-century, the landmark 70,000 square-foot Art Deco style theater was constructed, cementing the area as the hub of Ventura's entertainment and social scene (City of Ventura; Museum of Ventura County 2023).

Due to Ventura's remote location surrounded by coastal waters, forests, and agricultural fields, it was more difficult for people to migrate to the area. In 1969, the last portion of the Ventura Freeway was completed, linking the city to Los Angeles and making travel to the area much easier, resulting in population growth and increase in tourism (Visit Ventura CA 2023). Today, Ventura is home to approximately 109,000 residents who reside in a total of 32 square miles (City of Ventura 2023).

3.4 Historical Development of the Avocado Site

Historical aerial photographs and topographic maps indicate that up to the mid-twentieth century the Avocado Site was undeveloped aside from the Temporary Staging Area that is used for agriculture purposes (NETR 2025; UCSB 2025). Taylor Ranch Road appears to be in existence since at least the 1940s. In the 1950s, portions west of Taylor Ranch Road were used for agriculture. The Avocado Site Alternative Station Site remains undeveloped until the late 2000s when eastern portion starts being used for agricultural purposes.

A topographic map from 1904 (USGS 2025) depicts the entire Avocado Site within the boundaries of Cañada de San Miguelito Rancho. This map also names the large ravine north of the Avocado Site as Cañada del Diablo (Devil's Glen). A topographic map from 1952 (USGS 2025) depicts Taylor Ranch Road (unnamed on map) in its current path between Highway 101 Cañada de Diablo.

The Avocado Site Alternative Station Site is located within the Taylor Ranch that is owned and operated by the Wood-Claeysens Foundation (McIntyre and Rungren 2021). The current footprint of Taylor Ranch is approximately 8,000 acres and is roughly bound by State Route 33 to the east and Highway 101 to the south (McIntyre and Rungren 2021). The Taylor Ranch comprises most of the original 8,877.04 acres of the original Cañada de San Miguelito Rancho granted to Ramón Rodríguez in March of 1841 by Californian Governor Pio Pico. Upon Ramón's death, the land went to his wife Juana Tico de Rodriguez who sold it for approximately one dollar per acre to Greenburg Berry Taylor around 1870 (Hoffman 1862).

A serial agriculturalist, Green B. Taylor purchased the Rancho where he continued raising sheep and cattle. The Ventura Tock Soap Company also had a mine on the land providing the Taylor family with additional income (Hoffman 1862; Newby 1879). When Taylor died, the land passed to his wife and children. Sometime in the early 1930s, the family expanded their property to approximately 30,000 acres, absorbing the nearby hills and oil fields. In 1931, oil was discovered, and oil drilling of the San Miguelito Oil Field, located approximately two miles northwest of the Avocado Site Alternative Station Site, commenced and resumes to the present (Haines 1970; Katz 1987, 1988).

In the 1980s, a satellite campus was proposed for California State University location in Ventura County and approximately 550 acres of the Taylor Ranch was considered but ultimately rescinded (Katz 1988). Since then, historic aerial photographs indicate the land on the Avocado Site Alternative Station Site has been used for agriculture purposes.

4 Background Research

The following research methods were used to identify any archaeological, unique archaeological, or built environment resources within all areas that could be affected by the Avocado Site Alternative including areas of indirect effect.

4.1 CHRIS Records Search

On June 10, 2025, SoCalGas Principal Environmental Specialist Karl Holland, MA, RPA provided South Environmental with the results of the CHRIS records search completed by the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) that included the Avocado Site Alternative Station Site, Temporary Staging Area, offsite impact area, and a 0.5-radius. This search included their collections of mapped prehistoric and historic archaeological resources and historic built-environment resources, State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Site Records (DPR forms), technical reports, archival resources, and ethnographic references. Additional consulted sources include historical maps of the study area, the NRHP, the CRHR, the lists of California State Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and the Archaeological Resources Directory. The results of the records search are presented in Confidential Appendix A.

4.1.1 Previously Conducted Cultural Resource Studies

The SCCIC records search identified two previously completed cultural resources studies (VN-00519 and -00688) within portions of the Avocado Site. A summary of these studies is provided following Table 1. An additional 27 previously conducted studies were identified within 0.5-mile of the Avocado Site, conducted between 1927 and 2012 (Table 1). Three of these studies (VN-01416, -02627, and -03011) are regional overview studies that encompass large areas and do not contain information specific to the Avocado Site location. The remaining studies are a mix of archaeological field reports, architectural and historical evaluations, and survey reports.

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations Within 0.5-Mile of the Avocado Alternative

SCCIC Report Number	Author	Year	Report Title	Proximity to Avocado Components
VN-00091	Bove, Frederick J.	1977	An Archaeological Assessment Report for the Proposed Central Business Redevelopment Project in the City of Ventura, California	East Of Temporary Staging Area and Offsite Impact Area
VN-00127	Clellow, William C. Jr.	1978	An Archaeological and Historical Assessment of Areas Within the Takelines of the Proposed Features of the Ventura County Water Management Project	East Of Offsite Impact Area

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations Within 0.5-Mile of the Avocado Alternative

SCCIC Report Number	Author	Year	Report Title	Proximity to Avocado Components
VN-00428	Martz, Pat	1978	Ventura County Beach Erosion Study Environmental Features and Concerns	West Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-00442	Pence, R. L.	1984	Archaeological Assessment of The Hubbard Property Ventura, California	Adjacent To Temporary Staging Area
VN-00519	Singer, Clay A. and John E. Atwood	1987	Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for Four Potential Borrow Sites Near the Ventura River, Ventura County, California	WITHIN (overlaps portion of offsite impact area)
VN-00572	Dames & Moore	1988	Phase 1 Cultural Resources Survey Fiber Optic Cable Project Burbank to Santa Barbara, California	South Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-00688	Singer, Clay A.	1987	Preliminary Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for a 550± Acre Portion of the Taylor Ranch, in Ventura County, California	WITHIN (overlaps portion of offsite impact area and Temporary Staging Area)
VN-00790	Maxwell, Thomas J.	1989	Phase One Archaeological Survey of Southern Pacific Milling Company Plant and Quarries Along the Lower Ventura River, Ventura Quadrangle, California	Adjacent To Offsite Impact Area
VN-01102	Singer, Clay A.	1977	Preliminary Cultural Resource Survey and Potential Impact Assessment for Thirteen Areas in Southern Ventura County, California	West Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-01153	Peak & Associates	1991	Class 3 Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Carpinteria and Southern Reroutes, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties, California	South Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-01230	Stone, David	1993	Cultural Resources Survey, Four Stream Crossing Associated with the Ventura M-143 Pipeline, Ventura County, California	SE & SW Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-01235	Peak & Associates	1992	Cultural Resources Assessment of Proposed Alternate Alignments in Refugio State Beach, Emma Wood State Beach, and Ventura, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, California	South Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-01265	Peak & Associates	1992	Consolidated Report: Cultural Resource Studies for the Proposed Pacific Pipeline Project	South Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-01416	Husbands, Victor R.	1974	Ventura County Coastal Study	Regional Overview Study
VN-01631	Genge Consultants	1978	Draft Environmental Impact Report Downtown Redevelopment Project City of San Buenaventura, EIR – 478	East Of Offsite Impact Area and Temporary

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				Staging Area
VN-01732	Greenwood, Roberta S.	1980	Archival Study/Historic Overview of Downtown San Buenaventura Redevelopment Study Area	East Of Temporary Staging Area

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations Within 0.5-Mile of the Avocado Alternative

SCCIC Report Number	Author	Year	Report Title	Proximity to Avocado Components
VN-01735	Greenwood, Roberta S.	1984	Cultural Resources Assessments: Neighborhood Commercial Shopping Center, Peking Street Relocation, Highway 33 Realignment, and Demolition of Police Station	East Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-01755	Greenwood, Roberta S.	1984	The Ortega Adobe, West Main Street	East Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-1910	Sriro, Adam	2000	DOT Negative Archaeological Survey Report: Bridge Widening and Rail Installation on State Route 33	East Of Avocado Site
VN-02202	Maki, Mary	2002	Negative Archaeological Survey Report of Approximately 1,800 Linear Feet, Stanley Ave. Widening Project, City of San Buenaventura, Ventura County, California	East Of Station Site
VN-02504	SWCA Consultants	2006	Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the Quest Network Construction Project, Sate of California	South Of Temporary Staging Area
VN-02627	King, Chester	1993	Native American Placenames in the Vicinity of the Pacific Pipeline: Part 2: Gaviota to the San Fernando Valley: Draft	Regional Overview Study
VN-02785	Maki, Mary	2009	Archaeological Survey Report of 20.2 Acres for the Westview Housing Project, City of Ventura, Ventura County, California	East Of Offsite Impact Area
VN-02808	Maki, Mary	2008	Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Approximately 3 Acres for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District's Ventura River Bank Restoration Project Upstream of Stanley Avenue, City of San Buenaventura, Ventura County, California	East Of Station Site
VN-02872	Fortier, Jana	2009	TEA-20 Rural Roadside Inventory: Native American Consultation and Ethnographic Study For Caltrans District 7, Ventura County	South & East Of Station Site, Offsite Impact Area, and Temporary Staging Area
VN-02953	Leaver, Gavin	2010	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for T-Mobile USA Candidate SV12184-C (T&T). 1375 North Olive Street, Ventura, Ventura County, California	East Of Offsite Impact Area
VN-02974	Pierson, Larry J.	1987	Archaeological Resource Study: Morro Bay to Mexican Border	South Of Temporary Staging Area

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations Within 0.5-Mile of the Avocado Alternative

SCCIC Report Number	Author	Year	Report Title	Proximity to Avocado Components
VN-03011	Unknown	2003	Completing the California Coastal Trail (Also LA-11406 & OR-4148)	Regional Overview Study
VN-03069	Loftus, Shannon	2012	Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Survey, AT&T Site SBOV, Stanley 1375 North Olive Street, Ventura, Ventura County, CA	East Of Offsite Impact Area

VN-00519 (Singer 1987)

The *Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for Four Potential Borrow Sites Near the Ventura River, Ventura County, California*, was prepared by Clay A. Singer in 1987. The report synthesizes investigations of three adjoining Areas along the western bank of the Ventura River (Areas 1, 2, and 3, as per the report) and one Area northwest of the other areas on the southern flank of Cañada del Diablo (Area 4). This study included a literature review, a records search, and a pedestrian field survey. Flat, assessable regions were inventively surveyed, while reconnaissance-level methods were reserved for regions that were excessively steep and heavily vegetated. In Area 2, P-56-000849 (CA-VEN-849) was recorded as a prehistoric archaeological site located directly adjacent to a portion of the offsite impact area. Lithic tools were discovered at surface level in several concentrated spots of Area 2. Finds included manos, metates, hammerstones, flakes, and "other stone tools" (Singer 1987: 9). Several of the tools displayed marks from plowing. Area 2 is currently being used for agricultural purposes. No cultural resources were identified in Areas 1, 3, or 4; however, the author states that Areas 1 and 3 remain sensitive due to their proximity to P-56-000849 (CA-VEN-849). As such, the author does not recommend Areas 1, 2, and 3 for development or borrowing/mining. However, Area 4 displayed no cultural resources and no recommendations were provided for this area.

VN-00688 (Singer 1987)

The *Preliminary Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for a 550± Acre Portion of the Taylor Ranch, in Ventura County, California* report was prepared in 1987 by Clay A. Singer and John E. Atwood of Singer and Associates. This report summarizes a cultural resources study for a proposed California State University off-campus center near Taylor Ranch. The study included a record search, archival research, and a pedestrian survey. During the record search, eight previously recorded prehistoric and historic archaeological sites were within the study area or a one-mile radius of the study area. Due to time constraints, thick vegetation, and steep, rugged terrain, an "intuitive" survey was performed with the survey crew focusing on areas most likely to contain cultural resources. During the survey, one

previously recorded prehistoric site (CA-VEN-481) and “several hundred artifacts were noted on the surface” (Singer 1987:13). The report notes the significant amount of tangible (e.g., isolates and sites) and intangible (e.g., indigenous knowledge) cultural heritage that had yet to be documented or synthesized into a cogent impacts assessment. Mitigation recommendations included a comprehensive survey and thorough documentation of Taylor Ranch and the surrounding area to assess the potential impacts of future development accurately.

4.1.2 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

No previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the Avocado Site. The SCCIC records search identified 14 previously recorded cultural resources within 0.5-mile of the Avocado Site (Table 2). One previously recorded resource, a prehistoric lithic scatter (CA-VEN-849), was identified adjacent to the eastern side of the offsite impact area. This resource was originally recorded by Singer in 1987.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within 0.5-Mile of the Avocado Alternative

Primary Number	Trinomial	Resource Age/Description	Resource Eligibility	Recorded by and Year	Proximity to Avocado Components
56-000196	CA-VEN-196	Prehistoric: chipping station, lithic scatter	Resource is no longer extant	Pritchard, W. E. 1969; López, Robert 1988	Southwest Of Temporary Staging Area
56-000481	CA-VEN-481	Prehistoric: milling site	Unevaluated	Capelli, M. and R. Browne 1976	West Of Temporary Staging Area
56-000785	CA-VEN-785H	Historic: Ortega family adobe building constructed in 1857 with later additions	7P: State Ponit of Historical Interest, does not meet CR criteria	Foster, John M. 1984	West Of Temporary Staging Area
56-000842	CA-VEN-842H	Historic: gun emplacement and site of temporary WWII defense camp	Unevaluated	Marmor, Jason D. 1986	South Of Temporary Staging Area
56-000849	CA-VEN-849	Prehistoric: artifact scatter	Unevaluated	Singer, Clay A. 1987	Directly Adjacent East of Offsite Impact Area
56-001109	CA-VEN-1109H	Historic: Ventura River and Ojai Valley Railroad	Resource is no longer extant	Macko, M. 1993;	East Of Station Site, Offsite Impact Area, And Temporary Staging Area

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within 0.5-Mile of the Avocado Alternative

Primary Number	Trinomial	Resource Age/Description	Resource Eligibility	Recorded by and Year	Proximity to Avocado Components
56-100073	N/A	Prehistoric isolate: shell bead	Not eligible	Schmidt, June and James Schmidt 1974	West Of Temporary Staging Area
56-120026	N/A	Prehistoric shell scatters	Not eligible	Unknown	West Of Temporary Staging Area
56-120027	N/A	Prehistoric shell scatters	Not eligible	Unknown	West Of Temporary Staging Area
56-120028	N/A	Prehistoric shell scatters	Not eligible	Unknown	West Of Temporary Staging Area
56-150067	N/A	Historic: Ortega Family Adobe at 215 W. Main St.	Unevaluated	Unknown 1980	East Of Temporary Staging Area
56-150080	N/A	Historic: ca. 1910 cabins at 43 Peking St.	Unevaluated	Unknown 1980	East Of Temporary Staging Area
56-150081	N/A	Historic: 1928 trucking terminal building at 295 N. Olive St.	Unevaluated	Unknown 1980	East Of Temporary Staging Area
56-150209	N/A	California POI Registration for Ortega Historic Residence	7P: State Point of Historical Interest, does not meet CR criteria	López, Robert 1977	East Of Temporary Staging Area

4.2 Native American Coordination

As part of the process of identifying cultural resources within or near the Avocado Site, South Environmental contacted the NAHC to request a review of the Sacred Lands File on May 28, 2025. The NAHC emailed a response on May 28, 2025, which indicated that the Sacred Lands File search was completed with negative results. Because the Sacred Lands File search does not include an exhaustive list of Native American cultural resources, NAHC suggested contacting Native American individuals and/or tribal organizations who may have direct knowledge of cultural resources in or near the Avocado Site. The NAHC also provided contact information for 10 individuals and/or tribal organizations with whom to consult. Accordingly, SoCalGas sent outreach letters to those individuals and/or tribal organizations. The results of SoCalGas' outreach to Native American groups is documented in the associated Tribal Consultation Report prepared for this alternative.

5 Report Findings

No previously recorded archaeological, unique archaeological, or historic built environment resources were identified within the Avocado Site as a result of this desktop inventory report, which included an SCCIC records search, NAHC Sacred Lands File search, and background research. However, several previously recorded prehistoric archaeological sites were identified both east and west of the Avocado Site, one of which (CA-VEN-849) is directly adjacent to the proposed offsite impact area. The records search results in combination with the Avocado Site's proximity to the Pacific Ocean and Ventura River, suggests the area is sensitive for prehistoric cultural resources.

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Appendix A.

CONFIDENTIAL Records Search Results

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