Appendix F. Simi Valley Double Track and Platform Project Cultural Resources Technical Report

This page is intentionally blank.

Cultural Resources Technical Report

Simi Valley Double Track and Platform Project

March 2021

This page is intentionally blank.

Contents

Tables

Figures

Appendices

Acronyms

CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
MP	mile post
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
Project	Simi Valley Double Track and Platform Project
ROW	right-of-way
SCCIC	South Central Coastal Information Center
SCRRA	Southern California Regional Rail Authority
U.S.	United States

This page is intentionally blank.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is proposing the Simi Valley Double Track and Platform Project (Project) to improve safety at the Simi Valley Station and increase operational capacity on Metrolink's Ventura County Line, which operates on the Ventura Subdivision between Moorpark and Los Angeles Union Station. The Project includes at-grade crossing improvements and the construction of new rail infrastructure. The Project would occur primarily within existing railroad right of-way (ROW) owned by SCRRA and Union Pacific Railroad from Sequoia Avenue east to the Arroyo Simi Railroad Bridge just south of Stearns Street in the City of Simi Valley, California (Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2).

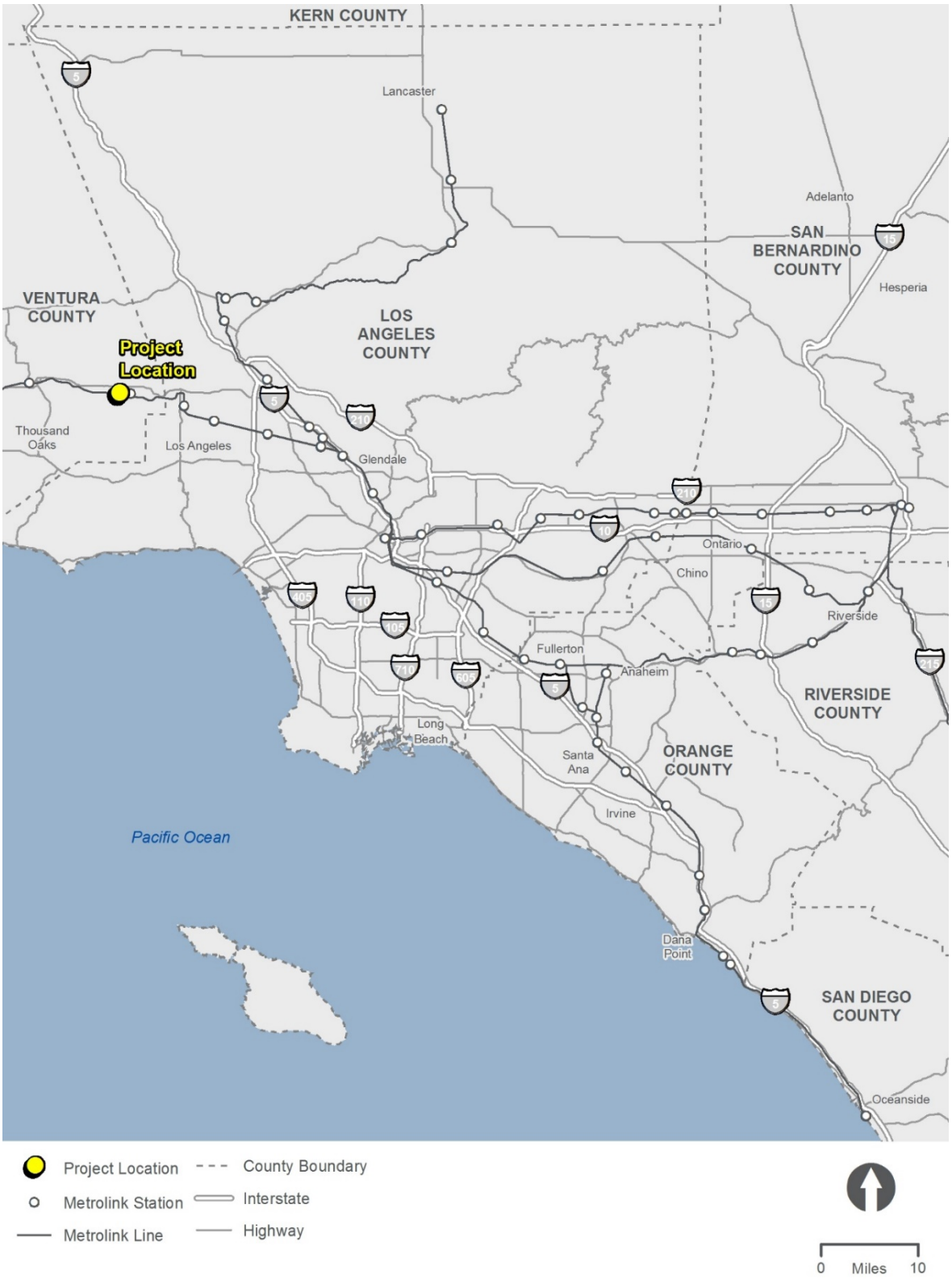
The most important objectives of the Project are to improve safety by reducing conflicting train movements and improve reliability by allowing more efficient train operations. The purpose of the Project is to increase the operational capacity of the Ventura County Line by adding 2.20 miles of siding track and increase the passenger capacity at the Simi Valley Station by adding an additional platform and pedestrian crossing. The Project would include construction of a new side platform (south of the existing platform) and pedestrian undercrossing at the existing Simi Valley Station, the construction of a second siding track along a 2.20-mile stretch of Metrolink's existing Ventura County Line from Mile Post (MP) 436.20 to MP 438.40, and the implementation of two new control points at MP 436.30 (Control Point Sequoia) and MP 438.40 (Control Point Arroyo). New intermediate signals would be installed at MP 433.96, MP 435.13, and MP 437.30. Additionally, Project improvements would include supplemental safety measures at the existing grade crossings at Sequoia Avenue, Tapo Canyon Street, Tapo Street, East Los Angeles Avenue, and Hidden Ranch Drive, which would support future applications by the city to the Federal Railroad Administration for quiet zone status along the alignment. Existing wet and dry utilities (above and below grade) within the Project study area would also be protected in place or relocated pending final engineering design and final placement of the proposed infrastructure.

1.2 Project Location

The Project is located within the City of Simi Valley and is on the United States Geological Survey *Simi Valley East and Simi Valley West, California,* 7.5-minute quadrangle topographic maps (Figure 1-3 and Figure 1-4). The Project study area for cultural resources is defined as the Project footprint and includes the 2.20-mile segment of the SCRRA Ventura County Line, two additional signal improvement locations to the west of the segment, and the 100-foot-wide ROW, which extends 50 feet north and south of the rail centerline. The Project study area begins at its western terminus at Sequoia Avenue and generally follows alongside East Los Angeles Avenue to the eastern terminus south of Stearns Street at the Arroyo Simi Railroad Bridge, between MP 436.20 and MP 438.40. The Project study area also includes wider areas designated as staging areas, grade crossing improvement areas, and construction access locations that extend outside of the general 100-foot-wide ROW. The entire Project study area encompasses 32.99 acres. Figure 1-2 shows the Project's location in southern Simi Valley, the extent of the proposed improvements, and the surrounding area on an aerial basemap.

This page is intentionally blank.

Figure 1-1. Regional Location

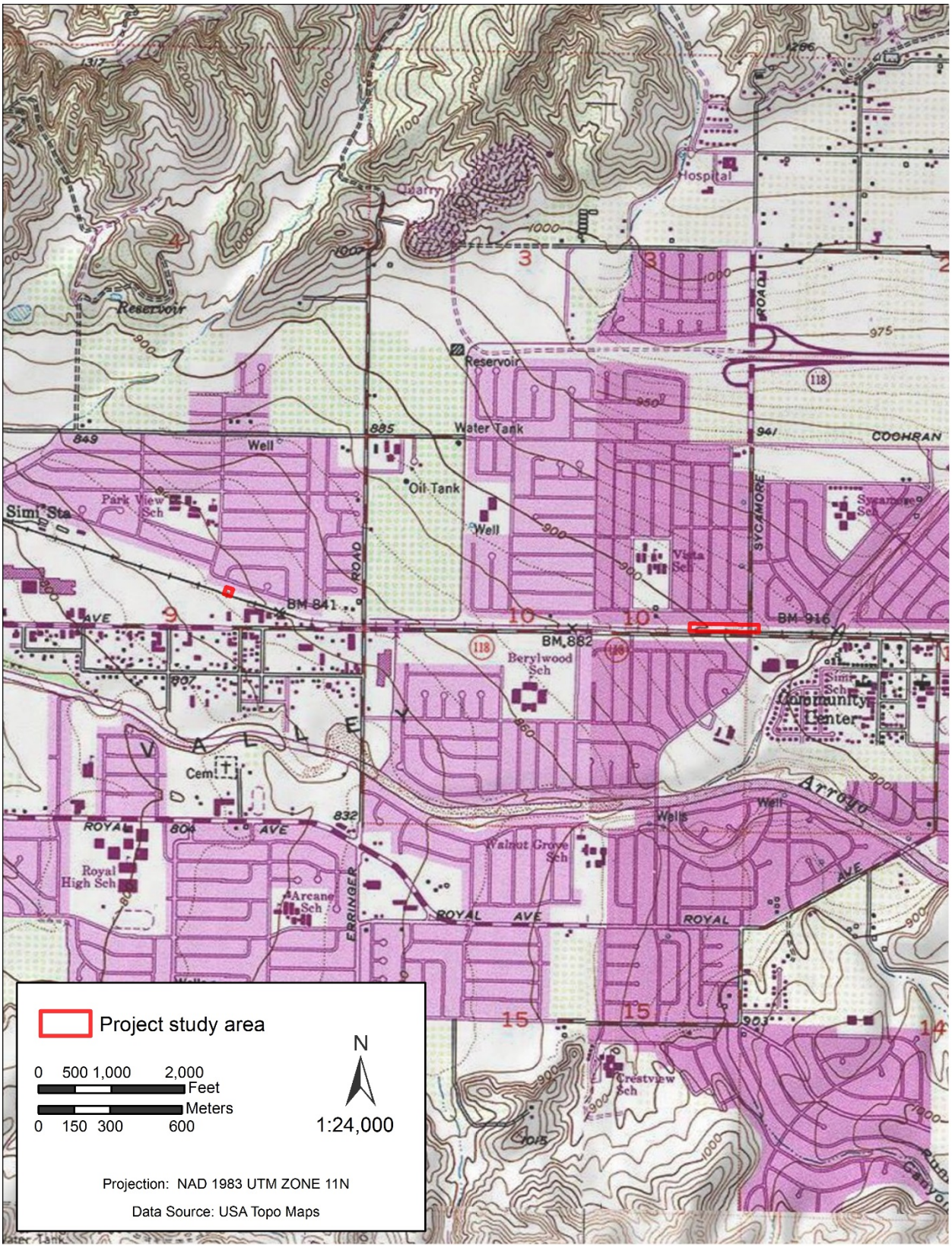


This page is intentionally blank.

Figure 1-2. Project Location

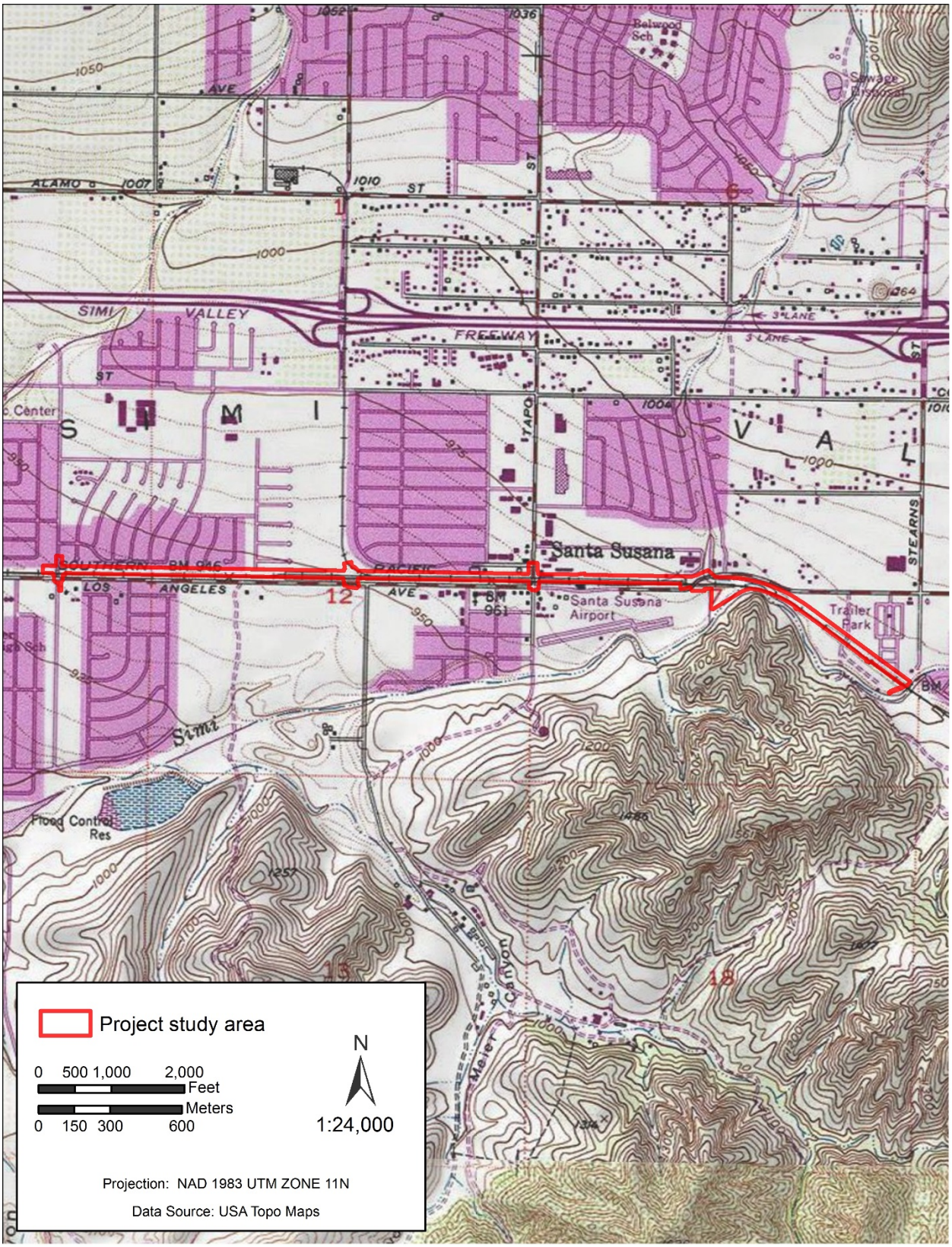
This page is intentionally blank.

Figure 1-3. Western Project Location on the United States Geological Survey *Simi Valley East and Simi Valley West, California* 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Topographic Maps



This page is intentionally blank.

Figure 1-4. Eastern Project Location on the United States Geological Survey *Simi Valley East, California* 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Topographic Map



This page is intentionally blank.

1.3 Regulatory Framework

SCRRA, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, has concluded that the Project is subject to the requirements of CEQA. As part of regulatory compliance under CEQA, a cultural resources study was conducted. The investigation included a literature review, a records search of all recorded cultural resources and previous investigations within 0.25 mile of the Project study area available on file at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), examination of available historic maps and aerial photography, completion of a cultural resources field survey, and completion of this technical report, including evaluation of identified cultural resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of historical Resources (CRHR). HDR Engineering, Inc. cultural resources specialists completed the field survey on May 21, 2020.

This page is intentionally blank.

2 Natural Setting

The Project study area is on the southern edge of the Simi Valley, which is a large, broad east-to-west trending topographic depression with a relatively flat base bounded by the Simi Hills to the south and the Santa Susana Mountains to the north. The Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills are both part of rugged east-to-west trending ranges with intervening canyons and valleys and consist of Cretaceous and Miocene, and younger sedimentary rock. The area is drained by Calleguas Creek and its principal tributary, Conejo Creek, both of which originate in the Santa Susana Mountains. The Arroyo Simi, a 19-mile tributary creek of the Calleguas Creek, runs westward from the Santa Susana Mountains across the valley floor. In its natural state, Arroyo Simi is an ephemeral creek that is seasonally filled during the winter and periods of heavy rain. Elevation within the valley ranges from 700 to 1,000 feet above mean sea level. Much of the valley floor has been developed for agriculture and urban/residential use. Slope within the Project study area ranges from 0 to 2 percent.

2.1 Climate

Climate in the Simi Valley is typical of the Southern California Mediterranean climate zone and is characterized by warm and dry summers and cool, mild winters. Temperatures range from an average highs of 97 degrees Fahrenheit in August to average lows of 38 degrees Fahrenheit in December. Annual precipitation is 17.9 inches, mostly falling in the winter months. Snow and sub-freezing temperatures are extremely rare (United States [U.S.] Climate Data 2020).

2.2 Flora and Fauna

In general, the predominant vegetation types within the Simi Valley include coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, nonnative grasses, and chaparral. Other less prevalent vegetation types in the area include southern riparian scrub, mulefat scrub, southern willow scrub, and saltgrass. Open areas of vegetation are predominantly restricted to the outer portions of Simi Valley, particularly within the northern and southern edges. Much of the Project study area consists of nonvegetated railroad ROW covered by ballast rock (Figure 2-1).

Typical fauna found in the Simi Hills includes mammals such as Virginia opossum, ornate shrew, broad-footed mole, mountain lion, mule deer, bobcat, skunk, California badger, Southern California weasel, California raccoon, ringtail cat, black bear, Botta's pocket gopher, desert cottontail, valley coyote, gray fox, brush rabbit, California grey squirrel, and California ground squirrel, as well as several species of mice, rats, and bats. Some of the reptiles and amphibians in the area include Southern Pacific rattlesnake, San Diego night snake, striped racer, California black-headed snake, two-striped garter snake, San Diego gopher snake, coast mountain kingsnake, California kingsnake, coast patch-nosed snake, ringsnake, western fence lizard, California side blotched lizard, western skink, western whiptail, San Diego horned lizard, San Diego alligator lizard, silvery lizard, California newt, western spadefoot, California toad, California slender salamander, arboreal salamander, American bullfrog, California treefrog, and Pacific treefrog. Bird species found in the Simi Valley include Anna's hummingbird, Canada goose, mallard, California quail, common egret, great blue heron, American bittern, American coot, killdeer, mourning dove, roadrunner, belted kingfisher, black phoebe, barn swallow, cliff swallow, common raven, crow, white-breasted nuthatch, cactus wren, mockingbird, robin, cedar waxwing, starling, least Bell's vireo, hooded oriole, western tanager, and several species of blackbird and woodpeckers. Raptors include turkey vulture, white-tailed kite, American kestrel,

poor-will, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, marsh hawk, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, common nighthawk, great horned owl, short-eared owl, long-eared owl, barn owl, and burrowing owl.

2.3 Soils

The Project study area extends east-to-west along an alluvial fan, generally on the north side of Arroyo Simi. Soils within the Project study area consist of stratified alluvium derived from sedimentary rock that are mapped as Metz loamy fine sand, Mocho loam, Mocho Clay loam, Pico sandy loam, and riverwash (United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service 2020). A typical profile of Metz loamy fine sand consists of loamy fine sand from 0 to 7 inches overlying stratified loamy fine sand from 7 to 60 inches. Mocho loams have a typical profile consisting of two horizons of loam from 0 to 16 inches and 16 to 60 inches. Mocho Clay loam has a typical profile consisting of two horizons of clay loam from 0 to 16 inches and 16 to 60 inches. Pico sandy loam has a typical profile consisting of sandy loam from 0 to 14 inches, stratified sandy loam to loam from 14 to 54 inches, and stratified gravelly sand to gravelly loamy coarse sand from 54 to 60 inches.

Figure 2-1. Overview of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority Right-of-Way near the Western Extent of the Project Study Area (Facing East)

2.4 Paleoenvironmental Change

Resource information on paleontological history is not discussed specifically for Simi Valley but for Southern California as a whole. During the warming and cooling periods associated with the Miocene and Pliocene Epochs (23.03 to 2.6 million years ago), most of the greater Los Angeles Basin and the surrounding hills went through periods of submersion. During the Pleistocene Epoch, from 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago, movement of and collision between tectonic plates formed hills and mountains where the ocean bottom and valleys once existed. Erosion cut through these older sediments as they were uplifted from the terrain that now exists, creating the Simi Valley and the mountain ranges surrounding it.

Due to the combined effects of a rise in sea level and global climate fluctuation, dramatic environmental changes have occurred during the Holocene era (11,700 years ago to present) in the coastal portion of Southern California. The effects of post-glacial sea level changes (Shumway et al. 1961; Warren and Pavesic 1963) and periods of high climatic variability (Larson and Michaelson 1989; Raab and Larson 1997; Jones et al. 1999) on coastal ecosystems have been examined as possible causes of the broad scale changes observed in the cultural patterns of prehistoric groups in this area during the late Holocene.

The climate of the early Holocene in coastal Southern California was marked by pronounced warming and increased aridity between approximately 7,800 and 5,000 years BP (Carbone 1991), during the climatic interval known as the Altithermal. Holocene climate shifts resulted in dynamic ecosystem changes. For coastal populations in the region, perhaps the most important of these was the evolution of the coastal lagoon/estuary systems at the mouths of the major drainages in this area. At the close of the Pleistocene, the coastal plain was crossed by a series of deeply incised drainages. As sea levels rose, these drainages began to flood, forming deep embayments that formed highly productive estuaries such as the Santa Clara River Estuary on the coast, 27 miles west of Simi Valley.

The warm and arid Altithermal period was followed by a cool, moist interval that persisted until about 2,000 BP in coastal Southern California. This period, known as the Mid-Holocene, is best documented by incursions of fresh water at San Joaquin Marsh at approximately 3800 BP, 2800 BP, and 2300 BP (Davis 1992). Climate changes in coastal Southern California during the last 2,000 years or the Late Holocene are better understood, due largely to the more recent and readily apparent nature of their impact on the local environment. Among the clearest of these more recent climatic records is a 1,600-year-old tree ring record reported by Larson and Michaelson (1989) for the transverse ranges, as well as the pollen record produced from samples at San Joaquin Marsh. The early period of the reconstructed climate produced by the tree ring study (AD 500 to 1000) documented a high degree of variability in yearly precipitation levels during this time period. Progressively lower yearly precipitation levels from AD 500 to 750 resulted in extreme drought conditions from AD 750 to 770. This drought period was followed by a 200-year period (AD 800 to 1000) that was characterized by the highest precipitation levels of the entire 1,600-year reconstruction (Larson and Michaelson 1989).

Paleoclimatic records from a wide variety of contexts consistently indicate that generally higher temperatures and extreme droughts characterized the period between AD 1000 and 1300. This event, known as the Medieval Warm period or the Medieval Climatic Anomaly, has interpretive importance because it coincides with important cultural changes observed in the archaeological record throughout California (Raab and Larson 1997; Jones et al. 1999; Stine 1990, 1994). True and Waugh (1982) note that these dry conditions may have contributed to the seasonal settlement shift to upland summer camps. The winter camps positioned along the lower flats of the mountains would likely experience decreasing water supplies, forcing inhabitants to move to locales with a more reliable water supply.

These warm, dry conditions reversed sharply about 600 years ago, correlating with the beginning of the climatic event known as the Little Ice Age (Grove 1986). A variety of data from Southern California indicates both generally lower temperatures and increased precipitation during this interval. Engstrom (1996) provided evidence that the cold, wet climatic conditions characteristic of the Little Ice Age persisted into the early decades of the nineteenth century in coastal Southern California. Intense extra-tropical cyclones brought severe gales, high waves, and high levels of precipitation to the coastal region during the winter months of this period. For the Late Prehistoric and Early Historic occupants, this likely meant more frequent and severe floods than are seen today, as well as increased stream flow. Such climatic events may have reopened and kept some of the local estuaries open to the sea for sustained periods. Archaeological evidence for this phenomenon includes the presence of bay mollusks at several Late Prehistoric archaeological sites that are situated on what were the margins of several lagoons along the Southern California coast (Masters and Gallegos 1997) and the presence of habitation areas along more inland water courses, which date to the Late Prehistoric.

3 Cultural Context

3.1 Prehistoric Setting

The earliest evidence for human occupations in Southern California dates to the Terminal Pleistocene/Early Holocene period. This interval is characterized by a long period of adaptation to environmental changes brought about by the transition from the Late Pleistocene to the early Holocene (12,000 to 7,500 BP). Early human remains dating to about 13,000 years ago were recovered from Santa Rosa Island, making them possibly the oldest skeletal remains found in North America (Arnold and Walsh 2010). These early inhabitants utilized seasonal migrations to exploit various marine resources and hunted large game on the mainland and throughout the Channel Islands. Evidence of early occupations on the Channel Islands 15 miles off the coast of Ventura County and approximately 40 miles west of the Project study area indicate a seafaring skill and technology developed at a very early date.

The earliest evidence of a more sustained presence on the mainland coastal zone is associated with the Millingstone Horizon, which began circa 9000 BP and lasted at least 2 millennia (Arnold and Walsh 2010). Some 40 sites of this age, many yielding abundant metates, manos, hammerstones, and large core tools, have been discovered, mostly in near-coastal locations. Seeds, nuts, shellfish, and mammals were commonly consumed at coastal sites of this era.

During the Middle Holocene period (7500 to 5000 BP), general settlement-subsistence patterns were exemplified by a greater emphasis on seed gathering (Beedle et al. 2008). Mortars and pestles and large, side-notched projectile points were added to the tool repertoires, likely signaling an expansion of the diet, and highly favorable locations near estuaries may have become important residential bases for local populations (Arnold and Walsh 2010), although clearly a largely mobile hunter-gatherer lifeway prevailed. Adaptation to various ecological niches, further population growth, and an increasingly sedentary lifestyle typify the subsequent periods of cultural history in Southern California. The Topanga Complex, exemplified by sites in Topanga Canyon approximately 17 miles south of the Project study area, provide evidence of prehistoric occupation of the Los Angeles Basin during this interval. During the middle to late Holocene (5000 to 1500 BP), cultural patterns remained similar; however, artifacts at many coastal sites became more elaborate, reflecting an increase in sociopolitical complexity and efficiency in subsistence strategies (Beedle et al 2008).

A reliance on the bow and arrow, along with the use of bedrock mortars and milling slicks, occurred during the Late Holocene (after 1500 BP). Mainland sites in the broader region started to reflect a more balanced orientation in people's exploitation of terrestrial and marine resources, with signs of intensified fishing and marine mammal hunting, as well as new technologies such as circular shell fishhooks, stone net weights, refined mortars, and new projectile point types (Arnold and Walsh 2010). Settlement was strongly focused in coastal locations, and increased sedentary lifestyle is suggested by evidence of large clusters of houses, formal cemeteries, and high densities of artifacts and food refuse. These developments along the mainland coast and the gradual population growth that accompanied them laid the foundation for increasing elaboration in ritual life, intensification of regional exchange systems, and complexity in political organization that emerged later (Arnold and Walsh 2010). By the time of European contact, the tribes of Southern California were among the world's most populous and densely settled hunter-gatherer populations, living in large, permanent villages and exhibiting considerable economic, ritual, and technological complexity throughout the region.

3.2 Ethnohistory

The Santa Susana Pass lies between territories inhabited by peoples speaking three different language groups. To the west were the Ventureño Chumash, who inhabited the Simi Valley west to the Ventura County coastline, to the east were speakers of the Fernandeño dialect of Gabrielino (sometimes called Tongva), and to the north were the Tataviam (Johnson 2006). Spanish explorers noted differences in village organization of the Native Americans from east to west along the Santa Clara River, which crosses 9 miles north of the Project study area. This information is one source used today to reconstruct the living patterns and cultural differences of the Ventureño, Fernandeño, and Tataviam peoples living in the area at time of contact (Wlodarski 1999). The Project study area falls within the ethnographic boundaries of Ventureño (eastern coastal) Chumash territory; however, the area also has cultural significance and ties to the Tataviam and Fernandeño (northern) Gabrielino bands.

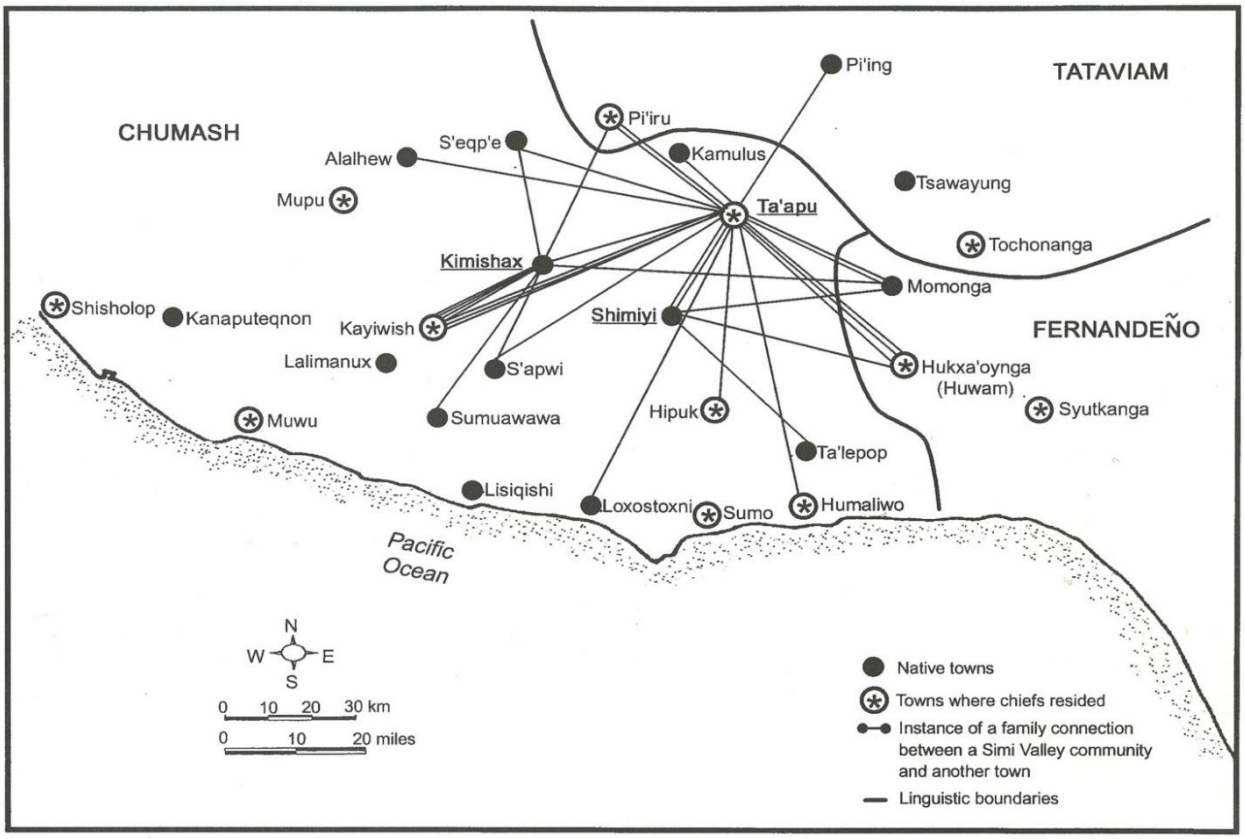
3.2.1 Ventureño Chumash

The Simi Valley region was occupied by native peoples of Ventureño Chumash language and cultural affiliation. While archeological investigations in the San Joaquin Valley and on the Northern Channel Islands provide evidence that people had arrived in California by the end of the Pleistocene Era, no one really knows when the first people arrived who spoke a language ancestral to that spoken by the Chumash Indians. The deep linguistic divisions among the various branches in the Chumash family tree suggest that this group of native peoples may have lived in south central California for over 5,000 years (Havens 1997).

The Ventureño Chumash occupied coastal and interior areas of Ventura County, their settlement extending as far inland as Piru and Castaic Lake near Frazier Park. The Santa Clara River Valley west of Camulos was occupied by the Ventureño, with the Tataviam living in settlements to the east in the Santa Clarita region (Johnson and Earle 1990). Further south, the eastern boundary of Ventureño Chumash territory ran roughly from north to south between Simi Valley on the west and the San Fernando Valley on the east, the latter occupied by native people speaking the Fernandeño dialect of Gabrielino/Tongva (Beedle et al. 2008). The Santa Susana Pass, which spans the southern end of these valleys and connects them, is crossed by this territorial boundary. Further south, the northern reaches of the Simi Hills has formed the traditional anthropological boundary between the Ventureño Chumash and Fernandeño-speakers (Beedle et al. 2008).

Three Ventureño Chumash settlements existed in the Simi Valley in the mission period: Ta'apu, Shimiyi, and Kimishax, which were spelled “Taapu” or “Tahapu,” “Simii” or “Chimii,” and “Qimishag” or “Quimisac,” respectively by Spanish missionaries (Figure 3-1). Variants of these place names exist to this day in the names Tapo Canyon, Simi Valley, and Quimisa Road. Ta'apu was located in Tapo Canyon, on the north side of the Simi Valley. The site of Shimiyi was probably located near the Simi Rancho headquarters in the western part of the modern City of Simi Valley. Kimishax was likely located near Moorpark, perhaps in the vicinity of Quimisa Drive (Johnson 1997). Other named places in the Simi Valley-Moorpark region mentioned by Ventureño Chumash elders consulted by ethnologist John P. Harrington in the early twentieth century include Xi'im, the hills between the cienagas of Simi Valley; the Tierra Rajada (aka Rejada), a translation of Ka'altS'ektS'ek kaSup; and kashi'wej, the Santa Susana Pass (Beedle et al. 2008).

Figure 3-1. Regional Ventureño Chumash Villages



Source: Havens 1997

There were also two mixed Ventureño Chumash and Fernandeño Gabrielino villages mentioned in mission records near the Project study area. The village of Hukxa'oynga (El Escorpión) was located in Bell Canyon in the Simi Hills, to the south of the Simi Valley (Beedle et al. 2008). Bell Canyon is located approximately 4 miles south of the Project study area, on the other side of the Santa Susana Knolls, which are the northern boundary of the Simi Hills. Hukxa'oynga was also known by the Chumash name of Huwam and may have held a mixed linguistic population of Ventureño Chumash and Fernandeño speakers (Johnson 2006). The village (ranchería) of Momonga was the home territory of the original sociopolitical group who lived somewhere along the eastern slope of the Simi Hills in the vicinity of Santa Susana Pass (Johnson 2006). Momonga was located near a major trail that crossed over the original Santa Susana Pass into the Simi Valley. Situated at the foot of the Santa Susana Pass (approximately 5 miles east of the current Project study area), "Momonga existed at a crossroads between Fernandeño, Ventureño, and Tataviam territories, and its pattern of inter-ranchería social relationships reflects this geographic position" (Johnson 2006). Like El Escorpión to the south, Momonga appears to have held a mixed Fernandeño-Ventureño population. According to Johnson (2006), "Only one Tataviam connection is documented, so it does not appear likely that Momonga was occupied by Tataviam speakers."

Records kept by early Franciscan missionaries make it possible to reconstruct the Chumash history of the Simi Valley during the early years of Spanish settlement in California. The names of 130 people from native towns in the valley have been identified in the San Fernando and San Buenaventura mission registers between 1798 and 1829. Both prior population loss and some non-mission employment of Chumash in the local rancho economy account for totals of baptized natives from these

places being substantially lower than the total size of the original village populations. According to Johnson (1997), this number implies an original (pre-mission era) population of Simi Valley in the neighborhood of 250 to 400 people. Additionally, due to whether these baptisms were of people from Ta'apu, Shimiyi, or Kimishax, it has been decided that Ta'apu was the most prominent of these communities.

3.2.2 Fernandeño Gabrielino

The Fernandeño group of Gabrielino Indians resided in the very northern portion of Gabrielino territory, extending to an area just south of present-day Newhall in Santa Clarita, California, approximately 12 miles northeast of the Project study area. The name "Fernandeño" and "Gabrielino" refer to the groups of Native Americans living close to the missions of San Fernando Rey de España and San Gabriel Arcángel, respectively. According to Kroeber (1925) and his definitions stemming from 17 years of "acquaintance and occupation with the Indians of California," the distinction of these two bands is mostly geographic and "conjectural, and there is no known point in which the two groups differed in customs." Fernandeño and Gabrielino speech was mutually intelligible, and it is unknown whether the differences between the idioms were great enough to be considered different dialects in their own right (Kroeber 1925). Because of the great similarities of these two geographic groups, many anthropologists choose to describe them as one cultural group.

The historical and ethnographical pre-contact record for many of California's Native American tribes is relatively sparse. It has been speculated that the Native American people known today as the *Gabrielino* (or *Gabrieleño*), *Tongva*, or *Kizh* (*Kitc*), whose Cupan language belongs to the Takic branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family (Bean and Smith 1978), migrated to the California region from the Great Basin area in successive waves beginning anywhere from 4000 to 1300 years ago (McCawley 2006). The traditional territory of the Gabrielino covers approximately 1,500 square miles and extends across most of modern-day Los Angeles and Orange Counties, from Topanga Creek in the north to Aliso Creek in the south, and includes the Santa Catalina, San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Barbara Islands (Jurmain and McCawley 2009; Bean and Smith 1978). Of the roughly 50 major Gabrielino villages spread throughout their traditional territory, historical records identify at least one in Anaheim in the 1850s named *Hotuuknga* (or *Jutucunga*). It was located on the north bank of *Wanawna* (the Santa Ana River), downstream of Santa Ana Canyon and approximately 0.25 mile upstream from the old Yorba church (McCawley 2006).

While Gabrielinos living in the different villages across their traditional territory shared a collective identity and distinguished themselves from other surrounding tribes through linguistic, religious, kinship and cultural bonds; political identities were associated with home villages, and internal material, economic, linguistic, and metaphysical differences influenced by geography existed. Jurmain and McCawley (2009) explain:

> Although the Tongva shared a common language and culture, the land shaped and molded their villages in different ways. The character of the Los Angeles region—one of the most geographically diverse places in the world, with high mountains and foothills, broad valleys and prairies, seacoast and offshore islands—impressed upon them, engendering differences in lifestyle and wealth, especially between Indians living on the seacoast and those further inland. The coastal Indians benefited most from this diversity of resources. They had many of the same foods as their inland neighbors—game such as deer, antelope, rabbits, and squirrels as well as plant foods like acorns, seeds, and bulbs—but they also had fish, seals, sea lions, seabirds, and shellfish. By comparison, the Indians living in the valleys had a more restricted diet and were more likely to suffer from droughts and famines.

Jurmain and McCawley (2009) continue:

> These regional differences [among the Gabrieleños] went beyond material goods and economic wealth; there were cultural and even philosophical differences as well. The Tongva spoke at least three distinct dialects of their language, one on the Channel Islands and mainland coast, another in the San Gabriel Valley, and a third in the San Fernando Valley (a fourth dialect spoken on distant San Nicolas Island may have been related to the language of the Luiseño Indians to the south). They traded, and even intermarried, with different neighboring tribes like the Chumash, Serrano, and Cahuilla. And they had different religious beliefs about how the world was created and how Indians came into being.

The first contact between Gabrielinos and European newcomers took place when Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo arrived at Santa Catalina Island in 1542 (McCawley 2006; Bean and Smith 1978). While subsequent and sporadic interactions with European explorers may have occurred over ensuing decades, it was not until the Gaspar de Portolá expedition in 1769 that the presence of Europeans would begin to fundamentally alter traditional Gabrielino ways of life (McCawley 2006).

It was common practice of the Spanish Catholics to impose the names of missions on local tribes in their proximity, and it is from Mission San Gabriel Arcángel—established in the heart of traditional Gabrielino territory on 8 September 1771—that the Gabrielino received their name. The coming of the Spanish and the construction of the missions, which "essentially [served as] coercive religious, labor camps organized primarily to benefit the colonizers" (Castillo 1998), had drastic social, cultural and economic effects. Beginning in 1778, the Mission clergy begin mass conversions of Gabrielinos to Christianity, and—despite numerous acts of revolt, rebellion and resistance (Jurmain and McCawley, 2009; McCawley 2006; Bean and Smith 1978)—by 1800 "[m]ost Gabrielinos [were] missionized, dead, or fled to other areas" (Bean and Smith 1978).

Following independence from Spain, Mexican authorities instituted a process of mission secularization, and by 1834, all missions in Southern California had been largely secularized and ranchos established on their lands. While historical records from the secularization period are scarce, it is known that many Native Americans in Southern California were exploited as forced labor during this time by Mexican rancheros (Shipek 1977).

The aftermath of the Mexican-American War (1846–1848) and establishment of the State of California in 1850 brought an increasing number of non-native settlers into the territory. A series of moves designed to displace and dispossess California Indians from their land soon followed (Castillo 1998; Shipek 1977). Shipek (1977) explains:

> Through a complex series of overlapping and contradictory events, inadequate instructions to local officials, and deliberate misrepresentations, legal titles to lands occupied and used by Indians were not acquired under proper procedures from the proper commission. Except for a few rancho grants to individual Indians, legal title was not confirmed to Indian pueblos or other villages.
>
> However, the primary reason used by Americans to justify taking the land from the Mission Indians was that Indians occupied the best watered lands and that Southern California could not develop until "industrious settlers" acquired them. Even those who advocated fair and humane treatment of Indians…advocated their removal to small reservations where they would still be available to provide farm and ranch labor for the region…

As the ranchos began to decline in the 1860s, the need for farm and ranch labor grew as farming, citrus production, and sheep ranching began to dominate the Southern California landscape (Jurmain

and McCawley 2009). While many Gabrielinos filled these positions, the spread of disease also became more acute during this time, and from 1860 to 1900 a smallpox epidemic devastated the Gabrielino population. With the exception of a few “isolated families and Gabrielinos living in remote areas” Gabrielino traditional culture was nearly extinct by 1900 (Bean and Smith 1978).

Through the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, the U.S. granted the opportunity for Native Americans to become U.S. citizens while retaining their tribal citizenship. This act was intended to both acknowledge the role many Native Americans played in World War I and “to further the government’s goal of assimilating them into the general population” (Jurmain and McCawley 2009). Despite its underlying assimilationist goal, “as a landless urban tribe, the Tongva well understood the importance of citizenship” (Jurmain and McCawley 2009), as it offered them a more impactful and inclusive political voice. Today, they are still fighting for recognition from the U.S. federal government of their shared and collective tribal identity, an identity which is firmly tied to their traditional territory and ancestral lands.

Some success has been achieved on this front, as the State of California officially recognized the Gabrielino (“Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe”) as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles Basin, their living ties to the land, and the perseverance of their community, in Assembly Joint Resolution 96, Chapter 146 of the Statutes of 1994. At present, no less than four groups represent Gabrielino interests in Southern California: the Gabrielino/Tongva Tribe; the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe; the Gabrieleño/Tongva Tribal Council; and the Kizh Nation, or Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians.

3.2.3 Tataviam

A small group of people speaking a language with Takic influences is believed to have migrated to the Santa Clarita Valley around AD 450. Although it is unknown what these people called themselves, the Kitanemuk (who lived in the Antelope Valley to the north) called these people the *tata·viam,* which is a name related to the Kitanemuk words *ta·viyi-k,* or 'sunny hillside' and *ata·vihukwa* meaning 'he is sunning himself'. The upper Santa Clara River Watershed is an area in which south-facing slopes are a dominant characteristic of the terrain. Thus, *tata·viam* might be roughly translated as 'people facing the sun' or 'people of the south-facing slope.' When Kroeber (1925) first recognized the Tataviam people as a distinct entity, he used their name in the neighboring Chumash: Alliklik (or Ataplili'ish) and classified them as a Chumash subgroup (Kroeber 1925). However, P. Harrington of the Smithsonian Institution found in his ethnographic fieldwork that these were derogatory terms meaning “grunters” and “stammerers” in Chumash (King and Blackburn 1978), and the term “Tataviam” is preferred by scholars today. Additionally, the Tataviam are no longer classified as a subgroup of Chumash, as they display more similarity to their southern Takic-speaking neighbors (the Gabrielino), not only in language, but in dress, political organization, and societal aspects including the types of items used in social interaction and the internal organization of cemeteries and villages (King and Blackburn 1978).

The Tataviam lived primarily on the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River, east of Piru Creek. Their territory extended from the Antelope Valley to the San Gabriel Mountains. Archaeological data indicate that subsistence patterns and ritual practices were similar to neighboring Chumash and Gabrielino culture groups; these groups were hunter-gatherers, subsisting on acorns, yucca, juniper berries, seeds, and small game (King and Blackburn 1978). Many of the place names in the valley, such as Castaic, Piru, Camulos, and Hasley, reflect a Tataviam linguistic origin (Diss et al 2015). The few survivors of the mission period intermarried, and the last Tataviam language speaker died in 1916.

Those people called the Serrano by the Spanish are actually four groups with a similar linguistic dialect: the Vanyume, Kitanemuk, Alliklik (Tataviam), and Kawaiisu. All bands of Native Americans referred to as "Serrano" share a language root in the Takic family of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock. The territory attributed to these four groups changed over time but can mainly be described as spanning the San Bernardino Mountains east of Cajon Pass, north of these mountains past present-day Victorville, eastward as far as Twentynine Palms, and south into the Yucaipa Valley. These lands included desert floors, valleys, and mountains. The Serrano are one of the designated inland language groups of Takic speakers, but the Tataviam territory is on the outskirts of the Serrano designation. It is possible that the Tataviam "began to differentiate from other Southern California Takic speakers around 1000 B.C.," as it is around this time that the funerary practice of cremation rather than burial predominates (King and Blackburn 1978). Ultimately, during Harrington's ethnographic studies, his Kitanemuk informants told him the Tataviam language was as foreign to them as English, and the Gabrielino dialect was more easily understood than Tataviam (King and Blackburn 1978). This implies that the Tataviam language was of Takic origin but not in the same subfamily as the dialects of the other Serrano groups and that (at least by the time of Spanish contact) the Tataviam were a distinct cultural group from their Serrano neighbors.

3.3 History

The history of Southern California can be broken down into three major periods: Spanish (1769–1822, Mexican (1822–1848), and American (1848–present). The Spanish colonization of California was achieved through a program of military-civilian-religious conquest. Under this system, soldiers secured areas for settlement by suppressing native and foreign resistance and established fortified structures (presidios) from which the colony would be governed. Civilians established towns (pueblos) and stock-grazing operations (ranchos) that supported the settlement and provided products for export. Ultimately, 4 presidios and 21 missions were established in Spanish California between 1769 and 1821 (City of Simi Valley 2012).

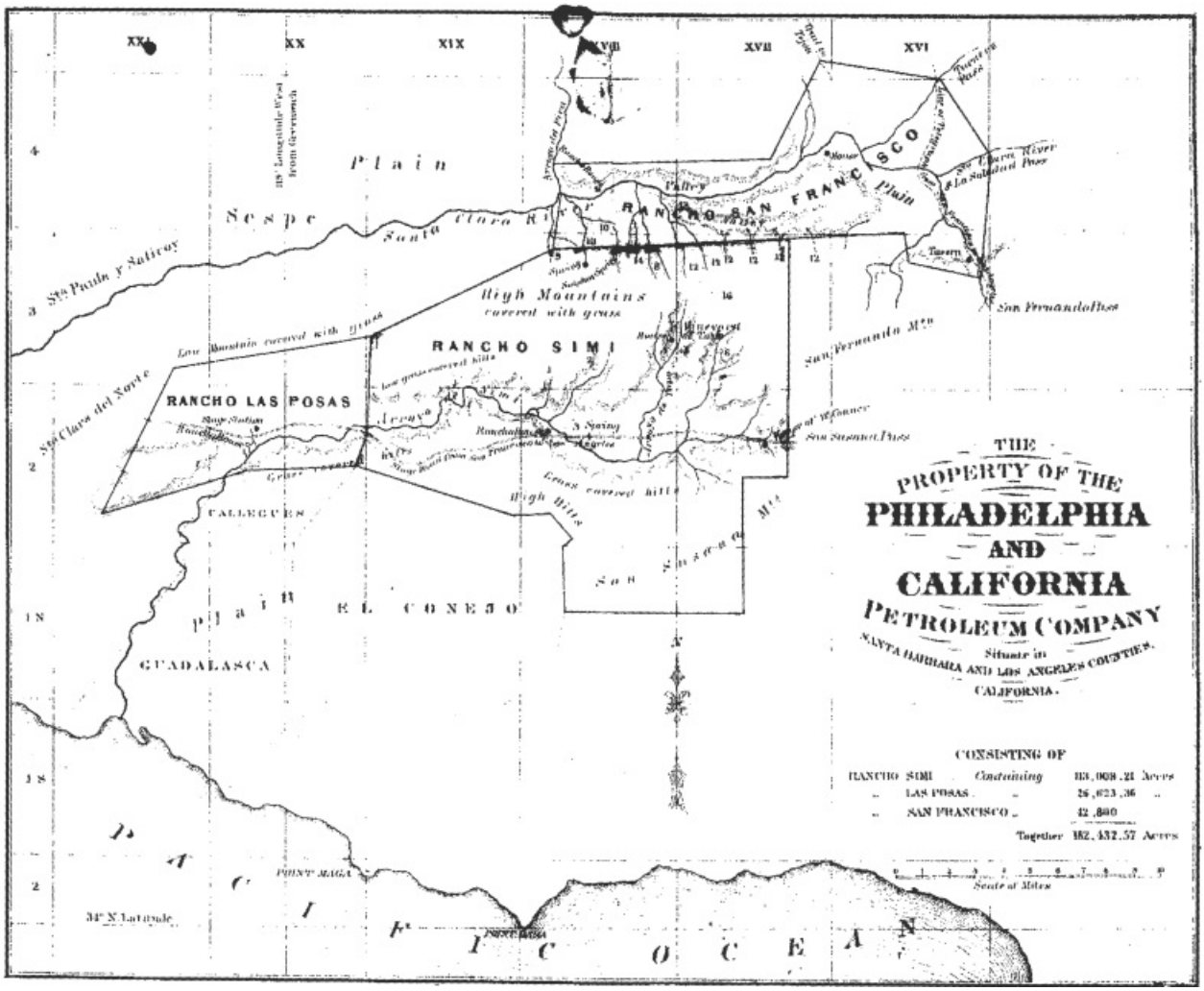
Ventura County was officially part of the "Distrito de Santa Barbara" during the Spanish period. Mission San Buenaventura, located in the City of Ventura in western Ventura County (roughly 35 miles west of the Project study area), was founded by Spanish missionaries in 1782. A relatively small number of native people from the Simi Valley area had been recruited as newcomers to Mission San Buenaventura. Only after the establishment of Mission San Fernando Rey (located about 13 miles east of the Project study area over the Santa Susana Pass) in 1797 was the bulk of the native population in Simi Valley converted. Some 70 native residents of the Simi Valley were baptized at Mission San Fernando in February of 1803 (Beedle et al. 2008). By 1805, most residents of the three main Ventureño Chumash villages had been baptized by the Franciscans at San Fernando, possibly not entirely through their own free will (Johnson 1997).

Mission San Fernando was established on September 8, 1797, at the site of the ranchería of Achoicominga (*Achooykomenga*). Achoicominga was a ranchería composed of Ventureño Chumash, Fernandeño, and Tataviam natives who had resettled there as agricultural workers on a rancho established by Francisco Reyes, a citizen of the Pueblo of Los Angeles (Johnson 2006). Missionaries realized they would need more land for agriculture and livestock, and they looked north to the Santa Clarita Valley to establish their estancia, or mission rancho. The Tataviam who had been living in the valley were relocated to the mission, where they were baptized and put to work. After establishment of the Mission San Fernando, much of the Santa Clarita Valley was used by the mission for ranching. Between the years of 1798 and 1832, San Fernando harvested over 156,000 bushels of

wheat, barley, corn, beans, peas, garbanzos (chickpeas), and habas (broad beans). The last inventory recorded 32,000 grapevines and over 1,000 fruit trees (McLaughlin 2003).

In 1821, after more than a decade of revolutionary struggle, Mexico achieved independence from Spain, and California became a distant outpost of the Mexican Republic. Under a law adopted by the Mexican congress in 1833, the mission lands were to be secularized and subdivided into land grants, or ranchos, to be sold to prominent military and politicians. The missions were given 10 years to complete their education of the Native Americans before the enactment of the Secularization Act of 1833. This act privatized the Franciscans' landholdings, redistributing the lands and holdings through land grants. This land redistribution resulted in the presence of several major ranchos located in the region, including: Rancho Santa Paula y Saticoy (1843), Rancho Sespe (1833), Rancho San Buenaventura (1846), Rancho San Francisco (1839), Rancho Las Posas (1834) and Rancho Simí (1795). Rancho Simí encompassed much of the present-day City of Simi Valley (Figure 3-2).

Figure 3-2. Map of Rancho Simi and Vicinity



Source: Havens 1997

The first Spanish settlement in present Simi Valley was the Rancho Simi settlement. Granted by the Spanish Crown in 1795 to Santiago de la Cruz Pico, a mestizo from Sinaloa, Rancho Simi consisted of about 113,000 acres and included a large amount of property, which stretched from the

Santa Susana Mountains to well past the modern town of Moorpark. Early dwellings at the Rancho Simi are currently located at the Strathearn Historical Park, and some of the buildings in the park are NRHP-listed resources. Pico and other military retirees in the Simi-San Fernando region had established farming and stock operations before the founding of Mission San Fernando in 1797; native people from local Indian villages were hired as farm laborers and herders (Beedle et al. 2008). The rancho as it existed in the 1830s encompassed the Simi and Little Simi Valleys from the Santa Susana Mountains westward to modern Moorpark, with El Camino Real from Mission San Fernando to Mission San Buenaventura passing by the rancho headquarters. It seems the original boundary of Rancho Simi shifted northeastward at some point between around 1820 and 1840 at the expense of sheep grazing lands in the valley used by Mission San Fernando (Beedle et al. 2008).

Beginning in the early 1840s, Mexico's hold on California was threatened by the steady overland migration of American settlers into the region. War between the U.S. and Mexico commenced in May 1846. The U.S. eventually prevailed, and the American victory over Mexico was formalized in February 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Under the treaty, Mexico ceded to the U.S. the present states of California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, and parts of Wyoming and Colorado (City of Simi Valley 2012). In January 1848, just a few days before the treaty was signed, James Marshall discovered gold on the American River. Marshall's discovery triggered the gold rush, a massive influx of fortune-seekers into California that led to the creation of major cities and numerous smaller settlements (City of Simi Valley 2012). The influx of settlers also caused a large increase in the demand for beef. This demand for cattle to feed the gold rush miners resulted in a search for easier access to the lands north of Los Angeles and east into the Mojave Desert (Wlodarski 1999). The sudden and enormous growth of California's population brought about by the gold rush resulted in a movement for statehood that culminated in the state constitutional convention at Monterey in 1849 and the establishment of California as a state in 1850. In 1862, President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act, further encouraging western migration by offering 160 acres in exchange for a small fee.

Ventura County was officially established on January 1, 1873. In the 1880s, Ventura County followed the pattern of the rest of Southern California: large Spanish or Mexican land grants being sold and developed for small-scale agriculture (Beedle et al. 2008). In 1887, Simi Rancho was sold to a syndicate including Thomas Bard, L. T. Garnsey, and Dan McFarland. It was hailed by the Los Angeles Tribune as the "largest individual transaction…. consummated in this county since the boom began" (Beedle et al. 2008). The ranch consisted of 96,000 acres, including rich valley lands suitable for agriculture and 17,000 acres of grazing pasture. In early 1888, the tract was subdivided for sale at $10 to $100 per acre.

Full-fledged settlement of Simi Valley began in the 1880s when Simi Land and Water Company was formed to sell parcels as a commercial venture. The California Mutual Benefit Colony of Chicago was created by a group of doctors wishing to establish a health colony on the banks of the "Simi River." Their investments led to the creation of a town site named "Simiopolis, (later shortened to Simi) and often called "The Colony." Two houses from this time period, the Haigh-Talley Colony House and the Miss Bessie Printz Colony House, remain in Simi Valley; however, the rest have been lost due to deterioration and/or development. Simi colonists and other settlers purchased the old Rancho Simi lands, and these early pioneers included the Strathearn family (City of Simi Valley 2012). The Strathearn family eventually built their home adjacent to the Simi adobe, a structure now known as the Simi Adobe-Strathearn House. In the 1880s, Strathearn granted ROW for the Southern Pacific Railroad, catalyzing the development of The Colony (Beedle et al. 2008).

In May of 1900, the Southern Pacific Railroad Company issued an advertisement for contractors to help build a new alignment of the "coast division" of the railway, this one going through Simi Valley. This "cut off" was meant to "materially shorten both the distance and the time for trains between San Francisco and Los Angeles" (Garges 1997). By early 1900, the Southern Pacific Railroad had "established a loading spur with stock pens and loading ramps" at the north end of Madera Road (Garges 1997). As part of the cut off, Southern Pacific Railroad blasted a 7,400-foot tunnel through the Santa Susana Mountains in July of 1900 (Garges 1997). The project took 3 years to complete. After the completion of two other shorter tunnels on the route and some additional line modifications, the "Mantalvo Cutoff," as it was known, opened for service in 1904 (Historic Resources Group and Jaffe 1993). The Project study area follows the route of the original Mantalvo Cutoff. The opening of the Santa Susana Tunnel prompted construction of the Santa Susana depot. The depot, completed in 1903 at the crossroads of Tapo Street and Los Angeles Avenue, soon became the commercial center for the surrounding agricultural community. The depot was located near the center of the Project study area prior to its relocation to 6503 Katherine Road near Santa Susana Park in 1975.

Exploration for oil was another late nineteenth and early twentieth century enterprise throughout Ventura County. The upper Santa Clarita Valley on the eastern side of the Santa Susana Pass became the first location of oil drilling in Southern California after oil seeps were discovered by American settlers in Pico Canyon in 1865. The seeps had been known for centuries to the Tataviam, who had used the raw asphaltum for waterproofing and other purposes. The development of the Pico oil field and construction of the Pioneer Oil Refinery in the mid-1870s, along with the completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad through the area in 1876, spurred an oil boom in the Santa Clarita Valley (Diss et al 2015). The Simi Valley Oil Field includes the Tapo Canyon Tract, which housed the first five oil wells in Simi Valley. These wells were put in by the Simi Oil Co. between 1900 and 1902 (Kew 1918). The first wells of the region northwest of the town of Simi were drilled by the Union Oil Company in Brea Canyon (located on the Tapo Tract) in 1891, but it took until 1910 to drill a truly productive well in the area (Kew 1918). Oil flowed from each of these valleys into refineries via a pipe and was refined into kerosene, lamp oil, naphtha, and other petroleum derivatives.

Due to the city's close proximity to Hollywood, the film industry provided a small boost to the local economy over the years. Despite the city's association with the film industry, agriculture remained central to the area's economy, including pasturage and citri-culture. These enterprises continued into the 1950s; however, an increase in labor costs and the depletion of the natural groundwater supply rendered the continuance of large-scale agriculture infeasible. This led to a shift in the life patterns of Simi Valley in the 1950s, including a population increase post-World War II and the influx of subdivision development. As the San Fernando Valley became more populous, Simi Valley was looked upon as a place to move further away from the hustle and bustle of the big city (Havens 1997). The continued increase in population in Simi Valley and the adjacent areas led to a strain on the water supply and significantly increased traffic congestion during the 1960s. By 1965, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California had completed its project of a pipeline to provide an adequate water supply, and later construction projects served to alleviate the traffic congestion into the 1990s (City of Simi Valley 2012).

The City of Simi Valley was incorporated on October 10, 1969, and by 1972, the city adopted its first General Plan. Population and economic growth during the 1980s and 1990s swelled or remained stagnant in response to regional factors. According to the *City of Simi Valley General Plan*, Simi Valley has "transformed itself into a city with a broad and diverse economic base, with a population of 125,096 and 40,746 homes as of 2006" (City of Simi Valley 2012).

4 Previous Investigations

4.1 Sacred Lands File Search

On December 3, 2020, a search request of the Sacred Lands File was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission to confirm that no known tribal cultural resources are present within the Project study area. On December 11, 2020, the Native American Heritage Commission responded that the results of the Sacred Lands File check were negative and provided a list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area.

4.2 Previous Cultural Resource Surveys

Prior to fieldwork, a records search for the 2.20-mile SCRRA segment was requested through the SCCIC. The SCCIC is 1 of 12 regional information centers that comprise the California Historical Resources Information System. The California Historical Resources Information System works under direction of the California Office of Historic Preservation and the State Historic Resources Commission. The SCCIC houses information about historical resources and reports within Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties per California Historical Resources Information System standards. A review of the SCCIC files identified 14 previous cultural resources investigations that intersect with the 0.25-mile records search radius (Appendix A [Confidential]). An additional records search requested for the two signal improvement locations to the west of the 2.20-mile segment identified four additional cultural resources investigations within the 0.25-mile records search radius. The investigations are summarized in Table 4-1. Of particular note, a 1993 cultural resource survey conducted by MacFarlane Archaeological Consultants covered the entirety of the current Project footprint.

Table 4-1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations within the 0.25-mile Search Area

Report Number	Report Year	Investigation Type	Report Title	Author(s)
VN-00252	1980	Archaeological survey	*Archaeological Survey Report on the Proposed Extension of Tapo Canyon Road in the Simi Area of the County of Ventura*	Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.
VN-00280	1980	Archaeological survey	Archaeological Survey Letter Report	Kuhn, Michael
VN-00371	1978	Archaeological survey	*Archaeological Assessment of the East Valley Community Park Simi Valley, California*	Pence, R. L.
VN-00572[a]	1988	Archaeological survey	*Phase 1 Cultural Resources Survey Fiber Optic Cable Project Burbank to Santa Barbara, California For US Sprint Communications Company*	Dames & Moore
VN-00575	1988	Archaeological Survey	*An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Areas Involved in the Proposed Swepi Well Locations and Pipeline Routes Oxnard Plain, Ventura County, California*	Lopez, Robert

Table 4-1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations within the 0.25-mile Search Area

Report Number	Report Year	Investigation Type	Report Title	Author(s)
VN-00830	1977	Archaeological survey	*An Archaeological Survey of Arroyo Simi Between Tapo Street and Stearns Street, Simi Valley, Ventura County, California*	Lopez, Robert
VN-01102	1977	Archival records search	*Preliminary Cultural Resource Survey and Potential Impact Assessment for Thirteen areas in Southern Ventura County, California*	Archaeological Research, Inc.
VN-01153[a]	1991	Archaeological survey	*Class 3 Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Carpinteria and Southern Reroutes, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties, California*	Peak & Associates, Inc.
VN-01265	1992	Cultural Resources Study	*Consolidated Report: Cultural Resources Studies for the Proposed Pacific Pipeline Project*	Peak & Associates, Inc.
VN-01271[a]	1993	Archaeological survey	*Phase 1 Archaeological Survey: Santa Clara River Alternative Broadway Feeder Option and San Fernando Valley Conveyance Project, Simi Valley Feeder Options A, B, C, SubOption, and Perliter Tunnel, Calleguas Metropolitan Water District, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, California*	MacFarlane Archaeological Consultants
VN-01952	1980	Archaeological survey	*Historic Property Survey: Tapo Canyon Road Extension, Simi Valley, California*	Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.
VN-01977	2001	Archaeological survey	*Phase I Archaeological Survey of 1789 Patricia Avenue, City of Simi Valley, Ventura County, California*	MacFarlane Archaeological Consultants
VN-01992	2001	Archaeological survey	*Phase I Archaeological Survey of the 4781 Los Angeles Avenue Study Area, City of Simi Valley, Ventura County, California*	W & S Consultants
VN-02504[a]	2006	Survey and monitoring	*Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the Qwest Network Construction Project, State of California*	SWCA Environmental Consultants
VN-02872	2009	Ethnographic study	*TEA-21 Rural Roadside Inventory: Native American Consultants and Ethnographic Study for Caltrans District 7, Ventura County*	ICF and Jones & Stokes
VN-02976	1993	National Register of Historic Places evaluation	*Determination of Eligibility Report: Santa Susana Railroad Depot*	Historic Resources Group and Robin C. Jaffe
VN-03094[a]	2002	Historic resource evaluation	*Historic Resource Evaluation Report: Mason Avenue At-Grade Crossing and Safety Improvements Project Los Angeles City, California*	Greenwood and Associates

Table 4-1. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations within the 0.25-mile Search Area

Report Number	Report Year	Investigation Type	Report Title	Author(s)
VN-03209	2015	Cultural resources survey	*Cultural Resources Technical Report: Metrolink FY2013-14 Rehabilitation Project, Metrolink Bridges 438.62 and 438.89 Ventura Subdivision Simi Valley, California*	HDR

Notes:
[a] Overlaps Project study area

4.3 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

A review of SCCIC files identified three previously recorded cultural resources within the 0.25-mile search radius of the Project study area: P-56-100001, P-56-152301, and P-56-153135 (Appendix A [Confidential]). Of these, P-56-152301 overlaps with the Project study area.

4.3.1 Previously Recorded Resources within the Project Study Area

P-56-152301

P-56-152301 marks the approximated original location of the Santa Susana Railroad Depot. The Santa Susana Depot opened in 1903 and served passengers until 1941. It was a standard design of Southern Pacific Railway known as a “Two-story Combination Depot No. 22” (Historic Resources Group and Jaffe 1993). In addition to the depot, a section house, several box cars used as living quarters, warehouses, and an oil loading rack were originally located in the area. Freight trains continued to transport local produce, citrus, and walnuts until the mid-1970s when the area changed from agricultural land to suburban housing developments. The last tenants of the building, Western Union Telegraph and Railway Express, vacated the building in 1974. To spare the building from demolition, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District acquired the depot in 1975, then the last remaining original building in the town of Santa Susana, and relocated it to its current address at 6503 Katherine Road, outside of the Project study area, near Santa Susana Park where it has been rehabilitated into a museum.

Typical of the Combination Depot No. 22, the Santa Susana Depot is a simple wood frame vernacular structure designed in a simplified Eastlake style. It is a one- and two-story structure with steeply pitched gabled roofs with ridges running parallel to the tracks. In 1993, Historic Resources Group and Robin C. Jaffe of the American Institute of Architects conducted an evaluation of the resource (Historic Resources Group and Jaffe 1993). Despite having been relocated, the depot was recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP because it is a rare example of a type of construction associated with the building of the transportation system in California that continues to exhibit the character-defining features of its type and style. It has also maintained the same orientation to the railroad track along the same line as it was originally constructed. Although the data from the SCCIC has P-56-152301 at the original location of the Santa Susana Depot, no remnants of the removed depot have been recorded at its original location.

4.3.2 Previously Recorded Resources within the 0.25-mile Search Radius

P-56-100001

P-56-100001 is a prehistoric isolated occurrence recorded during the 1991 survey by Peak & Associates, Inc. The isolate consists of a granitic mano and a clam shell fragment found on the north side of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks (Peak & Associates, Inc. 1991). An extensive search of the surrounding area failed to uncover any additional cultural material. The recorded location of the artifacts is approximately 302 feet southeast of the Project study area.

P-56-153135

P-56-153135 was recorded and evaluated by HDR in 2015 as part of the Metrolink FY2013–14 Rehabilitation Project (Diss et al. 2015). The resource consists of Metrolink Bridge 438.62, a single-span ballast deck railroad bridge with timber stringers and sill beams supported on a combination of sandstone and cast-in-place concrete abutments. The sandstone abutments likely date to circa 1901 and then were retrofitted to accommodate the timber decking circa 1934. Concrete components have been added to the substructure through the years to maintain structural integrity. Recent additions to the bridge include sandbags on the wing walls and, in the southeastern quadrant, a concrete covering to help stay the sandbags (Diss et al. 2015). The bridge is part of the Ventura subdivision of the rail line and runs between two residential housing complexes in Simi Valley. Modifications of the original abutments and removal of the original deck have impacted the integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling to an extent that it no longer conveys the potential historic significance it may have held under Criterion 1–its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history. Because of the loss integrity, the investigation recommends that Bridge 438.62 is not eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR, and the California Office of Historic Preservation concurred with the findings of non-eligibility (Status Code 6Z). The resource is located approximately 0.23 mile southeast of the Project study area and will not be impacted by Project-related activities.

5 Results of the Cultural Resources Survey

5.1 Survey Methods

Survey methodology consisted of intensive pedestrian survey and visual inspection of the Project footprint for all prehistoric or historic artifacts, ecofacts, features, buildings, and structures. The surveyed area consists of the Project study area, including 2.20-mile length of railroad ROW and the adjacent staging areas, grade crossing improvement areas, and construction access locations that extend outside of the general 100-foot-wide ROW. One survey transect was walked on either side of the railroad ROW. Given the obscured ground surface from the ballast stone over most of the Project study area, this approach was adequate for survey coverage of the entirety of the railroad ROW (Figure 5-1). Additionally, open areas designated as staging areas were surveyed using parallel transects at 10-meter (33-foot) intervals (Figure 5-2).

Figure 5-1. Overview of the Project Study Area, Facing Northwest Toward the Metrolink Station from Hidden Ranch Drive

Figure 5-2. Overview of Staging Area on the South Side of the Project Study Area, Facing West

5.2 Survey Results

Intensive pedestrian survey of the Project study area identified one previously unrecorded resource: the railroad roadway associated with the opening of the Montalvo Cutoff in 1903. In addition to the active track and intact siding at the northeast corner of the Tapo Street – East Los Angeles Avenue intersection, sections of abandoned siding tracks extending from the northwest corner of the same intersection are the visible remnants of the Montalvo Cutoff alignment within the Project study area. No other artifacts, ecofacts, features, human remains, or midden soil typical of prehistoric or historic occupation were observed during the survey. All field notes and photographs are kept on file at the HDR San Diego office.

5.2.1 Newly Recorded Resource

Description

The 2.2-mile segment of the rail corridor in the Project study area is associated with Southern Pacific's Montalvo Cutoff, which opened in 1904, after completion of the Santa Susana Tunnel, approximately 3 miles east of the Project study area. During planning and construction, the cutoff was lauded as reducing grade, mileage, and curvature of the Coast Line route, saving time and fuel, as well as opening a new area for agricultural and mineral production (Los Angeles Herald 1903: Supplement-2).

At the time, the new alignment was reported to shorten the route between Burbank and Montalvo from 66 miles to 54 miles and potentially cutting nearly an hour off each trip (Los Angeles Herald 1903: Supplement-2).

When the Santa Susana Railroad Depot opened in 1903 to support the new alignment, additional rail-related resources included a section house, boxcars used as living quarters, warehouses, and an oil loading rack. No evidence of these resources was identified during the field investigation.

The segment in the Project study area currently consists of ballast, tracks, and the railroad bed in the original Montalvo Cutoff alignment, sidings on the north side of the ROW near the Tapo Street – East Los Angeles Avenue intersection, and modern utility and signal sheds, grade crossings, and signal/warning infrastructure (Figure 5-3 through Figure 5-5).

California Register of Historical Resources Evaluation

This investigation recommends the 2.2-mile segment of rail corridor in the Project study area as not eligible for listing in the CRHR, either individually or as part of a potential railroad historic district, having found the segment lacks sufficient historical and architectural significance under CRHR Criterion 1–4. Its lack of integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling diminishes the potential significance it may have held under CRHR Criterion 1 for Transportation.

Associated with the Southern Pacific's Montalvo Cutoff between Burbank and Montalvo that was opened in 1904, the alignment appears to have been in continuous operation since its construction. With rail-related structures, including the Santa Susana Railroad Depot and associated facilities *in situ*, the segment likely would hold significance associated with the long-term contribution of Southern Pacific rail operations in Ventura County and Simi Valley under Criterion 1. However, beyond the railroad bed and partially extant sidings, no materials or buildings from the historic period remain. With the relocation of the Santa Susana Railroad Depot outside the Project study area in 1975 and demolition/removal of associated buildings and structures, the alignment itself has no means to convey its potential significance. Its integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling are no longer intact. Therefore, the 2.2-mile rail segment in the Project study area, while holding potential significance under Criterion 1 for Transportation, lacks the integrity necessary to recommend it eligible for CRHR listing.

This investigation did not find evidence that the rail segment has been associated with individuals who were historically significant, and therefore, does not recommend the resource eligible under Criterion 2. The segment does not exhibit distinctive characteristics of rail engineering, it was not built by a master, not does it exhibit great artistic value. It is recommended not eligible under Criterion 3 for Engineering. The rail segment is unlikely to yield new information or answer important research questions about local, state, or national history, and is recommended not eligible under Criterion 4.

Figure 5-3. Rail Corridor at Topo Canyon Road, Facing East

Figure 5-4. Rail Corridor at Tapo Street, Facing East

Figure 5-5. Rail Corridor near Simi Valley Metro Station, Facing Southeast

5.2.2 Previously Recorded Resources

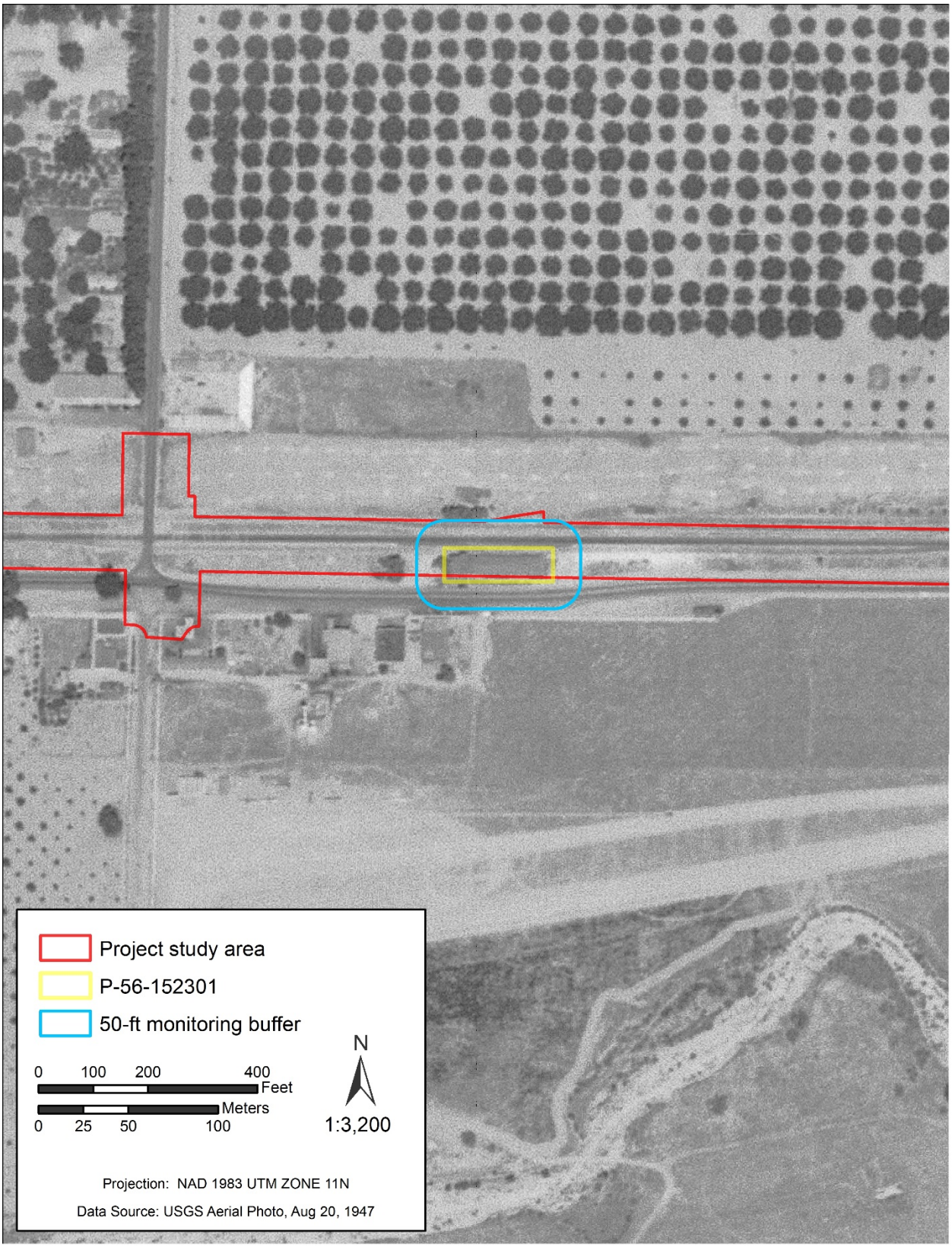
The recorded location of P-56-152301 borders the south side of the Project footprint. As noted in Section 4.3.1, P-56-152301 is the original location of the Santa Susana Southern Pacific Railroad Depot that was moved in 1975 to its present location at 6503 Katherine Road. No evidence of the historic depot or the ancillary section house, box cars that were used as living quarters, warehouses, nor oil loading rack were observed at the original location. A portion of the recorded resource boundary overlaps with the Project study area (Figure 5-6); however, historic aerial photographs indicate that the likely location of the depot was approximately 375 feet further east than previously plotted (Figure 5-6). Based on this evidence, a revised boundary has been created (Figure 5-9). Both areas have been graded, landscaped, and partially paved over, and a gas line extends east-to-west through the northern edge of the revised boundary (Figure 5-6 and Figure 5-10).

Based on the level of disturbance, all subsurface elements of the original building may have also been removed. However, it is still possible that deeper buried foundations or other structural features associated with the depot are present. Mitigation measure CUL-1 would ensure that construction of Project improvements proposed within this area would be monitored by a qualified archaeologist while mitigation measure CUL-2 would ensure that any unanticipated cultural discoveries are handled, recorded, and archived in the appropriate manner.

Figure 5-6. Previously Mapped Location of P-56-152301

This page is intentionally blank.

Figure 5-7. Revised Location of P-56-152301 on the 1947 Historic Aerial Image



This page is intentionally blank.

Figure 5-8. Revised Location of P-56-152301 with Recommended Monitoring Buffer

This page is intentionally blank.

Figure 5-9. Approximate Location P-56-152301, from the Eastern End Facing West

Figure 5-10. Approximate Location P-56-152301, from the Western End Facing East

6 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-3 would be implemented to ensure that potentially significant impacts to unanticipated discoveries and unassociated funerary objects would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

CUL-1 **Cultural Monitoring.** The Project proponent shall retain a qualified archaeologist to monitor all ground disturbing activities within 50 feet of where resource P-56-153201 once stood.

CUL-2 **Unanticipated discoveries.** If buried cultural resources are discovered inadvertently during ground-disturbing activities, work will be temporarily halted in the area and within 50 feet of the find until a qualified archaeologist who meets the Secretary of Interior Standards for Archaeology can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures in consultation with SCRRA. If the find is prehistoric or Native American in origin, consultation with local Native American tribes who have expressed interest and concern regarding the project will be undertaken.

CUL-3 **Human remains and associated or unassociated funerary objects.** The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground-disturbing activities; if human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance will occur until the county coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, all work within 50 feet of the find will be halted and the county coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will determine and notify a most likely descendant. The most likely descendant will complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

This page is intentionally blank.

7 Conclusions

The field investigation identified one previously unrecorded resource within the Project study area: the railroad roadway associated with the opening of the Montalvo Cutoff in 1903. The resource consists of active track, partially intact siding, and modern utility and signal sheds, grade crossings, and signal/warning infrastructure. Due to lack of integrity, the resource is recommended not eligible for CRHR listing.

The records search identified one previously recorded cultural resource, P-56-153201, within the Project study area, and two additional resources, P-56-100001 and P-56-153135, within the 0.25-mile records search radius. Project-related construction would have no impact on the resources outside of the Project study area. Though unlikely, ground-disturbing activities within the vicinity of P-56-153201 may encounter buried remnants of the original historic depot or the ancillary buildings. Archaeological monitoring, as described in mitigation measure CUL-1, is recommended for all ground-disturbing activities within 50 feet of the previously mapped location of P-56-153201.

Prior ground disturbance from construction of the railroad line includes installation of approximately 2 feet of subsurface ballast stone, plus an additional approximate 6 to 10 feet of disturbance from the original grading of the ROW. All subsurface soils within the ROW that may have contained cultural material have likely been removed and replaced with artificial fill during construction of the railroad line. Because sediments within the Project footprint are generally highly disturbed due to prior construction of the railroad, it is unlikely that intact subsurface deposits would be encountered during construction. Excavation for the proposed signal improvements at two areas to the west 2.20-mile segment is limited to 10 feet in depth within the disturbance the original ROW. Therefore, signal improvement activities do not require mitigation for unanticipated discoveries. Close interval inspection of work areas within the Project footprint but outside of the ROW failed to identify any historical resources. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 applies in the vicinity of P-56-153201 (Figure 5-6). Outside of this area, no further resource specific management measures are recommended for the Project at this time.

As described in Mitigation Measure CUL-2, in the event that unanticipated discovery of significant archaeological materials occurs during Project-related ground-disturbing activities, all work must be halted in the vicinity of the archaeological discovery until a qualified archaeologist can visit the site of discovery and assess the significance of the archaeological resource. Additionally, Mitigation Measure CUL-3 would ensure that Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA 15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 are adhered to in the unlikely event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 through CUL-3 would reduce potential impacts to cultural resources to a less-than-significant level.

This page is intentionally blank.

8 References

Arnold, Jeanne E. and Michael R. Walsh. 2010. *California's Ancient Past, From the Pacific to the Range of Light.* Society for American Archaeology Press, Washington D. C.

Bean, Lowell J., and Charles R. Smith. 1978. Gabrielino. In *Handbook of North American Indians,* Vol. 8, pp. 538–549. Edited by Robert F. Heizer. Smithsonian Institution: Washington, D.C.

Beedle, Peggy, Keith Warren, and David Earle. 2008. Phase I Cultural Resources Survey Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center Expansion Simi Valley, California. In Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center. Expansion Project, Final EIR.

Carbone, L. 1991. Early Holocene Environments and Paleoecological Contexts on the Central and Southern California Coast. In *Hunter-Gatherers of Early Holocene Coastal California*, edited by Jon M. Erlandson and Roger H. Colten, pp. 11–18. Institute of Archaeology, University of California, Los Angeles, CA.

Castillo, Edward D. 1998. *Short Overview of California Indian History*. http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/california-indian-history/.

City of Simi Valley. 2012. *Simi Valley General Plan EIR*, Volume I_10, Section 4. Historic-Cultural Resources. https://www.simivalley.org/departments/environmental-services/planning-division/documents-applications-and-development-activity/general-plan.

Davis. O. K. 1992. Rapid Climatic Change in Coastal Southern California Inferred from Pollen Analysis of San Joaquin Marsh. *Quaternary Research* 37:89-100.

Diss, Margaret, Anne M. Keen, and Amy Gusick. 2015. Cultural Resources Technical Report: Metrolink FY2013-14 Rehabilitation Project, Contract No. e737C-08, CTO No. 061, Metrolink Bridges 438.62 and 438.89 Ventura Subdivision Simi Valley, California. Report prepared by HDR, Inc. for Metrolink.

Engstrom, W. N. 1996. The 19th Century Physical Geography of the Rancho Santa Margarita Las Flores (Camp Pendleton) Coastline. In *Coastal Archaeology of Las Flores Creek and Horno Canyon, Camp Pendleton, California*, edited by B. F. Byrd, pp. 33–44. Report on file at the South Coastal Information Center, San Diego, CA.

Garges, Ken. 1997. History of the Rail Road, in *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time*, edited by Patricia Havens. Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum, Simi Valley, CA.

Greenwood and Associates. 2002. Historic Resource Evaluation Report: Mason Avenue At-Grade Crossing and Safety Improvements Project, Los Angeles City, CA. Cultural resources report on file at the SCCIC.

Grove, J. M. 1986. *The Little Ice Age*. Methuen, New York.

Havens, Patricia. 1997. *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time*, Patricia Havens, ed. Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum, Simi Valley, CA.

Historic Resources Group and Robin C. Jaffe. 1993. *Determination of Eligibility Report: Santa Susana Railroad Depot.* Report submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation.

Johnson, John R. 1997. Chumash Indians in Simi Valley. *In* Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time, Patricia Havens, ed., pp. 5-21. Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum, Simi Valley, CA.

——— 2006. Ethnohistoric Overview for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park Cultural Resources Inventory Project. Prepared under Agreement for Services No. A05E0023 (Ethnographic Study Services) for Department of Parks and Recreation, State of California, Southern Service Center.

Johnson, John R., and David D. Earle. 1990. Tataviam Geography and Ethnohistory. Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology 12(2):191-214.

Jones, T., G. M. Brown, L. M. Raab, J. L. McVickar, W. G. Spaulding, D. J. Kennet, A. York, and P. L. Walker. 1999. Demographic Crisis in Western North America during the Medieval Climatic Anomaly. *Current Anthropology*, (2):137–170.

Jurmain, Claudia and William McCawley. 2009. O, My Ancestor: Recognition and Renewal for the Gabrielino-Tongva People of the Los Angeles Area. Heyday Books: Berkeley, CA.

Kew, William S. 1918. Structure and Oil Resources in the Simi Valley, Southern California. In *Contributions to Economic Geology, Part II.* USGS. pubs.usgs.gov/bul/0691m/report.pdf.

King, Chester and Thomas Blackburn. 1978. Tataviam. *Handbook of North American Indians,* Vol. 8. Edited by Robert F. Heizer pp. 535–537. Smithsonian Institution: Washington, D.C.

Kroeber, A. L. 1925. *Handbook of the Indians of California.* Dover Publications, New York.

Larson, D. O. and J. Michaelson. 1989. Climatic Variability: A Compounding Factor Causing Culture Change among Prehistoric Coastal Populations. Unpublished manuscript on file, Department of Anthropology, California State University Long Beach.

Los Angeles Herald. 1903. Building the Longest Tunnel in California. Sunday Supplement, November 29, 1903:2.

Masters, P. M. and D. Gallegos. 1997. Environmental Change and Coastal Adaptations in San Diego County during the Middle Holocene. In *Archaeology of the California Coast during the Middle Holocene*, edited by J. M. Erlandson and M. A. Glassow, pp.11–22. Perspectives in California Archaeology 4. University of California, Los Angeles, CA.

McCawley, William. 2006. *The First Angelinos: The Gabrielino Indians of Los Angeles*. Malki Museum Press/Ballena Press Cooperative Publication: Banning, CA.

McLaughlin, David J. 2003. *San Fernando Rey de España, Key Facts by Mission*, California Missions Resource Center. https://missionscalifornia.com/san-fernando-rey-de-espana-mission/key-facts.

Peak & Associates, Inc. 1991. Class 3 Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Carpinteria and Southern Reroutes, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties, California. Report prepared for L. W. Reed Consultants, Inc.

Raab, L. M., and D. O. Larson. 1997. Medieval Climatic Anomaly and Punctuated Cultural Evolution in Coastal Southern California. *American Antiquity* 62(2):319–336.

Shipek, Florence Connolly. 1977. *A Strategy for Change: The Luiseño of Southern California.* Dissertation, University of Hawaii.

Shumway, G., C. L. Hubbs, and J. R. Moriarty. 1961. Scripps Estates Site, San Diego California: a La Jolla Site Dated 5460 to 7370 Years Before Present. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences 93 (3), 37–132. New York, NY.

Stine, S. 1990. Late Holocene fluctuations of Mono Lake, Eastern California. Paleogeography, Paleoclimatology, and Paleoecology 78:333-381.

——— 1994. Extreme and Persistent Drought in Califronia and Patagonia during Medieval Time. *Nature* 369:546-549.

True, D.L. and George Waugh. 1982. Proposed Settlement Shifts During San Luis Rey Times: Northern San Diego County, California. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 4(2):34-54.

United States (U.S.) Climate Data. 2020. Accessed on June 4, 2020. https://www.usclimatedata.com/.

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service. 2020. *Web Soil Survey*. Accessed on April 24, 2020. http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx.

Warren, C. N. and M. Pavesic. 1963. Shell Midden Analysis of Site CA-SDI-603 and Ecological Implications for Cultural Development of Batiquitos Lagoon, San Diego County. In *University of California Archaeological Survey Annual Report,* Vol. 5, pp. 411-438. University Press, Los Angeles, CA.

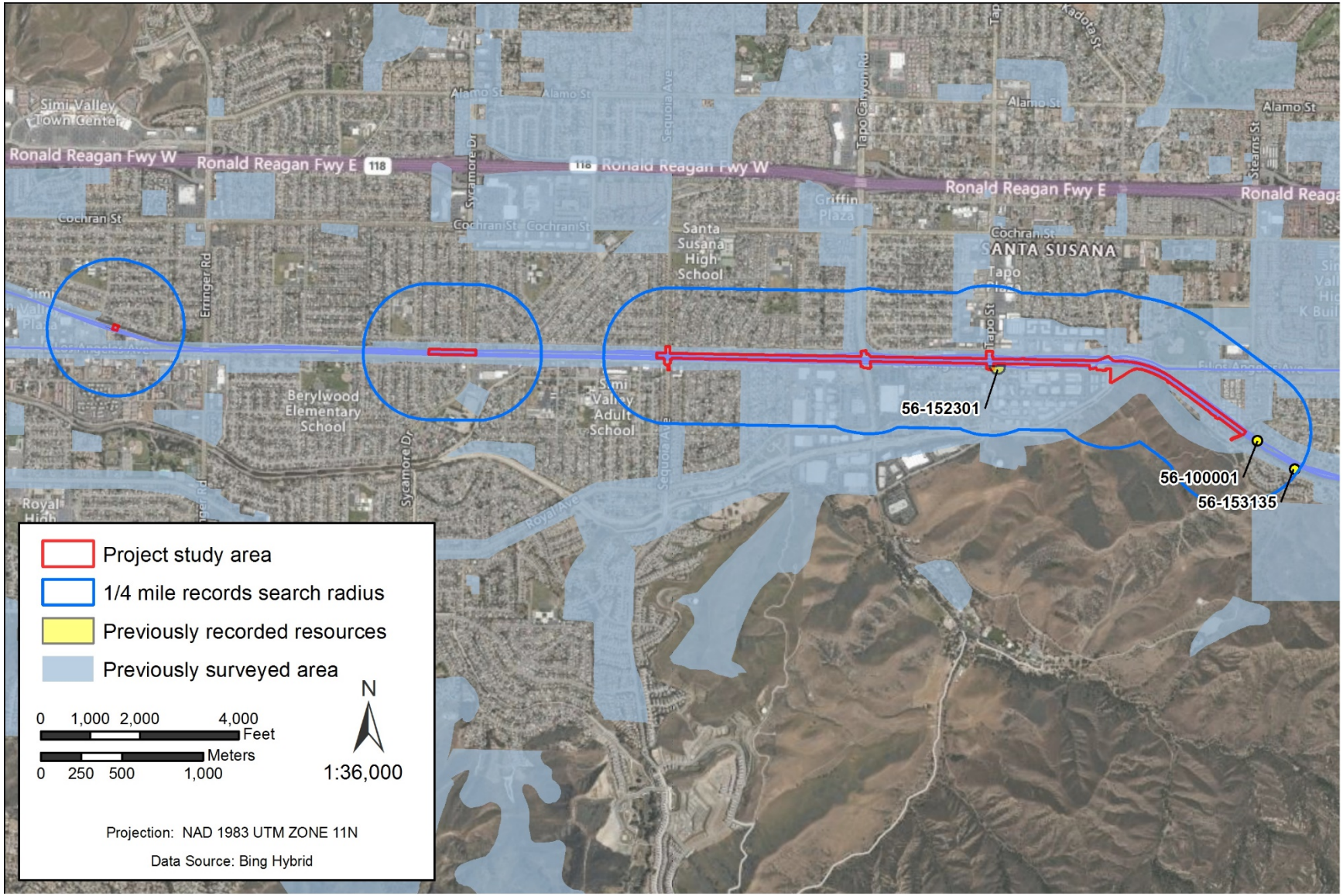
Wlodarski, Robert. 1999. A Phase 1 Archaeological Study: The Golden Valley Road-Soledad Canyon Rd Interchange Project, Unpublished CRM Report, Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research Team, on file at SCCIC. Los Angeles, CA.

This page is intentionally blank.

Appendix A. Previous Investigations Map (Confidential)

This page is intentionally blank.

Previous Investigations and Cultural Resources within the Project Study Area



This page is intentionally blank.